



Planning Department,  
Forward Planning Section,  
Offaly County Council,  
Áras an Chontae,  
Charleville Road,  
Tullamore,  
County Offaly

16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**Re: Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027 – Material Amendments – Public Consultation**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The National Transport Authority ('the NTA') has reviewed the Material Amendments to the *Draft Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027* and, on the basis of the *Eastern & Midland Regional Economic & Spatial Strategy (EMRSES)* and national policies and guidelines, submits the following observations and recommendations. The NTA welcomes the significant number of proposed material alterations which largely reflect the issues raised in the NTA submission to the Draft Plan.

***Proposed Material Alteration 183***

The NTA welcomes the addition of text regarding modal share and the inclusion of analysis of baseline mode share data at County level.

***Proposed Material Alteration 187***

With regard to the proposed amended text, the NTA would recommend that specific reference to the TII publications is removed and rather that it reads that schemes will be progressed '*in accordance with statutory processes and TII publications*'.

***Proposed Material Alteration A189***

The NTA welcomes proposed MA189 to insert the following policy: *It is Council policy to continue to work with the relevant transport providers, agencies and stakeholders to facilitate the integration of active travel (walking, cycling) with public transport. The analysis is welcome and the text which states that 'this data confirms and highlights the challenges facing the County with regard to promoting a modal shift away from the car. This Plan will strive to reduce reliance on the private car by promoting and facilitating more sustainable modes of transport and supporting development in locations that would reduce the need to travel.'*

While this material alteration is very welcome, the NTA would also recommend, as specified by the OPR, that the Development Plan could include mode share targets. It is welcome that as proposed in MA205 that mode share targets would be included in new/varied LAPs.

**Proposed Material Alteration 190**

The NTA welcomes MA190 to amend the text of SMAP-04 as follows: *Support permeability, accessibility and connectivity in settlements (both in terms of new development and retrofitting into existing built-up areas).*

**Proposed Material Alteration 191**

The NTA welcomes proposed MA191 which alters SMAP-05 to include reference to Mobility Management/Travel Planning.

**Proposed Material Alteration 192**

The NTA welcomes proposed MA192 which inserts that: *'It is Council policy that all proposed major employment developments and schools shall be subject to Travel Plans in a manner consistent with National Transport Authority Guidance.'*

**Proposed Material Alteration 193**

The NTA welcomes proposed MA193 which provides additional text to SMAP-06 which states that: *'It is Council policy to promote more compact development forms that reduce overall demand for private transport and private transport infrastructure and support proposals that encourage modal shift towards sustainable travel modes.'*

**Proposed Material Alteration 194**

The NTA welcomes proposed MA194 which inserts additional text in relation to the reduction in car parking standards in suitable town centre locations.

The NTA welcomes the alterations to Table DMS-102 Car Parking Requirements which alters the text to refer to 'Maximum Car Parking Provision'.

**Proposed Material Alteration 195**

The NTA welcomes proposed MA195 which inserts additional text in relation to supporting and developing public transport routes throughout the County through collaboration with the National Transport Authority and other relevant statutory bodies.

**Proposed Material Alteration 197**

The NTA welcomes this amendment and suggests that it could include reference to the *Connecting Ireland: Rural Mobility Plan*. The Plan is a major public transport initiative that will increase connectivity, particularly for people living outside the major cities.

**Proposed Material Alteration 204**

The NTA welcomes the amendment to Objective SMAO-02 which includes *'...to consider the preparation of Local Transport Plans for other towns that are subject to Local Area Plans...'*. The NTA would suggest that the text could be altered to state that *'...to prepare Local Transport Plans for other towns that are subject to Local Area Plans..'*

***Proposed Material Alteration 205***

The NTA welcomes the insertion of the text of this amendment which provides for baseline figures and targets for modal share to be contained in Local Area Plans. As per the suggestion for MA204, the NTA would suggest that this would be done in the context of both a LAP and a LTP.

***Proposed Material Alteration 206***

The NTA welcomes the insertion of the text of this amendment which seeks to set modal share targets within the County. The NTA would suggest, in accordance with the request by the OPR, that mode share targets at a County level could be set as part of the making of this Development Plan.

***Proposed Material Alteration 208***

With regard to the proposed amended text, the NTA would recommend that specific reference to the TII publications is removed and rather that it reads that schemes will be progressed '*in accordance with statutory processes and TII publications*'.

***Proposed Material Alteration 230***

With regard to the proposed amended text, the NTA would recommend that specific reference to the TII publication is removed. DMURS replaces existing national design standards that will be used throughout all urban areas in Ireland when designing/upgrading roads and streets. The use of DMURS is mandatory for all road authorities (Circular RW 6/2013) and (PL 17/2013) applies to all Roads and Streets in Urban Areas (except where specified).

**Conclusion**

I trust that the views of the NTA will be taken into consideration in the review of the Material Amendments to the *Draft Offaly County Development Plan*.

Yours sincerely,



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Michael MacAree  
**Head of Strategic Planning**