



DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The Derrydonnell Junction is a T-junction located along the R446 with the R348 between Oranmore and Athenry. The junction was highlighted by a regional road safety analysis carried out by the Department of Transport. They identified improvements that could be achieved on this junction. These improvements have been envisaged with the goal of providing a safer junction design and decrease number of collisions in the area. On a site visit, it was noted that the visibility for vehicles exiting the adjacent Derrydonnell service station was being impeded, and that this issue also be examined. The study area is within the R348 and R446. R446 is a single carriageway road, with a posted 100km/h speed limit on the approach to the junction. The R348 is also a single carriageway regional road with a posted 80km/h on the approach to the junction.

TOBIN Consulting Engineers have been commissioned by Galway County Council to deliver a Low-Cost designed solution to the collision incidents occurring at Derrydonnell Junction. An options and feasibility report aims to outline the potential and options for the Low-Cost Accident Scheme R446 Project through a desktop assessment. This produced a preferred option which was audited by an independent Road Safety Auditor.

The proposed scheme will include the following elements:

- Removal of existing slip lane heading towards R348.
- Inclusion on new signs and bollards to suit new layout.
- Construction of new surface water drainage
- Construction of kerbed area at service to minimise parking along sight lines
- Installation of associated signage and road markings as necessary



Figure 1.1: Site Location

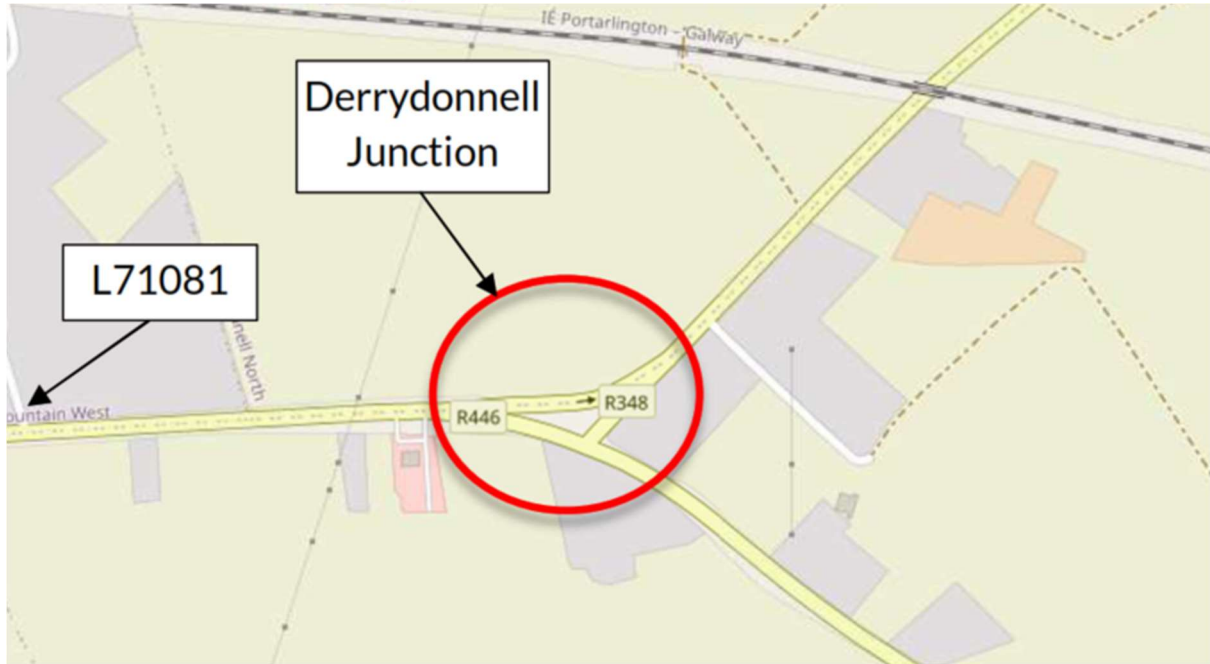


Figure 0.1: Scheme Area



REGIONAL ROAD NETWORK SAFETY ANALYSIS

The aim of the Regional Road Network Safety Analysis (RR NSA) Pilot study is to target funding by the Department of Transport on sections of the network with the most prevalent safety issues that have identifiable engineering-based interventions.

The first Regional Road Network Safety Analysis (RR NSA) was undertaken by the Department of Transport support office (DoTSO), commencing in 2020. It has been developed through collaboration with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) road safety team and adopts a similar approach to their network safety analysis process. The RR NSA supports Vision Zero, a target of zero fatalities on Irish roads by 2050, adopted in the Road Safety Authority (RSA) Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030.

R348-GCO-0.0, DERRYDONNELL (R446) TO ATHENRY @ DERRYDONNELL BEG

SITE OBSERVATIONS

Rural single carriageway with edge & centreline marking. Series of agricultural and residential entrances along the section under consideration. Overhead railway bridge in centre of Location of Interest (Loi) with height restriction signage obscured by vegetation on both approaches. No advance warning signage noted for the junction with R446. T-junction has right turn lane from R446 and good sight visibility for emerging vehicles. Slip lane noted for traffic from Galway direction on R446, directly following long merging lane eastbound from L71081. No advance warning signage noted on R446 eastbound approaching R348 junction. Warning signage close to junction on westbound approach. Road improvements on R446 noted during site visit. Speed limit on R446 100kmh.

SCHEME JUSTIFICATION

Area was highlighted by the regional road safety analysis and by numerous local representatives. This enabled Galway County Council to apply for funding under the Lower Cost Safety Scheme (BS/SIW) as detailed by the DOT. We applied in 2022 for funding to complete detailed design on this Junction these works were completed by Tobin Consulting Engineers, on behalf of Galway County Council. We are now able to Construct the works, and this requires a Section 38 application under the Roads Traffic Act 1994

IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED SCHEME

3. IMPACT ON TRAFFIC

It is envisaged that this scheme will have some impact on traffic during construction, however no long-term negative impacts are expected. The construction will be of a short duration, and result in a long-term positive impact on traffic.

4. IMPACT ON PEDESTRIANS, CYCLISTS AND VULNERABLE ROAD USERS

The proposed works will have a slowing effect on the traffic coming to the junction, this will assist cyclists or pedestrians.



5. IMPACT DURING CONSTRUCTION

The following impacts during construction will be temporary:

- Site mobilisation and operations
- Temporary traffic management
- Construction traffic and materials deliveries

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT (AA)

All works within existing roadbed.

DRAINAGE RISK ASSESSMENT

New stormwater network and Improved Road drainage included in the project.