

**Tuairisc/Reporting Template for Galway City  
Community Network (GCCN) Reps**

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**Galway City Community Network**  
Lionra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

<b>Cruinniú /Name of Meeting</b>	Transport SPC
<b>Ionadaí FPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) Name of GCCF Rep (note-taker)</b>	Richard Manton, Derrick Hambleton
<b>Dáta &amp; Suite Date &amp; Location of Meeting:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> April 2016, Galway City Council
<b>I láthair/ Attendance</b>	<b>Councillors:</b> John Walsh (chair), Collette Connolly, Frank Fahy, Noel Larkin, Mike Cubbard <b>External reps:</b> Richard Manton (community/voluntary), Derrick Hambleton (environment), Pat Hardiman (trade union) <b>In Attendance:</b> Sharon Connolly, Jim Molloy, Joe O'Neill, Donal McDaid (ARUP), NTA rep, Systra rep, Terry O'Flaherty, Peter Keane, Niall McNelis <b>Apologies:</b> Chris Coughlan, Anna Marley, Pearse Flannery

## **Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:**

### **1. Matters Arising**

The members raised a number of transport-related issues, including:

- The need for new bus shelters - postponed as bus routes currently under review by NTA
- Rickshaws (non-motorised passenger transporters) appear to still be operating - up to Gardaí to enforce
- Insurance for houses built on flood plains (CFRAM)
- Railings at Spanish Parade - need to examine costs
- Speeding and rat-running through Ballinfoyle - to be assessed along with traffic counts
- Threadneedle Road cycle lane - bollards added to start/end prevent cars parking inside the existing barriers
- Transport SPC meeting times - next meeting to be brought back to 2pm

### **2. Speed Limits**

According to Jim Molloy, a set of proposals for the reduction of speed limits / speeding bye laws will be issued to councillors next week following consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the National Transport Authority (NTA). Collette Connolly queried the implementation of legislation regarding the reduction of speed limits following the Jake's Law campaign. Jim Molloy responded that the council is currently examining the reduction of speed in housing estates.

### **3. Galway Transportation Strategy**

The Galway Transportation Strategy builds on previous Galway transport studies and consolidates proposals as part of a 20 year plan (an Integrated Transport Management Programme) for Galway City and environs. The Strategy was commissioned by Galway City Council and Galway County Council, in partnership with the NTA, and was compiled by ARUP.

A draft of the Strategy was presented to the SPC by Donal McDaid (ARUP), highlights include:

- Multi-modal traffic model (Western Regional Model) used for traffic forecasts and to assess the impacts of various infrastructural changes (Systra brought in as partners for data analysis).
- The Strategy supports the construction of a Galway City 'ring road' (aka bypass aka N6 transport project) on the basis of reduced congestion and time savings.
- A number of alternatives (raised in public consultation etc.) were dismissed with reference to the traffic modelling, e.g.
  - Orbital bus route across Quincentennial Bridge would show insufficient demand compared to routes via Eyre Square; also there is a lack of road capacity
  - There is a lack of demand for light rail and an improved bus network would be more efficient
  - Improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure and increased public transport would increase delay, requires additional road space and would not solve congestion
- The local public transport network should be rationalised from 11 routes to 5 with a frequency of 15 minutes. 400m catchment will be increased from 43% of residences to 77%.
- Cycling network to be improved by implementing a hierarchy of routes, extending the bike share scheme and promoting permeability. City centre urban realm to be enhanced, including a new pedestrian bridge to the south of the Salmon Weir Bridge.

The discussion which followed the presentation was wide ranging and initially focused on a variety of specific proposals, e.g.

- Lough Atalia Road / College Road traffic layout: Frank Fahy and Collete Connolly queried the suggestions and were told that both roads would continue to be two-way, but restricted to public transport, HGVs and local access using a bus gate.
- Skerritt Roundabout: Terry O'Flaherty sought clarification on whether the roundabout will be removed in this plan with the aim of curbing rat-running. Jim Molloy replied that rat-running is more complex and will be tackled through a range of measures.
- Taxi spaces: Pat Hardiman sought clarification on whether taxi spaces at Eyre Square and elsewhere would be maintained following infrastructural changes.
- Car parking: the Strategy will promote the use of managed multi-storey car parks as well as park-and-ride in strategic locations on the outskirts of the city.
- City Centre measures: Niall McNelis called for a weight restriction on delivery vehicles using Shop St. due to the impact on the street surface. He also suggested that wayfinding be improved in the city.

The discussion moved on to consider more strategic elements, including:

- Overall vision: Richard Manton questioned the overall vision of the strategy which appears more focused on maintaining vehicular traffic flow that promoting sustainability or quality of life. He said that more attention should be paid to land-use integration and transit-oriented development.

- 'Ring road': Noel Larkin and Richard Manton asked whether the Strategy is predicated on the construction of the 'ring road'. Donal McDaid responded that this is a full programme of works which will start with traffic management, walking, cycling and public transport and will move towards the 'ring road' in the medium to long term. Joe O'Neill added that the plan was written with the NTA which will ultimately fund these measures.
- School transport service: Collette Connolly and Mike Cubbard raised the importance of school transport for the reduction of congestion. A motion was passed calling for the government to fund a free school transport service in the city (see below).
- Regional context: Derrick Hambleton raised the importance of considering regional context, in particular the level of commuting from county towns to Parkmore. He also questioned whether the Strategy will attract more people to city centre car parks rather than reducing car use.

The Strategy is currently at 'pre-draft' stage and has yet to go through Appropriate Assessment / Strategic Environment Assessment, before going to public consultation. The implementation programme will be discussed and agreed with the NTA.

**Socruithe déanta/ Key Decisions Made:**

Motion passed calling for government to provide free school transport service

- Proposed by Collette Connolly, seconded by Derrick Hambleton
- In favour: Collette Connolly, Derrick Hambleton, Richard Manton. It was noted that such a service could reduce congestion, increase physical activity and improve quality of life.
- Against: Noel Larkin, John Walsh; It was argued that such a service would not be financially sustainable and that the State already subsidised school travel.
- Abstention: Pat Hardiman

**Gníomhaíochtaí**

**Action(s) required from GCCN:**

n/a

**Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile**

**Date of next meeting :**

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July

**Moltaí breise /Any Other Comments:**

n/a