**2.2 Enhanced Regional Accessibility**

At the core of Project Ireland 2040 is the policy objective of supporting balanced regional growth. To underpin this, the Government is committed to enabling better regional accessibility.

In 2019 there was significant progress in developing new transport links through the appraisal, planning and procurement stages. As set out in Project Ireland 2040, improving access to the north-west is a strategic aim to support balanced national development.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS/HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019**

* M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy, Wexford

Motorway opened July 2019,

* N25 New Ross Bypass, Wexford is complete and the official opening is 29th January, 2020.
* M7 Naas Road Widening, Kildare

Construction almost complete.

* N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin, Sligo

Government approval received to award construction contract on 29 January, 2019. Construction works ongoing.

* N5 Westport to Turlough, Mayo

Government approval received to award construction contract on 15 October, 2019. ***Preparatory*** ***Works underway to commence on site shortly.***

* N22 Ballyvourney to Macroom, Cork

Government approval received to award construction contract on 15 October, 2019. ***Work commenced on site on 6 December, 2019 and it is expected to be complete in 2023.***

* N21/N69 Foynes to Limerick (Adare Bypass)

Government approval received on 30 October, 2019, to submit the scheme to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval. It may be necessary to proceed with the Adare Bypass element of this project first, in time for the Ryder Cup in 2026.

**METRICS ON KEY OPERATIONAL OUTCOMES ACHIEVED IN 2019**

**National Roads Outputs**

**2019:**

Length of new Motorway/Dual Carriageway completed: 31km

Length of new Single Carriageway completed: 24.75km

Length of Motorway/Dual Carriageway widened: 13.6km

Length of National Roads pavement renewal: 224km

Bridge rehabilitation works: 60

**LOOKING FORWARD TO 2020 - KEY OPERATIONAL OUTPUTS AND KEY PROJECTS FORECAST.**

**National Roads operational outputs**

**2020 (Output Target):**

Length of new Motorway/Dual Carriageway: 12.6km

Length of Single Carriageway: 19km

Length of National Road Pavement Renewal: 220km

Bridge rehabilitation works: 40

**KEY PROJECTS FORECAST**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project** | **Description** | **Latest Developments** |
| **Dunkettle Interchange, Cork** | The upgrading of the Dunkettle Interchange to a fully free flow junction (except for the M8 to N8 South West movement). | * A 2 stage NEC contract was awarded in May 2018. The design in stage 1 is complete. TII confirmed in August 2019, that the contractor would be progressing advanced works but a decision was made not to progress Stage 2 with the contractor. TII made the decision to return to the market to establish the cost of construction. * Advance works are progressing on site and will continue up to May 2020. * The contract notice for the main construction works was published on 2 September 2019 commencing the new Design and Build competition. The expressions of interest/pre-qualification submissions were returned on 25 October, 2019. The tender process commenced in December 2019 with a view to achieving tender return by mid - 2020. |
| **N20 Cork to Limerick** | The scheme includes approximately 80km of Motorway between the existing N20 in Blarney, Co. Cork and the existing M20 in Patrickswell, Co. Limerick with an online Motorway Service Area. | * Technical Advisors were appointed and have commenced early planning and design, including the assessment of alternatives in compliance with the requirements of the Public Spending Code. The PAP was prepared and approved by DTTAS on the 12 August 2019. Early works including traffic modelling and constraints studies are underway. * Limerick County Council is currently commencing route options appraisal. * The project is subject to planning consent. |
| **N52 Ardee Bypass, Louth** | This scheme consists of 4.5km of single carriageway providing a western bypass of the town of Ardee | Louth County Council and TII have requested that the tender process is put on hold at present to allow a technical review of the scheme and junction arrangements. It is intended that the Scheme would go to public consultation in the first half of 2020. |
| **N6 Galway City Ring Road** | The proposed road development comprises 11.8km of motorway between the existing N6 at Coolagh (northeast of the city) to the existing Ballymoneen Road (northwest of the city) and then continues as a single carriageway road for a further 5.6km as far as the R336 Coast Road, west of Bearna. | Galway County Council published the scheme and submitted the planning documentation for the scheme in October 2018. An Bord Pleanála requested further information relating to the environmental impacts of the scheme in April 2019. Galway Co. Council submitted the requested further information to ABP. The Oral Hearing has now been confirmed to commence on 18 February, 2020. |
| **N5 Ballaghaderreen Bypass to Scramoge** | The project comprises a proposed road development of 33.4km in length which consists of an offline Type 1 single carriageway road that runs southeast from the tie-in point of the existing Ballaghaderreen Bypass to east of Strokestown at Scramoge. | Technical Services contract was awarded in July 2019. Advanced fencing and hedgerow clearance contract awarded in August 2019 and the archaeological contract is progressing well on site.  It is intended the Scheme will proceed to Tender in 2020. |
| **N59 Moycullen Bypass** | This scheme consists of 4.3km of single carriageway bypassing the village of Moycullen to the northeast. The project extends from the townland of Drimcong, approximately 1.5km north-west of Moycullen village to the townland of Clydagh, approximately 2km southeast of the village. The scheme also includes on-line improvements of the N59 through the village, which have recently been completed**.** | The tender documentation is under preparation. It is anticipated that this Scheme will proceed to Tender in 2020. |

**20 January, 2020**