

14/12/06

## Dublin Port Tunnel Opening Operations Brief

Dublin City Council and the National Roads Authority are confirming the opening of the Dublin Port Tunnel for December 20th 2006. We are now at the stage of identifying the specific operational details which are as follows:

HGVs are the primary users of the Dublin Port Tunnel and the focus of opening operations will be on HGVs only and how they will use the tunnel. Cars will not be allowed during this phase and it will last for approximately 3 to 4 weeks.

The reasons behind this operational requirement are:

- 1) It will allow for HGVs to become familiar with the tunnel and the road layout at either end.
- 2) It will allow for HGVs to become familiar with the operational requirements of the tunnel include permitted cargos, proper distance between vehicles and over height restrictions.
- 3) It will allow the operator, Dublin City Council and An Garda Siochana to coordinate and optimise external traffic arrangements on an incremental basis.

Once the day to day HGV operations are bedded down to the satisfaction of the operator, Dublin City Council and An Garda Siochana, the tunnel will then open to car traffic.

In addition, the first step of the planned incremental stages of opening the tunnel, the new entrance arrangements to Dublin Port at the southern end of the tunnel were brought into operation on Tuesday morning last - 12th December. HGVs accessing the Port are now using the new Promenade Road entrance and the new road layout approaching that entrance.

"We are very excited that we are opening the tunnel six days from now, but we want to be prudent in the transition to the full operations of the tunnel." Hugh Creegan, Director of Program Management for the NRA