

10th March, 2015

To/The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council.

RE: Regional and Local Roads Programme 2015

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

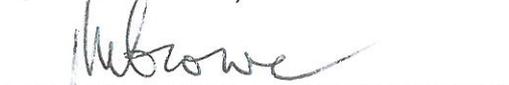
I attach report on the proposed Regional and Local Roads Programme for 2015 prepared by Mr. Pat O'Neill, Senior Engineer. The grant monies, together with own resources monies voted through the Annual Budget Process, are combined in the Report to address the work programme outlined.

I would draw Members' attention, in particular, to that section of the Grants Circular RW2/2015 dealing with Local Improvement Schemes and Community Involvement Schemes, which gives some discretion to the local authority as to the extent of funding that may be allocated to both schemes. In the Report before you, the Senior Engineer has provided for maintaining the allocations for each scheme at 2014 levels. It is, however, open to Members to vary this amount, subject to adherence to the maximum percentage allowable under the Circular.

I am satisfied that the allocations, as proposed, achieve a reasonable balance between maintenance and improvement works, while complying with any grant conditions imposed.

Following adoption of the allocation as proposed, or amendment as allowed for under Local Improvement Schemes and Community Involvement Schemes, the detailed Roads Programme will be prepared for each District and will be brought before the relevant Metropolitan/Municipal District Meeting as part of the Schedule of Municipal District Works.

Is mise le meas,



Paul Crowe,
DIRECTOR,
TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION.

10th March, 2015.

Mr. Paul Crowe,
DIRECTOR,
TRAVEL and TRANSPORTATION

Re: Regional and Local Roads Programme 2015

Following the notification of Grants for non-national roads by the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport and earlier adoption of Budget by the Council, the extent of monies available to the Council is now confirmed. This report sets out a proposed strategy for expending these monies, bearing in mind:-

- ◆ Conditions relating to various grants.
- ◆ Specific programs identified in Council Estimates.

The clear objective of Travel and Transportation in 2015 is to provide the best possible level of service with the available resources and to carry out all works safely, efficiently and cost effectively.

These proposed allocations (table 1 below) have been reached endeavouring to meet the conditions of the grant allocations, maintaining the existing permanent workforce, trying to keep all roads in a reasonable state of repair while also attempting to redress the deterioration of the road surface. Any increase in emphasis in any one area of activity would necessarily have reduction implications elsewhere.

The proposed allocations do not include service support costs.

The proposed allocations are made up of a Grant allocation of €12,377,336 and Own Resources of €9,336,018.

The selection of roads for restoration and improvement is underway at present. Detailed proposals for the spending of these monies will be brought before the Municipal District Meetings.

Details of the Grant allocations are set out in Circular RW2/2015 attached.

The following table sets out the proposed finances provided for Regional and Local Roads for 2015

TABLE 1: Funding for Regional and Local Roads 2015

Work Category	2015 (€)
Restoration Improvement (RI)	6,237,563
Restoration Maintenance (RM)	2,000,956
General Maintenance (GM)	3,924,765
Winter Maintenance (WM)	400,000
Tar Patching (TP)	1,299,844
Structures (STR)	670,225
Severe Weather Damage (Doon)	600,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Works (LCSI)	313,500
Community Involvement schemes (CIS)	180,000
Local Improvement Schemes (LIS)	181,500
Overheads (OH)	1,247,009
General Municipal Allocation (GMA)	270,000
Public Lighting (PL)	2,525,401
Traffic Management (TM)	608,000
Road Safety: Engineering, Promotion, Education (RS)	628,518
Parking Management (PM)	626,073
Total	21,713,354

Brief summary of the above Work Categories:

Restoration Improvement (RI) €6,237,563

This is a specific allocation under the Restoration Improvement Grant (RI). Many roads have deteriorated to such an extent that they require resurfacing, reshaping and strengthening to enable them to cater for the heavy vehicles and to prevent water lodging. A programme of works will be proposed at each Metropolitan/ Municipal District Meeting under the Schedule of Municipal District Works.

Restoration Maintenance (RM) €2,000,956

This is a specific allocation under the Restoration Maintenance Grant (RM). A large proportion of the condition of non-national roads is due to lack of proper and regular maintenance such as overlays and surface dressing. This allocation will extend the life of the pavement and delay the development of potholes, thus protecting the investment in roads. At the current level of funding the overlay and surface dressing life cycles for non national roads is up to 1:40 years.

General Maintenance €3,950,765

General maintenance covers a wide range of works such as verges and drainage, cleaning water channels, opening inlets, signage, elimination of localised flooding, junction maintenance, dealing with accidents, oil spillages, storms, emergencies and general repairs to roads and footpaths.

Winter Maintenance (WM) €400,000

This provision is for the treatment of roads in severe weather in accordance with the Winter Service Plan.

Tar Patching (TP) €1,299,844

Regular tar patching is necessary to prevent the deterioration of the road surface and substructure and in the interest of road safety.

Structures (STR) €670,225

Details of the funding made available for structures is enclosed. Additional funding has been allocated to carry out minor repairs and inspections.

Severe Weather Damage (Doon) €600,000

A grant of €600,000 was allocated for the severe damage caused by the flash flood in Doon in 2014.

Low Cost Safety Improvement Works (LCSI) €313,500

The 2015 allocation provides funding to enable low cost safety improvement works on non-national roads to be carried out. The criteria for approval and grant allocation are based on accident data along with inspection of sites and discussions between the local authority and the Regional Road Safety Engineer. The 2015 approved schemes are enclosed.

Community Involvement schemes (CIS) €180,000

No grant will be forthcoming in 2015 but local authorities can set aside up to 7.5% of the RI and RM grants for CIS schemes. It is proposed to allocate the same funding as 2014. Circular RW3/2015 attached, sets out details of the Community Involvement Scheme.

Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) €181,500

The 2015 Road Grants allow for the allocation of up to 15% of the Discretionary Grant to be allocated to Local Improvement Schemes on private roads. An increased local contribution of 20% is now required for participating communities. Given the general pressure that exists on resources for the maintenance and upkeep of the public road system it is proposed to maintain the same allocation as 2014.

Overheads (OH) €1,247,009

This includes for insurances (EL/PL), Health and Safety training and equipment, sick pay, holiday pay, legal costs, office expenses, etc

General Municipal Allocation (GMA) €270,000

This allocation will be agreed at Municipal District level.

Public Lighting (PL) €2,525,401

This covers the operation, repair and maintenance of Public Lighting. The supply of energy is purchased through the National Procurement Service (NPS). The repair, replacement and maintenance of public lights are tendered separately.

Traffic Management (TM)**€608,000**

This includes AUTC Regional Traffic System, Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI), traffic fiber system, traffic maintenance, national signal equipment, street signs and street furniture, CCTV maintenance and improvements, minor traffic calming, signage programme.

Road Safety: Engineering, Promotion, Education (RS)**€628,518**

This includes for school wardens, road safety plan, road safety education and training.

Parking Management (PM)**€626,073**

This includes for disc parking operation, wages, traffic fines management system, communication equipment.

CHALLENGES 2015

There are very serious challenges facing the Travel and Transportation Directorate in 2015:

Reducing numbers of outdoor staff due to

- Retirements
- Government moratorium on staff recruitment
- Internal transfers to Water Services and other Sections
- Aging profile of workforce

Reducing allocations

- Grants
- Greatly reduced Development Fund

Increasing Costs

- Bitumen
- Road Making Materials

Increasing Workloads

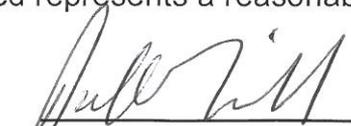
- Each year a number of housing estates are taken in charge by the Council.
- All improvement works have subsequently to be maintained.
- Increased surveys and inspections to meet NRA and DTTAS requirements.
- Increased resources required to comply with Health and Safety.

Procurement Processes

- The procurement process for projects is lengthy, expensive and requires the commitment of considerable resources and expertise.

In arriving at the allocations for 2015, I have had regard to the varying demands for funding under the various categories of works. I am satisfied that the funding breakdown as proposed represents a reasonable balance between the competing demands.

Signed:



Pat O'Neill,
SENIOR ENGINEER,
TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION.



An Roinn Iompair
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt

Department of Transport,
Tourism and Sport

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3rd February 2015

Circular RW 2/2015

2015 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations

Dear Director of Service

1. I am directed by the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport to enclose details of the 2015 grant allocations to your authority in respect of the maintenance and improvement of regional and local roads. The total grant allocation in 2015 under this Circular is €294,083,000 million. The amounts available nationally under the various grant headings are set out in Appendix 1 and individual local authority allocations and scheme details are set out in **Appendix 3**.
2. The conditions applying to the payment of allocations under the various grant categories are set out in the **Memorandum on Grants for Regional and Local Roads subject to any revisions that may be notified to local authorities**.
3. **Local authorities must ensure that all works undertaken on foot of State grants are completed in accordance with the applicable conditions by the various intermediate and completion dates set out in Appendix 2.**

In addition, local authorities should vigorously pursue outstanding invoices from contractors during the year to ensure the timely claiming of grants in 2015. Local authorities should claim eligible payments as soon as possible and shouldn't wait until the end of the year to do so.

Progress on all grant-aided works will be reviewed regularly and grants will be re-allocated where a shortfall in expenditure is expected. Such adjustments may entail the distribution of the sum involved to another local authority.

4. **MapRoad**

Full records of all projects **must** be maintained on **MapRoad (GIS)** and be made available for inspection, if required. All projects for RI, RM and DG will continue to be submitted and managed through MapRoad.

Section 10-(5) of the Roads Act 1993 requires that each Road Authority maintain a schedule and map of all public roads for which it has responsibility. Each Local Authority is required to keep this schedule up to date on MapRoad and in accordance with Circular RW12/2013. The payment of grants is linked to this requirement.

5. **Restoration Improvement Programme**

The Restoration Improvement (RI) Programme continues to be the main focus of the regional and local roads programme. This grant allocation will be based on the 4 year programmes submitted by local authorities to the NRA in 2012. In 2015, flexibility will continue to be given in respect of re-prioritising RI schemes. An overall amount of €145 million will be provided under the 2015 Restoration Improvement Grant.

6. **Flexibility**

County Councils will continue to be given the flexibility in 2015 to transfer up to 25% of their Restoration Improvement Grant to their Discretionary Grant on request to roadsdivision@dtas.ie .

7. **Discretionary Grant**

Discretionary grants totalling **€62.5 million** will be available to meet the cost of maintenance and improvement works selected by local authorities pursuant to relevant Departmental Circulars.

As the Discretionary Grant and the Winter Maintenance Grant have been merged, the cost of salt used by local authorities in the period October 2012-March 2013 has been deducted from each authority's Discretionary Grant.

Local authorities can use Discretionary grant monies towards staff or plant costs associated with salting or for the purchase of salt, either through the central salt procurement system or through the Council's own procurement system. In line with established practice, a contingency provision should be reserved from the overall resources available to each authority for regional and local roads so as to deal with damage caused by severe weather conditions, including flooding.

8. Local Improvements Scheme (LIS)

The Local Improvement Scheme remains in place for 2015 however there is no separate allocation available towards this grant category. Instead local authorities may use up to 15% of their initial Discretionary Grant (as allocated under this Circular) towards local improvement schemes should they wish to do so. The local contribution for these schemes remains at 20% of the total cost of the project. The same eligibility rules apply for these schemes.

9. Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)

The pilot community involvement scheme has been completed and it has been decided that there will be no separate allocation under this grant category in 2015. Instead the scheme will revert back to allowing local authorities to set aside 7.5% of their RI and RM grants for CIS schemes if they so wish. The terms of the scheme have also been reviewed and following the pilot scheme a separate Circular will issue to local authorities shortly.

10. Low Cost Safety Scheme

The Low Cost Safety Scheme remains in place for 2015 and allocations are based on the approved schemes set out in Appendix 3. It is not necessary for Local Authorities to seek approval to transfer funding among the approved schemes; however, the Department will seek outputs in January 2016 in respect of 2015.

11. Bridge Rehabilitation

As notified to Local Authorities in Circular RW18/2014, grant allocations are being provided in 2015 to fund bridge rehabilitation works arising out of the current Principal Inspections framework. It is not necessary for Local Authorities to seek

approval to transfer funding among the approved bridges (set out in Appendix 3); however, the Department will seek outputs in January 2016 in respect of 2015.

12. Road Safety in Housing Areas

Funding of €2 million has been set aside to support a signage programme/engineering measures in line with the actions proposed in Circular RSD 01/2014 of 15th October 2014. The intention is to allocate this funding as local authorities come forward with their proposals in respect of implementing 30km/h speed limits in housing areas.

13. Own Resources Expenditure

The commitment of local authorities to contribute significantly from their own resources towards the cost of improving and maintaining the regional and local roads network is essential. In particular it is vital that local authorities at least maintain and increase, where possible, monies available for the maintenance and strengthening of road pavements. It may be necessary for local authorities to postpone major widening and realignment schemes to achieve this objective but the first priority must be the satisfactory protection of the existing road network.

It is vital that full consideration is given to utilising the Local Property Tax to boost own resources expenditure on regional and local road maintenance and renewal.

13. Claims for payment of Grants

Local authorities should note that claims should continue to be made through the National Roads Authority's (NRA) project reporting system (PRS). These claims will be processed by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport' Local authorities should continue to attach general ledger expenditure reports making up the claim on the PRS.

14. Audit Requirements

The accuracy of all figures submitted by local authorities e.g. grant claims, output data, details of own resources expenditure etc., is of the utmost importance. These figures are used in providing progress reports for Ministers and others. As part of our on-going review of the regional and local roads grant system, it may

be necessary from time to time to introduce new requirements to further enhance the control systems in operation between local authorities and this Department. You are reminded that this Department can at any time carry out a full spot check on regional and local roads expenditure. It should also be noted that EU auditors can at any time carry out a comprehensive audit on previously funding EU projects under regional and local roads expenditure (2000 – 2006 structural funds).

15. **Weather Warning Arrangements**

As part of the 2015 allocations Local authorities are again reminded of the need to ensure that the necessary arrangements are in place with Met Eireann to receive weather warnings. **In addition, in times of above average rainfall, local authorities should ensure that gullies and drains in high risk areas are kept clear, to reduce the risk of flooding.**

Yours sincerely,



Mary McCullagh
Assistant Principal Officer
Roads Division

To: Each Chief Executive & each Director of Service for Roads

APPENDIX 1

Grants available in 2015 under main grant headings

Grants being allocated to local authorities under this Circular comprise the following:

Category	2015
	€ m
Restoration Improvement (RI)	145.6
Restoration Maintenance (RM)	41.0
Discretionary Grant (DG)	62.5
Bridge Rehabilitation	7.7
Specific Grants	7.2
Grants for Strategic Projects	9.3
Training	1.7
Low Cost Safety Measures	5.8
Urban Block Grant	4.2
Miscellaneous (incl. MapRoad, Salt etc.)	7
Road Safety Measures in Housing Areas (for allocation)	2

Appendix 2

Intermediate and Final Completion Dates for Regional and Local Road Works County Councils

<i>Operation</i>	<i>Intermediate Completion Dates</i>	<i>Final Completion Date</i>
Surface Dressing (SD)	1/3 by end June 2015 2/3 by end July 2015 3/3 by end August 2015	31 August 2015
Road Reconstruction (RR) and Surface Restoration (SR)	1/3 by end May 2015 2/3 by end July 2015 3/3 by end September 2015	30 September 2015
All works other than SD, RR and SR (except schemes which of their nature must continue into 2010)	1/3 by end June 2015 2/3 by end August 2015 3/3 by end of October 2015	31 October 2015

Notes:

1. Road Reconstruction involves the regulation or reconstruction of the existing road pavement and overlaying with bound or unbound materials with or without surface dressing and the provision of drainage, where necessary.
2. Where work is completed by the various dates, the cost incurred should be reflected in the following months expenditure return.

Work within Urban Authority areas

<i>Operation</i>	<i>Completion Date</i>
Pavement works	30 September 2015
All other works	31 October 2015



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Department of Transport,
Tourism and Sport

2015 Regional and Local Roads Allocations

Limerick City and County Council

Total of all Allocations: €17,377,336

Improvement

Other Improvement

Grant Code: Project Name	Allocation
BR: Bridge Rehabilitation 2015 - L	514,225
BS: Low Cost Safety Improvement 2015 - L	310,500
DG: Discretionary Grant 2015 - L	2,913,092
RI: Restoration Improvement 2015 - L	6,220,563
SW: Severe Weather 2015 - L	600,000
TG: Training 2015 - L	68,000

Total Other Improvement: 10,626,380

Strategic Regional and Local

Grant Code: Project Name	Allocation
SRLR: Coonagh / Knockalisheen Distributor Road	5,000,000

Total Strategic Regional and Local: 5,000,000

Total Improvement Allocations: 15,626,380

Maintenance

Maintenance

Grant Code: Project Name	Allocation
RM: Restoration Maintenance 2015 - L	1,750,956

Total Maintenance: 1,750,956

Total Maintenance Allocations: 1,750,956

**Total (all allocations) for Limerick City and County Council
€17,377,336**

2015 Bridge Rehabilitation Works on Regional and Local Roads

Local Authority	Road Number	Location	LA Allocation
Limerick City & County Council	L7080	Ashgrove Old Mill - 3km N/W of Newcastlewest	
Limerick City & County Council	L1239	Ballyegna, Ardagh - 2km N of Ardagh	
Limerick City & County Council	R521	Duncaha Bridge - 3km S of Shanagolden	
Limerick City & County Council	R446	Fairyhall Bridge - 1km east of Montpellier	
Limerick City & County Council	R507	Gortnakistin - 3km S of Doon	
Limerick City & County Council	R518	Nantinan - 5km N of Rathkeale	
Limerick City & County Council	R445	Thomond Bridge	
			514,225

2015 Low Cost Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads

Local Authority	Road Number	Location	LA Allocation
Limerick City & County Council	R445/R858	Brookeville Avenue and Hyde Road	
Limerick City & County Council	R518/L6021	Graigeen, Askeaton	
Limerick City & County Council	R512	Holycross	
Limerick City & County Council	R445	Island Road Roundabout	
Limerick City & County Council	LP519	Lisamoate, Ballingarry	
Limerick City & County Council	R527	Main Tipperary Road Roundabout from Garryowen	
Limerick City & County Council	R445	Pennywell and Clare Street with R445	
Limerick City & County Council	-	Pery Square/Mallow Street Junction	
Limerick City & County Council	L1144	Rosbrien	
			310,500



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12th February 2015

RW 3/2015

Community Involvement Scheme

Dear Director of Services,

I refer to the 2015 regional and local road grant allocations notified to your authority in Circular RW 2/2015 on 3rd February 2015 and in particular to item 9 relating to the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS). As outlined in the Circular now that the pilot community involvement scheme has been completed it has been decided that the scheme will revert back to allowing local authorities to set aside 7.5% of their Road Improvement and Road Maintenance grants for CIS if they wish to do so.

Based on experience gained during the pilot scheme it is proposed to give local authorities some additional flexibility this year in relation to local community contribution rates, as follows:

- where the local community contribution is monetary only a minimum contribution rate of 15% will apply;
- where the local community contribution comprises works only the minimum contribution rate will be 30%;
- where the local community contribution is a combination of monetary and works then the local authority may set a minimum rate on a pro rata basis (between 15% and 30%).

The following requirements will continue to apply to the CIS:

1. Local authorities will assess the condition (PSCI) of any local roads, for which they intend to apply for funds, using the Paving Rating Manual (rating range is 1 to 10 with 1 being very poor and 10 being excellent). Where schemes are approved and proceed the "after" condition must be subsequently rated.
2. Local authorities will record the road length and width and the number of dwellings along the roads under consideration.
3. Local authorities should then estimate the overall cost of the scheme taking account of material, labour, machinery and traffic management costs. The community contribution may in each case be in money or in kind (labour/machinery) or both. This will then determine the percentage contribution.

4. Taking into account the findings of points 1 to 3 above, Councils may then prioritise the roads for funding.

Where roads are to be undertaken by the local community the council must satisfy itself that the works have been completed in a satisfactory manner before accepting subsequent responsibility for the road. Eligible works with relevant codes under the CIS are as follows:

General (G):

- providing hard stands at field entrances;
- removal of grass verges or banks;
- site preparation works including the removal of grass from the centre of the road (where required).

Drainage (D):

- opening, deepening and generally maintaining drains alongside roadway and adjoining land including the laying of drainage pipes, where appropriate;
- providing gully traps at suitable locations and piping to drains, where appropriate;
- opening inlets;
- opening backshores;
- unblocking of shores/surface water drains;

Pavement Works (P):

- repair of potholes (**P-RP**)
- surface resealing works (**P-RS**)
- road strengthening works (**P- SR for Surface Restoration, P-SO for Structural Overlay, P-RR Road Reconstruction**)

Footpaths (F):

- repair of footpaths (**FR**)
- construction of new footpaths (**FN**)

Full records of all projects **must** be maintained on **MapRoad GIS** and be made available for inspection, if required.

The legislative provisions for members of a community carrying out works under the Community Involvement Scheme are outlined in Section 13(6) of the Roads Act, 1993 which provides that, a person or a group of persons may, with the consent of a road authority, carry out maintenance works **on a local road**. A road authority may provide materials, plant, equipment and the services of its staff to a person or group carrying out such works. The person or group (and each member thereof) carrying out works with the consent of a road authority will be indemnified by the road authority against all actions and claims howsoever arising in respect of the works, and the carrying out of works, provided that the works are carried out in a bona fide manner and in accordance with any conditions, restrictions or requirements specified by the road authority. While it is envisaged that the CIS will relate to mainly local roads, they may be carried out on a regional road where the local community contribution is monetary only.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Ryan
Roads Division