Ms Jennifer Cullen,
Policy Governance & Coordination Division,
25 Clare Street,
Dublin 2

Friday 5th August 2016.

RE – NWRA submission to the consultation on the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport’s Strategy Statement 2017-2019

Dear Ms. Cullen,

The Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) welcomes this opportunity to make a submission to the consultation on the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport’s Strategy Statement 2017-2019.

The NWRA has a vision for a Rural Ireland that is dynamic, adaptable and an outward looking multi-sectoral economy supporting vibrant, resilient and diverse communities. Our ambition is to focus on ‘unleashing’ ‘uncapping’ and ‘utilising’ the latent strengths of our rural economies and it is important that the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport’s Strategy Statement is supportive of this ambition.

The strategy of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport plays a crucial role in the economic, social and cultural development of the Island of Ireland; Our economic recovery and future prosperity necessitate efficient and cost effective transport links, tourism is an important economic driver in the region, whilst participation in sport can provide significant dividends towards the health and social well-being of the region. The strategy should have a cross-border collaborative focus within an all-island context and be flexible so as to incorporate the outputs of the proposed National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies that are to be developed in tandem.
The purpose of this submission is to highlight some of the key objectives that should be included in the strategy, as set out in the attached supporting document, which includes objectives that will:

- Redress the ongoing population shift towards the Greater Dublin Area, as highlighted in the preliminary Census results of 2016, recently released by the CSO, which again reinforces the case for the creation of strong Regional centres of population with high quality critically enabling infrastructure, to meet the needs of the 21st century.
- Support the implementation of the CEDRA report
- Provision of necessary infrastructure to enable the success of Galway as the European Capital of Culture in 2020
- Deliver the reinstatement of a Cross-Border Western Arc in the Ten-T Core Network
- Upgrading and development of the Atlantic Corridor National Roads Network (N17, N15, N18), which shall facilitate the associated Atlantic Economic Corridor creating a ‘city of scale’ from Limerick through Galway to Sligo and Donegal, to match Dublin and Cork success in developing infrastructure, attracting Irish and multinational investment, and growing jobs and wealth in vibrant communities.
- Realise the delivery of the cross-border A5/N2 upgrade, linking Dublin with Derry and Donegal
- Promote and develop the Wild Atlantic Way and also ‘Ireland’s Lakelands’, as separate and complementary brands,
- Support Regional Airport development
- Support the proposed review to extend the Western Rail Corridor and to develop a network of greenways

It is requested that the above be considered in association with the attached addendum submission and should any queries arise then do not hesitate to revert.

Yours Sincerely

[Signature]

Mr. Denis Kelly
A. Director

NWRA