

## M7/M8 PORTLAOISE MOTORWAY SCHEME



### Construction Progress

The recent winter months have seen some poor weather conditions but despite this we can report good progress on site. Work has commenced on all but seven bridge structures and many are nearing completion. Earthworks activities including drainage and embankment formation continue and preparations for paving and surfacing are well advanced. It is hoped that we might get some reasonable summer weather in the coming months and we are well placed to take advantage of this in all areas.

### Earthworks

Road design is governed by the topography of the route chosen. On this project the route was pre-selected following an extensive public consultation process with all interested

parties and both the horizontal and vertical alignments were dictated, to a large degree, by the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

This has resulted in some large embankments in low-lying areas. In addition there is a significant shortfall of material available to the site, between what can be used from the 'cut' or excavation areas and that required in the 'fill' areas to form these embankments. We have made and are continuing to make every effort to source suitable fill material close to the site and by processing 'site won' materials to make them acceptable. However, in order to make up the significant shortfall of material, large quantities of fill from local quarries and pits are required to be hauled to site. This operation is proceeding well and will continue for a number of months.

*Continued overleaf*

### MILESTONES FOR THE PPP SCHEME

Contract Award . . . .14th June 2007

Contract Signature . .14th June 2007

Contract Duration . . . . .48 months

Road Open . . . . .Autumn 2010



## Drainage

As embankments are brought to their required level they are shaped and the roadside drainage systems are installed. The design of the Motorway drainage has to carefully balance the environmental and safety requirements by adequately removing the surface water quickly from the road with the requirements of maintaining existing flows in local streams and watercourses

All drainage collection from the new Motorway and side roads will be attenuated and will pass through petrol interceptors. The attenuation ponds provide a means of storing run-off water and discharging it in a controlled manner into local watercourses. The petrol interceptors will prevent any hydrocarbon pollutants from the road drainage entering these same watercourses.

## Pavement

Construction of the pavement foundation has already started in a number of areas and extensive use is being made of the latest technologies and specifications for stabilized materials in the pavement foundation layers. This, in turn, maximizes the potential of all 'site won' materials and helps in minimizing the requirement for imported materials. Each layer is verified by a wide range testing techniques prior to proceeding with the next layer. This will provide a good quality low maintenance surface.

## Structures

Good progress continues to be made on the construction of the many motorway over and underbridges. Two structures have already been opened to traffic and several others are nearing completion. We are making every effort to open completed bridges as soon as possible in order to minimize disruption to local traffic.

Work has already commenced on the grade separated junction and tie-in to the existing M7 just south of Portlaoise. Drivers on the N7 will experience some alterations to traffic flows here during the summer months and these will be well advertised in advance.

Following discussions and agreement with Irish Rail work is to commence shortly on two structures over the busy Dublin – Cork line at Trumera and near Aghaboe. It will be necessary to carry out some works at night at these locations in order to avoid disruption to train timetables. Two bridges over the Ballybrophy – Nenagh line near Borris-in-Ossory have already been completed and will now be used by dumpers to haul materials avoiding the use of local Regional and County roads through the town.

## Toll Plaza

Local residents will have noticed the erection of steelwork recently at the Toll Plaza and Maintenance Depot area. Works here are proceeding well alongside the motorway construction. It is hoped to have these buildings complete by the end of the summer so that fitting-out and installation/commissioning of Toll Collection equipment can be undertaken in good time and in readiness for the road opening.



## Environment

Many of the culverts for stream crossings are now complete and in some cases we are awaiting the end of fish spawning season to divert these streams through the new culverts. We are in regular contact with the Southern Regional Fisheries Board and all work affecting rivers and streams is done in consultation with them. Mammal crossings have been incorporated into some of these culverts and there is evidence already that these are being used. There is also frequent consultation with ecologists and their advice is invaluable in tackling work in eco-sensitive areas such as the Kilnaseer Fen.

## Liaisons and Contacts

CRG and the PJV are continuing to work closely with the local community including landowners and residents affected by the construction of this major infrastructural Project. We again wish to apologise for any inconvenience caused by necessary road closures and/or diversions and thank the local community for their continued co-operation.

## Competition

We are offering an opportunity for all children in the area (under 12 years of age) to enter a joint site safety and colouring competition. See enclosed sheet. There is a chance to win one of three €50 vouchers in Ken Black's Toystore.



# Traffic Management

## Road Closure Information

Structure	Details	Diversion Start Date	Diversion Finish Date
24	Derrybeg – Trumera Road	Jul-08	Apr-09
35	Cullahill – Aghmacart Road	Nov-08	May-09
10	Corraun – Coolbally Road	Sep-08	Mar-09

### Project Statistics

- Total Mainline 41kms
- Grade Separated Junctions 3 no.
- Structural Culverts 29 no.
- Total Regional Roads 10.82 kms
- Motorway to Motorway Interchange 1 no.
- Toll Plaza
- Total Local Roads 17.30 kms
- Principal Structures 46 no.
- Administration Building and Maintenance Depot
- Total Access Tracks 25.60 kms

## The Team

### The Authority



### The PPP Company



CELTIC ROADS GROUP  
PORTLAOISE LTD.

### The Construction



As from the 31st October 2008  
Ascon Contractors Ltd. Became  
Bam Contractors Ltd



PORTLAOISE JOINT VENTURE

### The Design



## WHERE YOU CAN CONTACT US

### Celtic Roads Group

Mr. Ian Cunningham  
Construction Manager  
M7/M8 Motorway Site Offices  
Clonkeen  
Portlaoise  
Co. Laois.  
Tel: 057 866 6334  
Fax: 057 866 6481

### Portlaoise Joint Venture

Mr. Pedro Vicente  
Project Manager M7/M8  
Motorway Site Offices  
Clonkeen  
Portlaoise  
Co. Laois.  
Tel: 057 866 6334  
Fax: 057 866 6481

### National Roads Authority

Mr. Tony O' Neill  
Authority Site Representative  
M7/M8 Motorway Site Offices  
Clonkeen  
Portlaoise  
Co. Laois.  
Tel: 057 866 6348  
Fax: 057 866 6320

### Laois County Council

Mr. Adrian King  
Project Engineer Construction  
National Roads Project Office  
Clonkeen  
Portlaoise  
Co. Laois.  
Tel: 057 866 4850  
Fax: 057 866 4858

24 Hour Telephone: 057 866 6334