



Bridge Owners Forum Ireland (BOFI)

Minutes from First Online Meeting

(21 April 2026, 10:00 – 10:30)

No. of Attendees: 13

Organizations represented:

- Department of Transport
- Department of Infrastructure
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Limerick City & County Council
- Bridge Owners Forum (UK)
- Cork County Council
- Donegal County Council

1. Purpose of Meeting

- To initiate discussion on establishing the **Bridge Owners Forum Ireland (BOFI)**
- To explore the need, scope, and potential structure of a national forum

2. Stakeholder Engagement

- Strong support for a **broad and inclusive forum**
- Proposed stakeholders include:
 - Local authority engineers
 - Bridge owners and managers
 - National agencies
 - Contractors and consultants
 - Academic and research community

3. Key Challenges Identified

Participants highlighted several gaps and challenges:

- Limited knowledge sharing across organisations
- Fragmentation of bridge-related data
- Gaps in monitoring and early warning systems
- Lack of communication and collaboration between stakeholders
- Practical constraints:
 - Environmental and planning requirements
 - Limited availability of specialist contractors

4. Shared Goals and Priorities

There was strong alignment around:

- Strengthening **knowledge exchange and collaboration**
- Sharing experiences, case studies, and best practices
- Improving coordination in bridge management and rehabilitation
- Developing a **more efficient and integrated approach** across Ireland
- Establishing a **collaborative and self-sustaining network**
- Supporting **training opportunities and ongoing engagement**

5. Future Direction of BOFI

- General agreement on the value of creating a **national forum**
- Mixed views on:
 - Whether BOFI should align with or become a branch of the UK forum
- Decision:
 - Further exploration of UK alignment required

6. Next Steps

- Organise a **follow-up workshop (June, University of Galway)**
- Focus of next meeting:
 - BOFI structure and governance
 - Membership model
 - Future direction

7. Additional Information Shared

- Circulation of document:
 - “Suicide Prevention at Motorway Bridges” (TII)
- Availability survey distributed for scheduling next meeting

8. Actions

- **Organisers:**
 - Coordinate next meeting logistics
 - Prepare proposals on structure and membership
- **Participants:**
 - Complete availability survey
 - Review circulated materials

9. Summary

The meeting confirmed strong interest and support for establishing BOFI as a collaborative, national platform, with clear agreement on key challenges and priorities. The next phase will focus on defining structure, membership, and governance.