

Transport Strategic Policy Committee

Tuesday 10th May 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 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 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	Brendan Gallagher Senior Exec. Engineer
Mr Michael Lally Executive Engineer	Mr Colm Shaughnessy Assistant Engineer	Ms Aoife Keane Clerical Officer	

Apologies:

Cllr Noel Larkin Councillor GCC			
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Item:

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. Apologies were noted.

The Chair confirmed that he had not acceded to a request by SPC member Shane Foran to have a non SPC member attend the meeting in his place as he would be late joining the meeting.

A lengthy discussion took place following a request from a member of the general public to attend the Transport SPC via zoom or in the Council Chamber. Cllr Clodagh Higgins proposed that the SPC proceed with the meeting and move to the agenda. Cllr Frank Fahy seconded this proposal.

Following this discussion it was agreed that the attendance of public attendance at SPC's would be placed on the next agenda of the Policy and Procedures Committee of which Cllr. Frank Fahy and Cllr. Colette Connolly are members.

1. Minutes of meeting 8th February 2022

The minutes of the Transport SPC meeting dated the 8th February 2022 were proposed by Cllr Clodagh Higgins and seconded by Cllr Niall Murphy.

2. Matters arising

- Cllr Mike Cubbard requested an update on traffic calming measures on the Siobhan McKenna Road / Laurel Park and Browne Roundabout.

- It was proposed by Paul O'Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Colette Connolly that members received all SPC documentation two weeks before the scheduled meeting.
- Cllr Frank Fahy raised the issue of buses parking on Bóthar Bhreandain Uí Eithir, Galway at night which is causing a danger and asked for Community Warden Enforcement.

Uinsinn Finn, Senior Engineer responded to the queries:

- The Browne roundabout has one significant crossing point and the plan is to facilitate this pedestrian desire line.
- Follow up on the Siobhan McKenna Road / Laurel Park and response to issue to Cllr Mike Cubbard directly.
Currently all documents for circulation for the SPC are circulated as one document, this reduces multiple emails issuing. However, documents can be released as they come available for circulation going forward.
- Members were advised that an update on the proposed pedestrian crossing at the Browne Roundabout would be given to the members at the next SPC.
- In relation to Parking Enforcement at Bóthar Bhreandain Uí Eithir, members were advised that this would be followed up with the Community Wardens for monitoring and enforcement.
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3. Galway City Council's Public Lighting LED Upgrade Programme - Update report on competition of project

Following a query raised by Cllr Frank Fahy in relation to this presentation previously being given at the main Council meeting, Uinsinn Finn confirmed that the presentation is an update/report and not a policy proposal. Following a discussion it was agreed that some member who may not have heard the presentation previously would like to receive the presentation prepared by Colm Shaughnessy, Engineer in the Transport Department.

Colm Shaughnessy gave the presentation, where the following main points were covered:

- Galway City Council Public light Overview
- LED Upgrade programme Outcome
 - 9 Months ahead of original completion date
 - Approx. €700K under estimated original budget
 - 64% Carbon & energy savings
 - Average payback 9.8 years
- Scheme Examples
- Maintenance savings
- Permeability schemes
- Infills
- Future works
- Benefits from LED upgrade
- Summary

SPC members thanked him for the presentation and compliments were given to staff in the Transport Department for the lighting projects carried out.

The following points were raised:

- Query regarding the hours the bollard lights are lit at the Prom.
- Request for the wall at Rusheen Woods to be lowered to make for better sight lines.
- Clarification sought on City Council policy on CCTV.

A number of request for public/bollard lighting at the following locations were raised.

- Bollard lighting (similar to those on the pathway to Mutton Island) on the new walkway.
- Ballyloughane and lighting bollards be extended to Ballyloughane.
- Street light to be placed on the laneway between Ragoon Road and Highfield.
- Query whether the camera which is placed on the laneway between Ragoon Road and Highfield Estate belongs to the Council and if we are aware of it.
- Lighting on the Westside track and in the parks.
- Upgrade for South Park.
- Request to circulate the planned upgrades for this year to other departments

In response, Colm Shaughnessy thanked all for their positive comments, noted that it was a department-wide project and thanked the Councillors for getting the funding approved for the project. He suggested any queries re lights in laneways should be marked on a map and referred to him for response.

Colm responded to the queries as follows:

- The bollard lights on the prom are off from 12 midnight to 4am and come back on at 4am until morning light.
- Colm agreed to look at the issue of the lighting blind spot in Rusheen Woods.
- Survey carried out at Ballyloughane and substantial funding will be required for this project.
- Discussions held with the Parks Department re lighting of the running track at Westside. The level of funding applied for would depend on the decision by Parks on the different standards for lighting running tracks. Lighting on Recreational and Sports Areas comes under the R&A Department.

Following a discussion of the issue of CCTV cameras and the City Council's role with CCTV, Patrick Greene, Director of Services, agreed to enquire re the ownership of the camera in the laneway between Ragoon Road and Highfield Park, and revert to Cllr Colette Connolly. It was noted that while there are CCTV cameras as some traffic signal locations, recording does not take place under GDPR.

Further responses to the queries:

- Transport and Parks are collaborating and plan on lighting Southpark and Kingston.
- This project has resulted in lower energy costs and lower maintenance costs. This savings will allow Transport to carry out planned maintenance instead of the reactive maintenance going forward.
- Provision was made for funding for this project in 2019 and the LED upgrade will have paid for itself in 9 years or earlier given the recent rise in energy costs.
- The lighting of Blackrock was internally funded by Covid and Active travel funding.
- An application has gone to the NTA for funding for lighting for the walkway adjacent to the Liam Mellows GAA pitch.

4. National Cycling Network Strategy

It was agreed to postpone discussion of this item until Shane Foran can join the meeting later.

Patrick Greene noted that public have been invited to comment on the new National Cycle Network for Ireland. Virtual consultation is open from Wednesday 4th May to Tuesday 7th June 2022. More information available on request.

Details can be found at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/f5312-public-invited-to-have-their-say-on-the-new-national-cycle-network-for-ireland/>

5. Galway City Speed Limits Bye-Laws

The following motion – NOM 30/2021 dated the 17th May, 2021 was read out by Senior Engineer, Uinsinn Finn as follow:

“That Galway City Council shall prepare Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws, under the Road Traffic Act 2004, to introduce a 30Km/h inner speed limit zone. That these bye-laws will be in keeping with a cohesive approach to transport management in the City, but that they shall be presented as standalone Bye-laws to be voted on by Councillors.”

The response to the Notice of Motion included the following:

It was noted in response that the Speed Limit Bye-laws were not approved by the City Council at their meeting held on the 23rd November, 2020 they were brought back to the Transport SPC for further consideration. At the Transport SPC meeting of the 23rd February, 2021, the matter was considered by the SPC, and the SPC proposed to commence a process of full review of the bye-laws and not to seek to utilise any elements of the draft bye-laws that was put in front of the Council.

Following a discussion on the Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws and a request from the members the Senior Engineer, agreed to circulate a map showing the extent of the proposed 30km/h special speed limit zone within the red line boundary that was included in the Draft Galway City Council Speed Limit Bye-Laws No. 1, 2020. The roads adjacent to but outside the red line boundary were not included. These draft bye-laws were not adopted by the Elected Members of the City Council.

The following points were raised:

- Suggested speed limit for Merlin Lane to be 30km as this area has become a rat run and the speed feedback signs are not solving the issue.
- Concerns were raised in relation to areas not included in the Review that should also be included in the 30km/hr zone.
- Query regarding the non-statutory consultation process which proceeds the report.
- A separate bye-law in accordance with the Motion in relation to the proposed 30km/h speed limits for the city centre should be brought forward for the consideration of the members.
- Query regarding the function of the review.
- Request for map of city centre area where the 30km would apply.

Uinsinn Finn responded to the queries:

- Further clarity can be provided regarding the bye-laws in the city centre core area.

- Bye-laws must follow statutory procedure and involve Gardaí and TII but approval from the Council will be sought before going to consultation.
- The review will start by examining previous draft bye-laws.
- The city centre area comprises of all areas inside the GTS City Centre Access Network.
- TII carried out a review on National Roads and GCC does not have the authority to alter those recommendations, public consultation notwithstanding, as the TII have a veto.
- The ideal approach would be to get agreement from the Council before going to public consultation.
- A Report will now be brought to Ordinary Monthly Council Meeting as noted by the C.E. upon consideration of the Motion and that report will include the input from the SPC.

6. Galway City Council Bus Shelter Programme - update

Brendan Gallagher gave a presentation on the Bus Shelter Programme following which the SPC members thanked him. A brief progress report on the 14 sites was requested. Uinsinn Finn advised that it is proposed to work with the GMIT to have the bus stop re located.

The following points and queries were raised:

- If the retrofitting of existing bus shelters forms part of the overall maintenance programme.
- Query regarding the areas where the footpath width does not permit a bus shelter and whether GCC are in negotiation with bus companies to relocate these bus shelters e.g. GMIT & Costello Road.
- Query regarding the total cost of the project.
- Proposal for bus shelter on Seamus Quirke Road / Thomas Hynes Road
- Request that the Salthill bus shelter will have seating and can be moved into the green area.
- Query whether the Taylor's Hill bus shelter will have a canopy.
- Query over the prioritisation of the location of the bus shelters i.e. outbound or inbound as people are more likely to need to wait for the inbound bus.
- Proposal for bus shelter at the Westwood student accommodation complex.

Queries were responded to as follows by Brendan Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer.

- The total cost of the project was €115,000
- The contractor was Maveric and they did excellent work.
- Kier Construction and JCDecaux were the contractors for the old bus shelters and they do come and repair them when needed.
- Councillors can contact Brendan Gallagher and request that he assess existing bus shelters to see if they require repair / replacement.
- Some bus stops were not progressed due to opposition, so where objections were received, the contractor moved onto the next bus shelter e.g. Costello Road.
- Upgrading of the bus stops at GMIT and NUIG will be considered, it has been proposed to relocate the GMIT stop as space is tight where it is currently located and it is heavily used.
- The bus shelter in Salthill will have seating.
- The bus shelter on Taylor's Hill will be cantilevered, with seating but no sides.
- Shelters were assessed by numbers on a site by site basis, no priority was given to inbound but the greater numbers using the inbound shelter would have meant that shelters on inbound routes would have been prioritised.

7. Toilet facilities for bus drivers (discussion)

It was agreed to discuss this at the next SPC meeting as the allotted time is up.

8. Work Programme 2022

It was advised that the SPC members can ask for any item on the work programme to be added to the agenda.

9. Agenda for the next meeting & Work Programme update

The SPC members suggested the following items be added to the agenda:

- Toilet facilities for bus drivers
- National Cycling Network Strategy

10. AOB

The following items were raised and discussed

- Parking in Woodquay and Bohermore
- Shop Street delivery times – private cars are using Shop Street as a rat run
- Enforcement of illegal parking in loading bays in Eglinton Street and Salthill – it was agreed to raise this at the Joint Policing Committee instead
- Public notification of the new fine for parking on the footpath, which has risen from €40 to €80
- Enforcement of fines for outdoor furniture blocking the street for wheelchairs and buggies

It was agreed that a report would be compiled on the level of enforcement and the Fixed Penalty Notices issued on Shop Street and Eglinton Street for the next SPC meeting. Also in relation to the notice for the increase in fines for parking on a footpath, these were introduced by Statutory Instrument at national level.

Next meeting: Tuesday 13th September 2022 @9.30am

Signed:


Councillor Frank Fahy
Chair Transport SPC