

Transport Strategic Policy Committee

Tuesday 8th November 2022 @9.30am – 11.30am

Minutes of blended meeting held on the Zoom platform and in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Galway

Present:

Cllr. Frank Fahy Chairman SPC	Cllr. Alan Cheevers Councillor GCC	Cllr. Colette Connolly Councillor GCC	Cllr. Mike Cubbard Councillor GCC
Cllr. Peter Keane Councillor GCC	Cllr. Niall Murphy Councillor GCC	Cllr. Noel Larkin Councillor GCC	Cllr. Clodagh Higgins Mayor of City of Galway
Mr. Shane Foran Community Network	Mr. Pat Hardiman ICTU	Mr. Paul O'Donnell Community Network	

In Attendance:

Mr. Patrick Greene Director of Services	Mr. Uinsinn Finn Senior Engineer	Mr. Michael Lally A/ Senior Executive Engineer	Ms. Elaine Mahon A/Admin. Officer
Ms. Carol Heneghan Assistant Staff Officer			

Apologies:

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Item:

Chairman Cllr. Frank Fahy welcomed the Transport SPC members and Council Officials to the meeting which was held in City Hall Council Chamber and on the Zoom platform.

1. Minutes of meeting 13th September 2022

The minutes of the Transport SPC meeting dated 13th September 2022 were proposed by Shane Foran and seconded by Cllr. Mike Cubbard.

2. Matters arising

The following matters were raised by SPC Members:

Paul O'Donnell enquired about when the Report on the provision of pedestrian overpasses will be issued by the Transport Department. In response, the committee was advised that this Report is being worked on but won't be ready for this meeting. It is hoped that this Report will be brought to the next SPC.

Paul O'Donnell requested if the report could be circulated in advance of the next SPC Meeting.

Cllr. Mike Cubbard thanked the Transport Staff for making contact with him in relation to the Siobhan McKenna Road and requested the following updates:

- Pedestrian Crossing at Terryland Forest Park.
- Pedestrian Crossing at Browne Roundabout.
- Masterplan for Letteragh/Ballagh/Circular Road.

In response, it was advised that the Pedestrian Crossing at Terryland Forest Park should be completed by Christmas. The Pedestrian Crossing at the Browne Roundabout is progressing.

It was stated that the Masterplan for Letteragh/Ballagh/Circular Road is on Galway City Council's Annual Services Delivery Plan for 2023.

It was confirmed that there were no requests from the public to attend this meeting. Cllr. Frank Fahy stated that members of the Public can attend this meeting in person only but is required to follow the procedure which includes giving a week's notice in advance of the meeting and signing in at reception. Members of the Public cannot attend via zoom.

It was agreed to take Item No. 4 – Access Control Points as the next Item on the Agenda.

4. Access Control Points

A presentation was made to the Committee by Michael Lally, Senior Transport Project Manager (NTA Capital Projects) in relation to Access Control Points.

In February 2022, the Department of Transport issued a notification relating to access control points. The circular noted that further guidance would be issued in relation to design guidance. The circular also requested that Local Authorities confirm if any non-compliant access control points were previously provided as part of previous active travel schemes.

An initial review of existing infrastructure noted that no access control points were previously installed as part of active travel scheme, funded through the Department of Transport or its agents.

In addition to the active travel schemes, Galway City Council undertook an audit of all access control points within their administrative area. A desktop assessment of existing control points commenced in September 2022.

As the majority of the access control points are not on transport schemes, but on R&A parks and recreational areas, a joint approach is required. The report recommended that the completed audit be circulated to the various operational departments of Galway City Council to reconfirm ownership, authority and departmental remit of the access control points via a stage 2 audit. A policy on the access control into such recreational areas may also need to be considered by Environment and R&A SPC.

Following the presentation, Members welcomed the report and raised the following queries and points:

- Has the option of removing Access Control Points been considered as there is a requirement for more accessibility?
- The possibility of Active Travel funding being applied for this project?
- There are two kissing gates at Southpark and at Terryland that could be progressed.

- Request for the consideration of access control points as part of the Safe Routes to School programme.
- The installation of a new kissing gates at Ard Alainn, Ballybane was noted and requested to be added to the map.
- The following queries/comments were noted:
- Gates were put in at Ard Alainn, Ballybane and as a result this has prevented a lot of anti-social behaviour in the area.
- If the Environment Department would be progressing with some kissing gates?
- Why the kissing gates have become non-functional and if it is to facilitate access for cargo bikes into Parks?
- Noted that they were initially installed to prevent motorbikes cutting through Housing Estates and enquired if there is a replacement for kissing gates and also noted that they work well in some areas.

It was also noted that the condition of footpaths in some areas are in bad condition and asked if the width of the footpath that was narrowed to facilitate carparking on the Dublin Road and Lough Atalia will be reinstated for safety. It was requested that footpaths be on the Work Programme.

In response, Michael Lally stated that the guidance documents relate solely to Active Travel Schemes and needs to be compliant. The expansion of the guidance document to govern access control points provided on schemes and interventions not relating to active travel / Department of Transport funding is a consideration of the various SPC Committees and the main Council.

It was noted that the National Transport Authority (NTA) agreed to fund an initial review/audit of the access control points to Parks areas. Once the initial audit was completed, a second audit relating to the measures that can be undertaken, the confirmed number of interventions and a detailed costing of the works would be required to progress the replacement. On completion of that report, an updated funding application would be required, outlining the number, locations and costings for the proposed replacements.

Uinsinn Finn mentioned that when Galway City Council deliver the Active Travel Scheme, it doesn't provide kissing gates. What Galway City Council Transport Department provides will be compliant with the National Transport Authority. Galway City Council also need to ensure that their lands are secured. The Transport Department will work with other Departments in relation to kissing gates and other access controls.

Patrick Greene further added that the NTA want kissing gates out of their schemes. Some people are in favour and some are against. Each entrance will be examined in its own right and what suits best for the location.

It was advised that the guidance document on 'Access Control of Active Travel Facilities' was issued by the National Transport Authority. However, it is not for this SPC to adopt it for areas that are outside of our remit such as access to playgrounds, parks, sports area that are under the Recreational and Amenity Section.

A discussion took place in regard to the removal of the Kissing gates at Southpark and at Terryland Forest Park. It was mentioned that the kissing gate at the Terryland Forest Park to the Headford Road area is an issue as a bike needs to be carried over the gate at this location. The removal of these gates was agreed.

Uinsinn Finn stated that the Survey that was done was useful and all locations were examined. The remit for the Transport Department is the Public Road Network and if outside this remit, Transport will be liaising with Recreation & Amenity and get agreement on a case by case basis.

The meeting was advised that if there are any further queries in relation to the Access Control Points to email roads@galwaycity.ie

3. ESB & Enterprise Mobility Pilot

A Presentation was given by Lorraine Cronin and Darren Feisser of ESB in relation to the ESB Pilot Mobility Programme.

ESB Launched the first phase of its pilot mobility programme ESB ebikes, a pilot eBike rental scheme with 112 bikes, on 17 August 2022 across Dublin.

EVPZ, the second phase is an ecar share scheme and will be delivered by ESB and Enterprise. It is a fully electric and community based car sharing scheme which includes objectives such as reduction in carbon emissions, promote sustainable travel, make access to electric cars more affordable, encourage a behavioural shift away from private petrol/diesel car ownership to shared e-car usage.

It is intended to rollout a similar programme in Galway for different modes of transport which will help reduce emissions and congestion on roads. Phase 1 involves Dublin, Limerick & Galway. The e-car is for short term hire especially for people who only need a car occasionally.

How the ecar share proposition will work:

- It is Community Based with Club Membership
- There will be a monthly subscription of €49 payable
- Sign up and book your ecar through an App
- Pick up your ecar
- Return the car and plug back-in for next member
- Repeat the process when needed

Two suitable areas suggested were the Cathedral Car Park and the Dyke Road Car Park.

Members thanked Lorraine and Darren for their presentation and the following questions and points were raised:

- It was suggested that this initiative would be a big advantage for the Parkmore area where there are multi international companies. It may also reduce the amount of cars coming from the East side of the city.
- If the App is user friendly especially for people who are not computer literate.

- Are there any other locations proposed where people are living in the suburbs such as Knocknacarra?
- The cost of insurance for the scheme.
- When it is proposed to commence the scheme.

Darren Feisser stated that the project is a pilot at the moment. The idea of the car club is that it would fit into the community. The Scheme will be very useful for someone that does not use a car often. The future plan would be to integrate with multinational companies. The pilot is a first step in a bigger picture.

Lorraine Cronin advised that the App is very straight forward and intuitive. There will be work done with the local Community to assist people in using the service such as having a YouTube clip or material could be provided in Lidl near the Dyke Road. There will also be material/manual in the car.

It was added that the two proposed locations are in a large residential area and are in short distance to the cars. Other suggested locations will be considered.

It was advised that the Insurance will be managed by Enterprise.

It was stated that it is intended to have the scheme in place in April 2023 and the plan is to run the pilot for up to 24 months.

Uinsinn Finn outlined the benefits of the car share proposal. It promotes modal shift away from the private car. Families living in the city that have an absolute necessity for one car but not always requiring a second car, a car share scheme can fill that gap and remove the need for the second car in the household. This may influence to use this scheme.

Uinsinn Finn thanked Lorraine and Darren for their presentation.

5. Update on GTS Projects – Verbal update and Q & A

The Meeting was advised of the following updates:

- The Cross City Link is with An Bord Pleanála. The deadline for submissions is due to close on the 18th November 2022.
- The Salmon Weir Pedestrian Bridge is progressing. The first Stage has been delivered. The second stage will be delivered on 11th November. The main lift of the pedestrian bridge will happen in December 2022.
- The Martin Roundabout is progressing. A minor traffic accident occurred recently. Galway City Council has been in contact with the Gardai. Discussions took place with the Contractor in relation to lighting. A further meeting will be set up with the Gardai and the Contractor.
- Doughiska Road South Cycle Scheme will commence in December 2022.
- Millers Lane Permeability is currently under construction.
- Dublin Road Bus Priority will be going out to Public Consultation in December 2022.
- Upgrade works in Parkmore will be going to construction next year.
- The NTA commenced a review on Bus Routes. It is anticipated that this will go to public consultation end December 2022/early January 2023.

Following the update, concerns were expressed in relation to the traffic flow and health & safety at the Martin Roundabout particularly in relation to lighting and signage. It was queried as to when the works will be finished so that the public can be informed.

An update was also requested for:

- Doughiska Road Cycle Network – when will it be finished
- Ballyloughane Active Travel Scheme
- Park & Ride – when a service will be provided
- LED Rollout
- Traffic Calming Measures
- Budget for the Martin Roundabout
- Rollout of the 30km speed limit in the City

Cllr. Mike Cubbard welcomed the project on Cnoc an Oir and requested if lighting could be erected at the end of the walk way.

Cllr. Peter Keane welcomed the work done on permeability in Glenard.

In response to the queries raised, the meeting was advised:

- Health & Safety is taken very seriously in relation to the Martin Roundabout. There is continued liaison with the Project Engineers, the Gardai and the Contractor. Traffic Management is carried out by a competent person. Notification will be given on any updates arising from the progress report. The Budget for this project is approximately €5m and is a Fixed Price Contract.
- It was advised that the Doughiska Road Cycle Network will take 9 months for the Construction Project.
- The Ballyloughane Active Travel Scheme is still on the Council Agenda and would like this to be progressed.
- It was advised that a letter will be sent to the NTA in relation to the progress on a Park & Ride service.
- An Engineer will be commencing soon to continue the LED Programme.
- Traffic Calming Strategy to be included on the agenda of the 2nd meeting in 2023.
- The lighting issue at Cnoc an Oir will be followed up on.
- It was advised that the Clybaun Permeability Study was issued in draft format to the NTA for approval and this will be looked at next year.
- There is a review of the speed limits within the city currently being carried out. Draft Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws will be brought before Council in December. It was agreed to hold a drop in workshop for Councillors in relation to the Draft Bye-Laws before going to Council.

6. Agenda for the next meeting & Work Programme update

The SPC members suggested the following items be added to the Agenda and Work Programme for 2023:

- Report from Transport on the provision of a pedestrian overpass at three locations – Kirwan Junction, Seamus Quirke Road and Spanish Parade.
- Pathfinder proposals
- Improvement of Footpaths.
- Traffic Calming Measures – to be included on the Agenda for the second SPC Meeting of 2023.

The following schedule of dates were provisionally agreed for 2023 Transport SPC Meetings with a start time of 9.30 am:

- 7th February 2023
- 9th May 2023
- 12th September 2023
- 7th November 2023

7. AOB

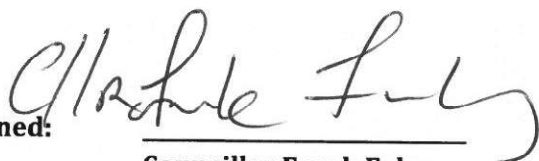
It was advised that there are four School Wardens out sick at the moment. The Transport Department is currently liaising with Human Resources to provide replacements.

It was confirmed that the Transport Section has written to the Gardai in relation to parking enforcement after 6pm at various locations such as Forster Street to which no response has been received to date.

It was stated that Galway City Council received a response from the NTA in relation to Toilet Facilities for Bus Drivers. The NTA stated that they would be open to funding such facilities pending a successful application from bus operators. The NTA noted that the delivery of such projects would be the total responsibility of the Bus Operator.

Next meeting: 7th February 2023

Signed:



Councillor Frank Fahy
Chair Transport SPC