



27th February 2026

Circular RW 05 of 2026

**Interim Guidance for the placement of Medium or High Voltage Electricity
Infrastructure beneath public roads**

Dear Chief Executive,

To support a low carbon, climate-resilient future, the Programme for Government commits Ireland to making a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and sets us on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050. The Climate Action Plan (CAP) provides the roadmap to meet this goal, seeking to transform Ireland into an international leader in the development and generation of high-quality renewable energy to promote sustainable social and economic development.

The CAP includes a series of measures to support Ireland's renewables programme, including the accelerated delivery of onshore wind, offshore wind, and solar through a competitive framework to reach 80% of electricity demand from renewable energy by 2030. It reflects the Government's commitment to develop transformational policies, measures, and actions required to meet the electricity sector's carbon budget programme and sectoral emissions ceilings, while also recognising the critical role electricity will play in the decarbonisation of other sectors including heat, transport and industry.

To achieve these objectives, the 'CAP' states: - *"All relevant public bodies will carry out their functions in a manner which supports the achievement of the renewable electricity targets, including, but not limited to, the use of road and rail infrastructure to provide a route for grid infrastructure where this is the optimal solution."*



Roads and Transportation stakeholders, including the Department of Transport, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, and the Road Management Office, produced '*Interim Guidance*', to assist with the efficient delivery of grid infrastructure by the energy sector, whilst also seeking to mitigate the potential impact of electricity infrastructure beneath public roads and ensure the continued proper management of the road network.

The '*Interim Guidance*' was issued to Road Authorities under '*Department of Transport Circular RW07 2025*', on 14th March 2025. Its primary purpose was to support Road Authorities in their role licensing road openings or making submissions to Planning Authorities for the placement of Medium or High Voltage infrastructure under public road network. This '*Interim Guidance*' has now been updated to provide additional clarity and information on their application. The updated version is titled '*Interim Guidance to Road Authorities regarding the proposed placement of Medium or High Voltage electricity assets, including ducts, cables, and associated infrastructure under public road – Version 2*', a copy of which is attached to this Circular and is available for download from roadguidelines.ie.

Please note the following key points regarding the '*Interim Guidance – Version 2*':

- It applies to all projects that concern the proposed placement of Medium or High Voltage electricity assets i.e. infrastructure associated with cables used to transmit or distribute electrical energy at voltages greater than 1kV, including ducts, cables, and associated infrastructure under public roads.
- It applies to rural roads only, which for the purpose of this '*Interim Guidance*' are defined as any public road with a speed limit greater than or equal to 60km/h.
- It applies to all such projects that are either submitted for planning and/ or submitted for a Road Opening Licence from 1st March 2026.
- It incorporates '*NOTIF34025: Clarification regarding the placement of 10kV and 20kV cables in the public road network*', that issued from the Road Management Office on 2nd October 2025.
- Low Voltage Cables (1kV and less) and associated electricity asset installations under public roads are to be addressed through established licensing processes, in consultation with the Road Authority.
- Proposed electricity asset installations under urban roads, roads with a speed limit of less than 60km/h, are to be addressed through established licencing procedures, in consultation with the Road Authority.



- It supersedes the '*Interim Guidance - Version 1*', issued to Road Authorities under '*Department of Transport Circular RW07 2025*', issued 14th March 2025.
- '*Interim Guidance - Version 1*' continues to apply to all projects either submitted for planning and/ or applied for road opening licence, during the period 14th March 2025 to 28th February 2026.
- It should be read in conjunction with the published '*Electricity Transmission Infrastructure Development - Roads Sector Engagement Framework*', published February 2025, and available for download from roadguidelines.ie.

Work is presently ongoing on the establishment of the Local Authority Central Support Unit. It is intended that this will be a new Division within the Road Management Office, with responsibility for supporting Road Authorities with issues concerning the proposed placement of MV and HV infrastructure beneath public roads, including route selections, conditions to be applied to planning submissions and road opening licences, and procedures in respect of abnormal and exceptional abnormal loads licencing. A further update will issue to Road Authorities on this matter in due course.

Should there be any queries in relation to the '*Interim Guidance - Version 2*' these should be addressed to the Road Management Office, contact@rmo.ie. Any queries in relation to this circular should be addressed to techqueriesrlr@transport.gov.ie or your Departmental Inspector.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Barrett
Assistant Principal Officer
Regional and Local Roads Division

CC. All Director of Services - Roads and Transportation
All Senior Engineers - Roads and Transportation
Road Management Office
Transport Infrastructure Ireland
Local Government Management Agency