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Roscommon Town Draft Local Area Plan',
Forward Planning Section,
Roscommon County Council,
Aras an Chontae,
Roscommon
F42 VR98

31st January 2024

Re: Draft Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2024-2030

Dear Sir/Madam,

The National Transport Authority ('the NTA') welcomes the opportunity to comment on the preparation of the Draft *Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2024-2030* and, based on national transport policy, the '*Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032*' and the National Cycle Manual submits the following comments and observations.

1.0 Infrastructure and Transport Section

Section 7.4 Infrastructure and Transport refers to the transport elements of the Plan. The Plan states that the delivery of sustainable land use plans and residential settlement policies have a significant effect on not only influencing where people live, but also how they travel to and from places of work, education and recreation. While the integration of land use and transport planning is the most essential element to promote sustainable travel, the NTA considers that the Plan would benefit from a more comprehensive and expanded transport section that includes objectives related to the delivery of transport infrastructure, as well as objectives which support modal shift, traffic management and demand management measures.

It is noted that the Plan refers to the *Roscommon Town Approaches and Movement Study (RTAMS)* and that this has been taken into account in the preparation of the Plan. While the plan states that '*the recommendations related to public transport and active travel interventions have served to inform the development strategy and support policy objectives*', there is no evidence of the incorporation of any recommendations or measures in the LAP text or the supporting maps. No transport specific map or map related transport objectives were found accompanying the LAP.

It does not appear the *Roscommon Town Approaches and Movement Study* forms part of the LAP (it is not displayed with it).

The Plan does not contain any specific objectives relating to public transport, including those to support and facilitate the Connecting Ireland bus programme.

The Plan does not include reference to the Cycle Connects infrastructure plan or the TII Cycle Network plan. The Plan does not reference the Cycle Design Manual which includes best practice standards for cycle infrastructure.

Recommendation

The NTA recommends that the LAP includes a more comprehensive assessment of transport in the town and includes further policies and objectives to promote and deliver sustainable transport including public transport, walking and cycling.

2.0 Local Transport Plan

As Roscommon is a Key Town in the Northern and Western Region, the RSES supports the preparation of Local Transport Plans for these towns. RPO 6.27 includes Roscommon Town and RPO 6.28 states that the policies, objectives and measures which emerge from Local Transport Plans shall be incorporated into Local Area Plans.

RPO 6.27

(a) The Assembly supports the collaborative preparation of Local Transport Plans led by local authorities in conjunction with the NTA and other stakeholders, based on Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) guidance and alignment with environmental policy, for Athlone, Letterkenny, Sligo Town, Cavan Town, Monaghan Town, Castlebar, Roscommon Town, Ballinasloe, CarrickonShannon, Donegal Town, Tuam, Ballina and other areas as may be determined. The LTP will inform the urban area plans, development plans, local area plans and other planning framework documents.

RPO 6.28

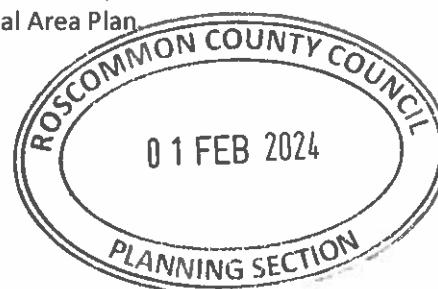
Policies, objectives and measures which emerge from Local Transport Plans shall be incorporated into Development Plans, Local Area Plans, Strategic Development Zone Planning Schemes, Urban Area Plans and other relevant planning framework documents.

The Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028 also includes an objective (ITC 7.5) to carry out an Area Based Transport Plan for Roscommon.

While the LAP refers to the *Roscommon Town Approaches and Movement Study*, this document does not accompany the LAP and may not meet the requirements of a Local Transport Plan (following the Area Based Transport Assessment methodology).

Recommendation

The NTA recommends that a Local Transport Plan accompany the Roscommon Town LAP and that this should inform the preparation of the Local Area Plan. It may be that the Roscommon Town Approaches and Movement Study can form the basis for a Local Transport Plan and the outcomes and recommendations may be appropriate to the inform the Local Area Plan.



Conclusion

I trust that the views of the NTA will be taken into consideration in the preparation of the Draft Local Area Plan, and we would be available to discuss issues arising from the comments made.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Mac Aree

Michael Mac Aree
Head of Strategic Planning

