

Roads, Transportation and Safety

Roscommon County Council's corporate objective as set out in the Corporate Plan 2009 – 2014 is to "Ensure the development of an adequate transport network". The implementation of this objective continued in 2011 with further investment in the road network.

Roads Funding

A breakdown of the road grant received for 2011 is set out in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Road Grant Allocations 2011

National Roads	€11,212,616
Non-National Roads	€14,915,820
Total Grants	€26,128,436

In addition, a figure of €1,798,950 was provided from the Council's revenue budget for local road maintenance and €519,053 from capital resources for the provision of road improvement projects not funded by grants.

Road Classification

The public roads network for the county is classified as follows (Table 2):

Table 2: County Roscommon Public Roads Network

Type	Description	Length
Motorway	M6	20Km (12.5 miles)
National Primary Routes	N4, N5 & N6	85 Km (53 miles)
National Secondary Routes	N60, N61, N63 & N83	147 Km (92 miles)
Regional Routes(Non-National)	R-various numbers	373 Km (234 miles)
Local Routes (Non-National)	L-various numbers	3362km (2101 miles)

N5 Ballaghaderreen By-Pass

The N5 Ballaghaderreen By-Pass will extend for a distance of approximately 13.6 kilometers from the Mayo county boundary, west of Ballaghaderreen to Rathkeery Townland, east of Ballaghaderreen. Roscommon's National Road Design Office is responsible for the management of the scheme in consultation with the National Roads Authority. The land acquisition process progressed at pace during 2011. A series of advance works contracts including major utilities diversions and archaeological testing and resolution contracts were carried out during the year. The undertaking of these contracts eliminates some foreseeable risks for the major construction contract. The procurement of the main construction contract commenced in late 2011 and the awarding of the Works Contract is anticipated in late 2012.

Other National Road Projects

Planning and design of the N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Scheme continued throughout 2011. Upon completion, the project will replace or improve approximately 19 kilometers of existing National Primary Road. The project includes the provision of an N4 bypass of Cortober/Carrick-on-Shannon and the construction of a new bridge over the River Shannon. Leitrim County Council is the “Lead Authority” under the terms of the Section 85 Agreement.

During 2011, the realignment of approximately 2 kilometers of the N60 National Secondary route at Oran was identified as part of the *NRA Safety and Minor Works Programme*. The initial planning stages on the project commenced including the undertaking of extensive archaeological testing and landowner consultation.

Non-National Roads Network

There are 21 regional roads in Roscommon connecting larger centres of population not connected by national routes. Local Roads account for the balance of the network (Table 2 above).

Specific Improvement Grant Scheme

Under this scheme, an allocation of €1,200,000 was received for three specific projects:

➤ R362 – Monksland	€550,000
➤ R368 – Killukin	€400,000
➤ R371 – Ballyfeeney	€250,000

Regional and Local Roads Restoration Programme

This programme applies exclusively to the restoration of regional and local road pavements.

Local Improvement Schemes

Under this scheme, a Local Authority can construct or improve non-public roads for the benefit of its users. A total of 13 schemes were completed during the year with grant aid totalling €95,000 received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

Public Lighting

A new public lighting maintenance contract for the Connaught region to include the administrative areas of all five counties was awarded to Electric Skyline Ltd. during the year and the new contractor was appointed with effect from 1st December 2011. Public lighting faults can now be logged online by the public at www.electricskyline.ie or Lo-Call 1890328587 between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. daily. Night patrols are carried out by the Company on an ongoing basis throughout the county.

Schemes funded from Roscommon County Council's Development Contribution Scheme/Smarter Travel

New Tuam Road, Monksland, Athlone

Improvement works continued on a 1.8 kilometer section of the New Tuam Road and a 0.2 kilometer section of the Old Tuam Road in Monksland. The completed works include the construction of a new roundabout at the intersection of the Old Tuam Road and the New Tuam Road, provision of public lighting, surface water drainage, undergrounding of services, a combined footway/cycleway, a pedestrian footway, road resurfacing, pedestrian crossings, bus bay and traffic calming measures.

Works funded under the Smarter Travel Initiative, 2011 included the provision of two no. controlled pedestrian crossings within the 50 Kph speed limit on Regional Road R362 known as the New Tuam Road in Monksland. The works supplement other improvement works carried out by the Council. The R362 is a significant regional road linking Athlone to Tuam and the West.



Pedestrian Crossing and other roadworks complete at Tuam Road, Monksland

Circular Road/Abbeytown, Roscommon

This scheme involves the provision of a new pedestrian crossing on the N63 National Secondary route outside the Abbey Boys National School on Circular Road. The works also include the provision of a traffic-calming centre island and railings to encourage safe road crossing for school goers. Roscommon County Council also installed a new pedestrian crossing with railings in Abbeytown to facilitate students of the local secondary school, users of the library and the wider public.



Pedestrian Crossing at Library/Roscommon CBS in Abbeytown, Roscommon Town.

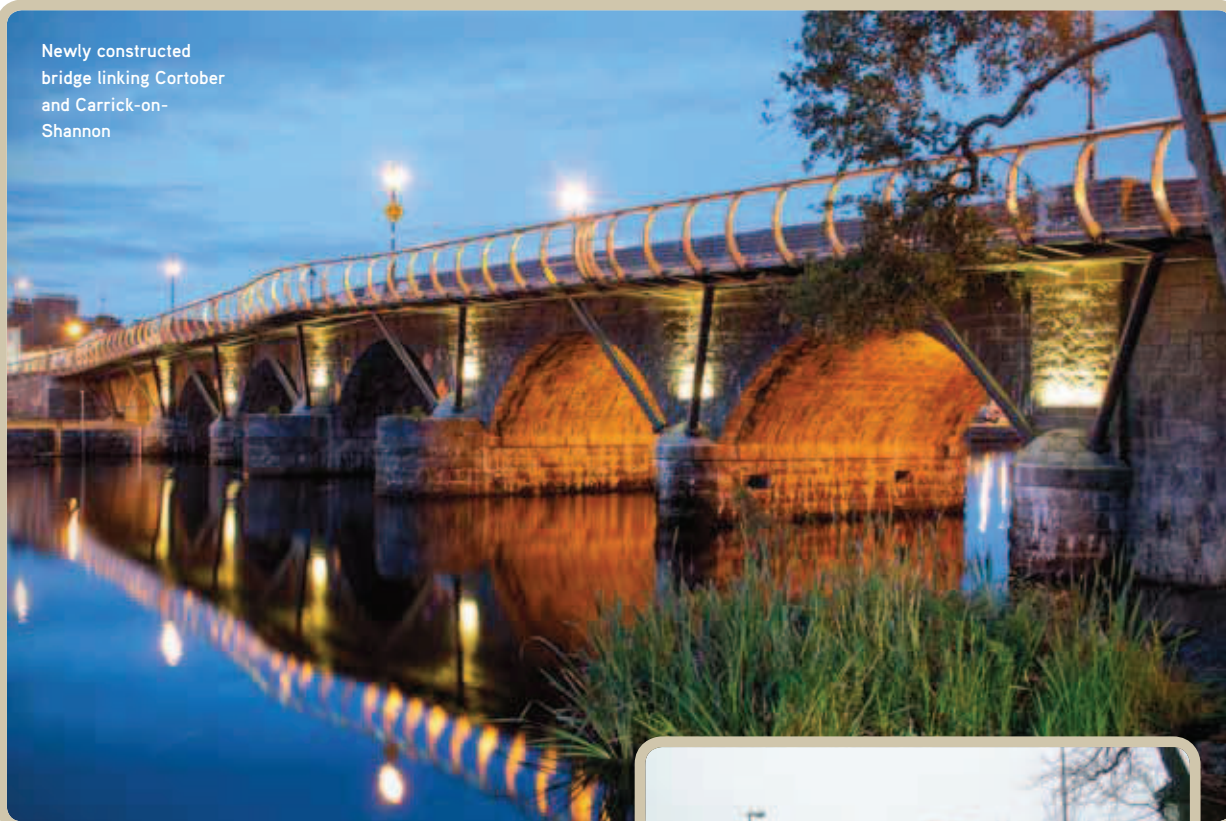
Abbeytown Road, Boyle

This project included the provision of 1.63 kilometers of footpaths and two no. pedestrian crossings on Abbeytown Road in Boyle. The works provide a new link between the Boyle Town centre and the widely renowned tourist attraction of Lough Key Forest Park. Pedestrian crossings were provided at appropriate locations including the entrances to existing schools.



Footpaths completed at Abbeytown Road, Boyle on the approach to Rockingham

Newly constructed
bridge linking Cortober
and Carrick-on-
Shannon



Cortober, Carrick-on-Shannon

This scheme provides for the provision of 185 metres of footpaths on the westbound side of the newly constructed bridge linking Cortober and Carrick-on-Shannon and the junction between the N4 Sligo Road and Regional Road R368. The works also involve the provision of two no. controlled pedestrian crossings. The conversion of Liberty Hill to a one way traffic system was also incorporated into the scheme.



Works completed at Cortober including
footpaths and pedestrian crossing

Road Safety Programme

Roscommon County Council continued to promote various road safety initiatives in 2011. The *Cycle Training Initiative* was subsidised at primary schools throughout the county. Assistance was also given towards the *Drive Safe for Life Programme* which targets transition year students in secondary schools. The course educates students on road safety and promotes good practices for young drivers of the future. The Council funded prizes for the winning entries in the *Road Safety Poster Competition* organised by the Gardaí and a total of 24 primary schools and 416 children participated in the competition.

The *Road Safety Together Committee* met during the year and a range of road safety issues were considered by the members. The *County Roscommon Road Safety Plan 2010 – 2013* was promoted and circulated to interested parties during the year.

Junior School Wardens were trained at the following primary schools:

- Convent of Mercy, Boyle
- St. Patrick's, Strokestown
- St. Paul's, Castlerea
- Abbeycarton, Elphin
- Scoil Mhuire Lourdes, Loughglynn

All five schools participated in the Regional Competition which was held in Newtownforbes National School, Longford in June, 2011. Schools from Roscommon, Longford and Westmeath participated and the overall winners were the host team from Newtownforbes National School, Longford. The standard was particularly high in 2011 and the Judging Committee had great difficulty in selecting the overall winners of the competition.



Junior School Warden Competition June 2011 - Pupils from St. Paul's National School, Castlerea attending the Regional Competition in Newtownforbes, Co. Longford.

Drainage Works 2011

The Council carried out drainage works to sections of the River Hind at Ballymurray, Curry and Bogganfin during the year including channel regarding, cleaning and reconstruction where necessary. Routine maintenance work also took place on parts of the River Jiggy near Roscommon Town. The Athlone Area carried out drainage works at Lisduff, Cullawinnia, Tibarney and Cloghnashade during the year.

Roscommon Cemetery

Burial Grounds

The Council provided €50,000 in grant assistance to 74 voluntary groups under the *Cemetery Improvement and Maintenance Scheme* in 2011 to upgrade and maintain cemeteries.



Ardcarne Cemetery

Water Safety Programme

The Water Safety Programme continued over the summer season in 2011. Lifeguards were employed at Castlerea Swimming Pool. Swimming instruction courses for children were provided at Roscommon Leisure Centre and Castlerea Swimming Pool during the summer months.

Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Roscommon County Council installed a range of outdoor fitness equipment in both the Pleasure Grounds, Boyle and Loughnaneane Park, Roscommon in November/December 2011. The equipment is designed to cater for the needs of adults, including older persons in order to promote health and improve fitness levels for the benefit of all users. There are seven different pieces of exercise equipment provided at both locations. The project was jointly funded by the local authority and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport with assistance provided through the National Lottery. The equipment is fully operational during the opening hours of both facilities.



Outdoor Fitness Equipment at Loughnaneane Park, Roscommon

Roscommon Castle, Loughnaneane Park

