Major bridge development

4 LANES MOOTED

By CONOR KEANE

MOVES ARE afoot to get an extra £800,000 from the Department of the Environment to allow the new Mallow Street bridge to carry four lanes of traffic, instead of the planned two lanes.

Limerick City Council and the Regional Development Organisation are to be asked to hold a special meeting to press for the extra money.

At present only two lanes are being constructed, but Councillor Paddy Madden now claims that an extra £800,000 would enable the contractors, Ascon, to build a bridge capable of carrying four lanes of traffic.

In an interview with the Limerick Leader, Councillor Madden said that he had researched the proposal thoroughly, but stressed the need for urgency as the extra funds are needed by October. It would be impossible to carry out the necessary structural alterations after that date.

“IT is ridiculous to build carryways for four lanes of traffic into a bridge capable of taking only two lanes. A terrible bottleneck is going to be created”, he warned.

Councillor Madden has the full backing of his Fianna Fail colleagues on the council for his proposals, which, he said, would only cause minimal delay in the construction.

Extra

“The designers of the bridge budgeted for a £4.25 million bridge. The Minister should give the extra money which we have already saved his Department and allow us to build a proper bridge and not the Mickey Mouse thing that is being built at the moment”, stated the Councillor.

He pointed out that a £41 million project is shortly to get the green light in Cork and asked what would another £800,000 be to the Department.

“It’s just a drop in the ocean”, he said.

“Limerick is the gateway to the Mid-West and at the very minimum a four-lane bridge is needed on this busy route. The faceless men in the Department are making us build an obsolete bridge which would have been great a hundred years ago, but in 1986 we need a much bigger bridge and it will be at least another 10 years before another bridge is built over the Shannon at Limerick”, he remarked.

Councillor Madden, who is a member of the RDO, said that he has called for a special meeting of that body and the City Council to demand the extra money.

WEATHER

Outbreaks of light rain are expected this afternoon, according to the Met. Office at Shannon, and the weather is likely to remain broken for the rest of the week.

PUB RAID:
LINE OF ENQUIRY

Gardaí at Edward Street are investigating the recent £6,000 cash robbery from Jerry’s Bar.