



DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Furey's Cross is located along the R446 and its intersection with the L7107 and L8101 between Oranmore and Craughwell. The junction was highlighted by a Regional Road Network Safety Analysis (RRNSA) Round 1a Report, documenting Locations of Interest (Loi) identified on Regional Roads within Galway County, by the Department of Transport. The Department commissioned this Pilot Study (Round 1) to be undertaken on the Regional Road Network by colleagues in the Department of Transport Support Office (DoTSO). They were tasked to identify sections of the network with the most prevalent safety issues, where value for money interventions such as the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Works could target investment and reduce or eliminate collisions on a cyclic basis. 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.

TOBIN Consulting Engineers have been engaged by Galway County Council to deliver a Low-Cost designed solution to the collision incidents occurring at this intersection. 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:

- Relocate right turn lane for westbound traffic to Junction further west, close off right turn option at Furey's cross.
- Inclusion on new signs and line marking to suit new layout at both junctions.
- Installation of associated signage and road studs as necessary



Figure 1.1: Site Location



Figure 0.1: Scheme Area – Furey's Cross R446/L8101/L7107



Figure 0.3: Scheme Area – R446/L7107 Junction at Water Tower



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.

R446-GCO-132.0**, ORANMORE TO CRAUGHWELL @ ORAN BEG

SITE OBSERVATIONS

Wide single carriageway with hard shoulders on approach to rural crossroads with very long right turn lanes. Road geometry likely encourage speeds. Site observations noted improvements to line marking on R446. Warning signage on R446 approaches located 400m from crossroad junction with supplementary plate not in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual. Southern minor road L8101 noted surface deterioration at junction mouth and faded linework. STOP sign visibility restricted on approach to see-through junction from the south due to road geometry and vegetation. Restricted line of sight for emerging traffic also. Faded linework also noted for L7101 junction mouth.

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, long-term impacts are expected for vehicles coming from Western approach (Craughwell, Athenry) attempting to turn right towards L7107 (Frenchfort). They will need to continue on towards the water tower and turn right at the junction with the L7107.

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, and remove one right turning movement, 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 on Existing Road surface.

DRAINAGE RISK ASSESSMENT

No existing holding water on roadway.