Need for the Project

The village of Bridgend sits at the southern end of the Inishowen Peninsula in Co. Donegal on the most strategically important border crossing in the Northwest. The village is bisected by the N13 / A2 transboundary route The strategic importance of the route is supported by the fact that the N13 transboundary route forms part of the EU TEN-T comprehensive network and is the primary link between Letterkenny and Derry City.

This project delivers on the strategies and objectives of the National Development Plan 2021-2030 (NDP) and National Planning Framework 2040 (NPF). It aims to improve connectivity between the regional centres of Letterkenny and Derry City, thereby improving access to employment, education, retail, commercial and health services and onward national and international travel.

The N13 currently experiences congestion, with high traffic volumes over 19,000 vehicles per day passing through the village and across the border. The high volumes of traffic, in conjunction with the high number of direct accesses to businesses and properties also impact on the safety of this section of the N13, which under the TII collision ranking is consistently ranked as having a collision rate of above or twice above the national average for this type of road.

Bridgend is predominantly a car centric congested environment and this in turn contributes to a poor-quality village centre, with unreliable journey times when accessing this important border crossing, with an average speed for traffic of 24km/h. Environmentally, traffic congestion results in traffic noise and vibration levels along with poor air quality experienced by sensitive receptors and residents along the existing N13. This improvement will aim to minimise where possible the climate and environmental impact

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| Study Area & Constraints Mapping | Option Identification | Emerging Preferred Option Identification | Preferred Option Identification | Planning Submission Preparation | Issue of Planning Submissions & Orders |