

From: Niall Marren [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday 23 January 2019 13:05
To: rses
Subject: Draft RSES for public consultation (Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy)

I am a resident Co. Galway and originally from Co. Sligo. My father and Grandfather before him were both employees of GW&NR/CIE as Porter/Station master in Carrowmore Station in County Sligo until the railway closed in the mid 1970's. As a child in the 1980's I played on the disused railway and have since then watched its decay. It is in this context and reference to the Draft RSES that I wish to make the following comments:

1. There is no provision in the draft RSES for the proposed greenway on the closed railway from Athenry (County Galway) to Collooney (County Sligo)
2. Objectives 115 (a) and (b) on page 233 should be reworded to make allowance for a greenway on the closed railway in order to protect the route in public ownership if the railway is not going to be opened in the period of the new RSES. I understand they are reviewed every ten years, it is unlikely the railway will be re-opened in that time frame.
3. The independent rail review of the Western Rail Corridor currently being undertaken by the DTTAS only covers the route from Athenry to Claremorris. North of Claremorris, Mayo County Council and Sligo county council have projects in place to utilise the route for leisure purposes until such time as a railway is possible. Objective 115 (a) and (b) are presumptive that the rail review will recommend re-opening the railway. The draft RSES cannot presume the outcome of an independent review.
4. On page 215 of the draft RSES the Sligo Greenway project has been omitted from the list of strategic long distance projects that match the strategic greenway strategy as laid out on page 215. This omission of a project that is already underway needs to be rectified. There is also no mention of the Quiet Man Greenway project which is in planning by Galway County Council for a greenway from Athenry to Milltown on the closed railway. Both Sligo and Galway county council made submissions to the DTTAS in November 2018 in relation to these projects. The draft RSES needs to include these two projects as objectives to be completed.

Please ensure these issues are addressed in the next draft of the RSES following this public consultation.

Can you please confirm receipt of this submission by reply to this email.

Thank you

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