

Transport Strategic Policy Committee

Tuesday 9th November 2021 @11.30am – 1.30pm

Minutes of meeting held on the Zoom platform, hosted by Uinsinn Finn, Senior Engineer, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Galway

Present:

Cllr Frank Fahy Chairman TSPC	Cllr Alan Cheevers Councillor GCC	Cllr Colette Connolly Councillor GCC	Cllr Mike Cubbard Councillor GCC
Cllr Clodagh Higgins Councillor GCC	Cllr Niall Murphy Councillor GCC	Mr Shane Foran Community Network	Mr Paul O'Donnell Community Network
Mr Pat Hardiman ICTU			

In Attendance:

Mr Uinsinn Finn Senior Engineer	Mr Patrick Greene Director of Services	Ms Anne Ruane Admin. Officer GCC	Mr Jimmy Callan Senior Engineer GCC
Ms Arlene Finn Admin. Officer GCC	Mr David Greally Executive Engineer GCC	Mr Michael Lally Executive Engineer GCC	Ms Susan Loughnane Senior Project Mgr. GCC
Mr Fran McEvoy Snr. Exec. Engineer GCC	Mr Colm O'Riordan Snr. Exec. Engineer GCC	Mr Colm Shaughnessy Assistant Engineer	Mr Jonathan Whelan Exec. Engineer
Ms Aoife Keane Clerical Officer GCC			

Apologies:

Ms Elaine Brick Bus./Commercial Sector			
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1. Minutes of meeting 7th September 2021

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

Cllr Frank Fahy welcomed Patrick Greene to the post of Director of Services for Transport, Climate Action & Environment, Recreation & Amenity and Water Services, and thanked Uinsinn Finn, Senior Engineer, for his work with the SPC during his time as Acting Director of Services.

The minutes of the Transport SPC meeting dated the 7th September 2021 were proposed by Cllr Clodagh Higgins and seconded by Cllr Mike Cubbard.

2. Matters arising

Cllr Mike Cubbard raised the following issues:

- An update on the speed trap in Laurel Park.

- Update on the Browne roundabout - asked for an Engineer to visit the roundabout and to witness the difficulties.
- Suggested the provision of a temporary crossing.

Cllr Colette Connolly raised the following.

- Removing the loading bays on Eglinton Street to an alternative location as private cars are abusing the bays by parking there.
- Basis for the extension of the outdoor dining scheme.

Cllr Frank Fahy raised the following:

- Agreed with Cllr. Cubbard and noted that all roundabouts have been removed except the Browne Roundabout, which needed upgrading to a junction.
- HSE are closing hospital exit in the evenings and at weekends.
- Pedestrian crossing should be put in place near Arch Motors as current situation is not safe for pedestrians.
- Issue of Scoil Iognáid parents parking on Henry Street, and St John's Terrace since Raleigh Row has closed to traffic as part of the School Streets Scheme and asked if the Community Wardens could look at this as it is causing issues for elderly residents.

Cllr Clodagh Higgins raised the following.

- Concerns re the School Streets Scheme and parents parking on St. Mary's Road.
- Suggested that the Bridge Club on St. Mary's Road be asked for permission to allow parents to park at their premises.

In response Uinsinn Finn, SE, confirmed that the Browne Roundabout and School Streets, would be addressed at the meeting as they are on the agenda. He noted that the loading bays on Forster Street were being used for outdoor dining and have now reverted to the previous layout. He stated that they are not considering moving the loading bays as they are needed in that area by the surrounding businesses. It was also noted that a considerable number of Fixed Penalty Notices issue in Forster Street for parking in the loading bays. It was noted that Jimmy Callan, SEE would discuss the Laurel Park matter with Cllr Mike Cubbard.

3. Fleet Electrification and street/car parking e-charging strategy (Report to follow)

Colm Shaughnessy, Assistant Engineer, gave the above presentation to the members which was a shorter version of the report previously circulated to the SPC members. Following the presentation members were reminded of time constraints of the meeting and to keep questions to a minimum.

The members thanked Colm for his presentation.

The following queries were raised:

- Cllr Niall Murphy raised the following:
 - Query whether EVs will be charged inside housing estates or in car parks nearby.
 - Difficulty for residents who do not have off road parking.
 - Query re use of street lighting for recharging vehicles.

- Shane Foran observed that wheelchair and pedestrian users were only mentioned once in the report. The issue of cables being run over the path and being a trip hazard was raised. This particular issue may need a policy.
- Cllr Mike Cubbard asked what has been the total investment on EVs this year and what expenditure is planned for next year. He noted that a more stringent grant scheme is required to make EVs more accessible to the public as they are currently expensive.
- Paul O'Donnell queried if EV bike charging stations / secure parking were planned.
- Cllr Frank Fahy raised the issue of receiving permission from the Local Authority if living in a City Council estate to connect to charging points.

In response Colm Shaughnessy advised as follows:-

- That the report outlines a proposal to create parking hubs in areas next to areas with no on-street parking rather than on-street charging outside individual houses. He said that upgrading existing infrastructure such as street lighting to enable EV charging rather than adding new structures to the street would be preferable as this will lessen the use of street space. He noted that the report outlines that only 5% of people will need street charging and most will use their own off-street connections. Public charging points are being created to prevent people running cables across the footpath from their house and causing a trip hazard.
- Exact figures on the total investment on EVs was not to hand, but he will source that figure for Cllr Mike Cubbard. He stated that the cost of installing charging points in City Hall and Sandy Road was €54,340 (which is €6,040 per charging point).
- Clarified that this report was aimed at cars not bikes and that EV bike charging units require a three pin plug which opens the door for other electrical items being charged at those stations. However, this can be reviewed and added on at a later stage.
- Noted that there is no policy in place for public hubs and bylaws may need to be amended if public space outside private houses with no driveways are to be utilised for private EV charging.

Uinsinn Finn clarified that GCC need to consider the right policy for the situation in 5-10 years' time and not just for EV use today. Most people who purchase EVs today will charge at home but in future EVs will become more common and accommodations will need to be made. Service stations will adapt to e-charging vehicles as they move away from petrol and diesel.

Director of Services, Patrick Greene stated that electricity companies such as ESB may move into the EV charging area as they have the connection points. It is too early to predict the future but all options should be considered.

4. N6 Multi Module Corridor - Kirwan, Martin & Browne Roundabout Upgrades (Report to Follow)

Fran McEvoy gave the presentation on the above N6 Multi Module Corridor – Kirwan. Martin & Browne Roundabout, to the members. Members thanked Fran for the presentation and the following points were noted and queries were raised:

- Rat running through surrounding areas has increased due to people avoiding the Kirwan Junction.
- Cyclists are not finding it to be a safe option and members of the public do not believe that the junction is functioning correctly.
- It was noted that improvements are needed beyond optimising lights.
- Congestion will increase when more people return to the office.
- Concerns were raised about the impact on Liosbán and the Tirellan Heights estate.
- Concerns were raised regarding cherry picked information and the junction being unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists.
- A public consultation on the junction was suggested.
- A number of defects were noted such as signal heads.
- Query regarding the cost of this junction and the cost of the Martin and Browne junctions.
- It was suggested that the lights be synchronised from the Town Hall to Kirwan junction to alleviate traffic.
- It was noted that cyclists have to wait 10-12 mins to cross the junction.
- It was noted that the roundabout is treacherous for cyclists.
- Suggestion to add pedestrian crossings to the roundabout.
- A request was made for the Transport GCC staff to meet with businesses in Terryland about this junction.
- Suggestion to measure how many cyclists are currently using the cycle lanes.
- It was pointed out that the new junction is an unmitigated disaster.
- It was noted that Liosbán businesses may have to close down due to people avoiding the junction.
- A suggestion was made to block Tirellan Heights and Ballinfoile to passing traffic to restrict the rat running.
- Concerns were raised re accessing the home of the Collins family.
- An issue with the signage on the road was raised which states L/ban instead of Liosbán which is not easy to decipher if people are not from Galway
- Request re details of next count to be carried out on Monument Road.

Uinsinn Finn confirmed that there was insufficient time to respond to these queries and suggested that queries sent to the Roads email (roads@galwaycity.ie) which would be responded to in writing.

5. AOB

Cllr Frank Fahy noted that he received a request from the GLUAS committee to update members on developments prior to a scheduled Oireachtas Transport Committee meeting. Cllr Frank Fahy proposed having an extra SPC meeting in December to hear the GLUAS presentation. This was seconded by Cllr Clodagh Higgins. Cllr Colette Connolly suggested the remaining items from today's agenda should also be discussed at this extra SPC meeting and that all presentations be limited to a 15min duration to allow sufficient time to address the queries. This was seconded by Shane Foran.

The Executive agreed to find a date for this extra SPC and circulate to the SPC members as follows:

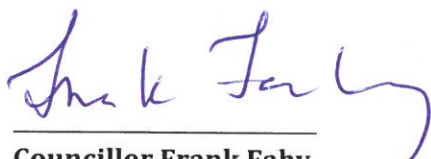
1. Minutes / Matters arising - 15min
2. Kirwan responses - 15min
3. Martin & Browne presentations & responses - 30min
4. Active Travel update - 15min
5. Agree Work Programme & Schedule - 15min
6. GLUAS presentation - 30min

Total - 2hrs

It was further noted that the Transport SPC agenda for 2022 would be drawn up and agreed at the next meeting.

Cllr Frank Fahy concluded the meeting.

Signed:



Councillor Frank Fahy
Chair Transport SPC

