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RE: Proposed Variation No.1 – Athy Town Development Plan

Dear Sir/Madam,

The National Transport Authority (the “Authority”) has reviewed the above proposed variation and make the following recommendations, with a view to ensuring the consistency of the Development Plan with the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, in accordance with Section 9 of the Planning Act (as amended):

1. The rationale for the removal of the proposed pedestrian bridge over the River Barrow is unclear. At the request of Kildare County Council, the Authority funded the Council to undertake a feasibility study of this proposal in 2012 and that report was completed in September 2012. Accordingly, it is our view that this aspect of the variation is inappropriate and as such, it is recommended that Objectives TCO5 and STO6 remain unaltered.
2. It is of critical importance that the distributor road does not cause undue severance between the residential and commercial areas to its south and Athy Town Centre. As such, an additional statement should be included in relation to the distributor road which states that north-south pedestrian permeability and connectivity will be maintained and enhanced in the design of the new link.

The Authority would like to take this opportunity to draw the Councils attention to the provisions of the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, most specifically section 5.8.3 ‘Principles of Road Development’. In assessing the proposed distributor road for consistency with the Transport Strategy at the planning consent stage, the Authority will be guided by these principles.

I trust that the views of the Authority will be taken into account in the assessment of the proposed variation.

Yours sincerely,



Michael MacAree

Head of Planning and Data Analysis