

	<h1>Variation No.6</h1>
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Who are you:	State Body
Name:	Department of Transport
Reference:	VAR6-141159
Submission Made	January 14, 2026 2:14 PM

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- Chapter 3 – Proposed Variation No. 6

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Department of Transport Submission

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Variation No.6
Administrative Officer,
Planning Section,
Wicklow County Council
Station Road,
Wicklow Town

14th January 2026

Re: Proposed Variation No. 6 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

In respect of the Proposed Variation No. 6 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 the Department of Transport (DoT) welcomes the opportunity to provide the following general observations. Note that these observations are a statement of the general principles, objectives, and policy imperatives which are under the remit of the Department of Transport, to be considered in reviewing or finalising the Proposed Variation No. 6 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning

The concept of Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning (SUMP) has been around for some time and has been developed at a European level through several key policy instruments. The European Commission formally introduced the concept of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) in its 2013 Urban Mobility Package. This provided a strategic framework for cities to develop integrated, multimodal transport plans that promote sustainability, accessibility, and quality of life with updated SUMP guidelines issued in 2019.

The European Urban Mobility Framework launched by the European Commission in 2021 highlighted that cities and regions need to play an even bigger role in the TEN-T of the future to improve mobility and transport flows and reinforced SUMP as a tool for cities to reduce emissions and improve mobility.



In July 2024, the revised TEN-T Regulation, Regulation (EU) 2024/1679, entered into force. It strengthens the role of cities, as vital enablers of sustainable, efficient and multimodal transport. The Regulation designates certain cities as urban nodes and sets out specific requirements for them in order to promote seamless traffic flows from, to and across urban nodes on the TEN-T network. For the first time this legally mandates Urban nodes on the Network to develop and implement a SUMP by 31 December 2027.

In Ireland, our Metropolitan Area Transport Strategies (MATS), including the Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy, developed by the National Transport Authority in consultation with the Local Authorities are the national equivalent of SUMP. Full alignment with SUMP requirements as set out in Annex V of the Regulation will have to be ensured when the strategy is being reviewed.

To that end we have established a National SUMP Programme with the National Transport Authority to provide assistance on the development and implementation of SUMP.

A national SUMP Network has also been established to facilitate collaboration, and knowledge sharing among local authorities working within Ireland's designated urban nodes and relevant local authorities are asked to engage with the Network.

Integrated Land Use and Transport Planning

The National Planning Framework affirms a strong commitment to Transport Orientated Development (TOD), which is defined as a form of urban development that seeks to maximise the provision of housing, employment, public services, and leisure space near frequent, high quality transport services. TOD is to be achieved through a variety of targets that prioritise a certain amount of new housing development to occur within cities and the existing footprint of built-up settlements.



National Policy Objective 97 seeks to deliver TOD at suitable locations as identified in Metropolitan Area Strategic Plans.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Department of Transport jointly established a working group in December 2021 under the Government's Housing for All plan to consider opportunities for TOD in major urban centres. The group comprises membership from both Departments, the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the Land Development Agency (LDA).

The first report from this Working Group looked at opportunities in Dublin and was published in 2023. Reports on Cork, Limerick, Galway, Waterford and the Eastern Region are at finalisation stage.

The Department of Transport can assist with appropriate text in the proposed Variation No. 6 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 if desirable.

Central Policy, Coordination and Reform

An Roinn Iompair

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