|  |
| --- |
|  ***Transportation*** ***Strategic Policy Committee******Minutes of Meeting held at 2.00pm on Friday, 7th July, 2017,******in Council Chamber, City Hall, Galway******\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_******Present: Cllr. John Walsh, Chairman*** ***Cllr. Noel Larkin, Mayor*** ***Cllr. Mike Cubbard*** ***Cllr. Mark Lohan*** ***Cllr. Colette Connolly***  ***Cllr. Peter Keane*** ***Cllr. Pearce Flannery*** ***Cllr. Frank Fahy*** ***Mr. Derrick Hambleton, Environment Seat***  ***Mr. Niall Ó’Brolcháin, Community / Voluntary Seat*** ***In attendance: Mr. Tom Connell, Director of Services - Transportation, GCC***  ***Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Senior Engineer, GCC*** ***Ms. Carmel Kilcoyne, Senior Executive Engineer, GCC*** ***Ms. Anne Ruane, Administrative Officer, GCC*** ***Ms. Martina Golding, Clerical Officer, GCC (from 2.25pm)*** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **No.**  | **Item** |
|  | Chairman J. Walsh welcomed Mr. Niall Ó’Brolcháin as a member of the SPC representing the Community / Voluntary Seat. He is replacing Richard Manton who has moved to Dublin for work purposes. Christina Greaney temporarily replaced Mr. Manton at SPC meeting held on 11th May, 2017. |
| **1.** | ***Minutes of Meeting of 31st January, 2017:***On the proposal of Cllr. N. Larkin and seconded by Cllr. M. Lohan, minutes of the Transportation SPC held on 18th April, 2017, were taken as read, adopted and signed. |
| **2.** | ***Matters arising:***Cllr. C. Connolly referred to Page 3 of minutes relating to request for Bus Éireann, City Direct and Irish Rail representatives to attend an SPC meeting to discuss future development of the site and plans for further public transport in the City. Members were advised that a further invitation would be extended to representatives of Iarnróid Éireann to attend the next scheduled meeting. Following a discussion on bus priority and the requirement on high frequency bus services within the City, the following motion was proposed by Cllr. Frank Fahy and seconded by Cllr. Peter Keane:- *“That Galway City Council investigate the possibility of banning right hand turns between the Browne Roundabout and the Deane Roundabout at peak times morning and evening on a trial basis”.***Park n Ride:**Following a discussion on Park n Ride, the Director confirmed that the City Council are actively looking for a suitable site for a Park n Ride scheme. An expression of interest has been submitted for the Coolough site but there is another interested party looking at same. The need to be proactive in relation to this issue was raised by Cllr. Keane. Cllr. Flannery asked if the site at Corinthians could be looked at for this purpose and Cllr. Keane advised that he could liaise with the Club if it was a consideration. The Director confirmed that the Airport site was still available, but results from the use of this site on a pilot basis a number of years ago was disappointing, however, members would be kept informed of updates regarding same. It was also suggested that the option of looking at church carparks and Castlegar Hurling Club for Park and Ride could be looked at.**Bike Scheme:**Members were advised that 8 new stations had been constructed but were currently not operational due to a legal dispute. The members welcomed the extension but the need to extend and publicise same was highlighted. Mayor Flannery called for an urgent extension of the scheme to the Salthill area. A request was made for further bike stands in Salthill, Sea Road and Raven’s Terrace and this will be followed up.**eParking:**It was noted that the eParking sites located at Dyke Road and Woodquay were operated by the ESB.**Ceannt Station:** Following a discussion on the Ceannt Station site, it was agreed that it would be necessary to link in with the Planning SPC in relation to giving feed back on the master plan for the area. This matter also to be raised with the Planning Director of Services.**Pay and Display Machines**:The issue of pay and display machines not working in the Westside and other areas of the city was raised by Cllr. Fahy. In addition, non-monitoring of some areas for pay and display was raised. The Director confirmed that the Transportation Directorate were currently tendering for approximately 20 new parking machines and a tender had been awarded for the purchase of spare parts for existing machines. This new machine will be operational in quarter 4.  |
| **3.** | ***Update on GTU Projects:-*** The Director gave the following updates:-**Access improvements - Parkmore to Doughiska Road:*** Phase 1 improvement works have been completed at Parkmore junction and planning for future phases is being advanced. Ongoing liaison with landowners and the business communities in the area.

**Tuam Road Corrider:** * Consultants will meet with NTA regarding Tuam Road project and all issues in relation to right turn movements will be taken into consideration.

**N6. Galway City Ring Road:**Scheme will be submitted to An Bord Pleanala by end of 2017.**City Centre Transport Management Plan:*** A number of staff changes have taken place in the Transportation Department with a number of key staff to progress the City Centre Transport Management Plan. Time lines are currently being put in place on the delivery of the plan.
* The use of light rail and trams was raised by Mr. N. ÓBrolocháin.
* Bus Route 409 is a great success but other parts of City have no service. Any option for a smaller bus for rural parts of the City.
 |
| **4.** | ***Presentation by City Direct Ltd.:-***Mr. Gerard Bartley of Galway City Direct gave a presentation to the members on the current service being provided in Galway City by City Direct.The following points were noted:- * The Company provides a bus service across the City and carries approx. 1.2 m passengers per annum. There has been a steady increase of 10% over the last few 5 years. It operates without state subvention and competes with companies who have. Mr. Bartley thanked both Joe Tansey and Jim Burke on their initiation of the Galway City Transport Strategy.
* The Company has a new 412 route in place and purchased a new double decker bus for the 411 route. Routes 412 and 413 are also running well.
* Two Park & Ride schemes are operated by the company: one at NUIG, on a 15 minute frequency, which has been a great success and is self-financing; the other scheme is the HSE shuttle bus service between Merlin Park and UCHG for employees operating on a 20 minute frequency from 7am to 9pm. HSE pay City Direct – staff have service free at the moment. Hope to introduce same for patients and families in the future.
* The company’s plan for the next year is to build a new depot on a 4 acre site at Rahoon with space for 500 car spaces and room for 500 more. Planning application is to be lodged as soon as possible.
* It is hoped to have 5 routes in place by 2020 with a high frequency, to include Knocknacarra and Rahoon areas. Discussions are ongoing with the NTA with regard to new machines for different payment methods of Visa pay and Apple pay. The Company is the first to use LEAP scheme and 20% of their sales are through Leap use – it is cheaper than cash.
* Mr. Bartley stressed that the inner City priority bus route is so important. If a good service is provided, then people will use it if it is 100% dependable. Bus priority at traffic lights on the Dublin Road would be important for the future.

The members thanked Mr. Bartley for his information presentation following which Mr. Bartley replied to further questions from the members. * Free Travel passes are accepted by City Direct.
* City Direct are not in a position to apply for licence to provide service east of City, this licence is currently with Bus Éireann.

 * Meetings were held in 2014 with Chamber of Commerce regarding Knocknacarra to Parkmore route.
* The need to keep Forster Street free of cars was noted.
* Increase marketing of route from Cappagh Park to Eyre Square to improve awareness of service. Route takes 15 minutes.
* City Direct communicates with their passengers by putting notices on their buses operating on routes. They do not have a marketing budget for apps. detailing locations and times of buses.
* Company does not operate school runs. They contacted Bus Éireann previously on this but do not match BÉ criteria. They bring students to schools but do not have specific runs.
* View on Airport Park & Ride scheme and how it could be operated. Only 8 minute journey from Airport to Parkmore – bus lane into Parkmore is vital.
* If there was an overall efficient public bus service, cars would not come into City.
* Two Park & Ride schemes would be very valuable to the City.
* Mr. Bartley indicated that bus corridor is not required on Quincentennial Bridge. Mr. D. Hambleton said Quincentennial Bridge should be able to accommodate bus lane as Seamus Quirke Road does.
* Request to take out Loading Bay on Forster Street and to look at Loading Bay in Cross Street.
* The new site for the Garda Station on the Dublin Road is too close to the road and planning should have ensured that it was set back further in the site.
* Claddagh Schools uses service.
* City Direct would be in favour of integrated ticketing with Bus Éireann, but BÉ are not. City Council should ask NTA to look into same.
* Bus Éireann should go back to using smaller buses on certain routes, not enough passengers.
* Biggest obstacle in growing fleet is parking spaces for buses.
* Only 5/6 charging points available for electric cars in the City.
* Parking should be prevented on Eglinton Street as buses have big problems getting through.
* City Council should seek advice from City Direct on how they run the current Park & Ride schemes in the City, one from Dangan to NUIG and Merlin Park to UCHG.
* If bus service were to be provided in rural areas, subvention would be required. Not enough passengers.
* City Direct would not be in favour of cars using bus lanes, even at peak time.
* Ardaun area – cannot apply for routes as road not constructed.
* City Direct would not have issue with sharing bus stop/shelters.
* NTA design routes to suit movement of people, very successful. Bus Éireann have 9 routes and City Direct have 4 routes.
* Suggestion that all roundabouts be removed and replaced with lights and that priority be given to buses at the lights.
* Seamus Quirke Road route should go through Hospital grounds.
* IDA should be leading with City Council on Park & Ride issue. AECOM are located in Parkmore.
* Further Park & Ride locations in East and West of City. Should be in areas where bus routes commence, will feed into success of new routes.
* Church car parks are already being used.
 |
| **5.** | ***Road Safety Plan for Galway City and County 2017-2020:-***On Friday, 16th June, 2017, a joint launch took place of the Road Safety Plan for Galway City and County 2017-2020 in Galway County Council by the Mayor of the City, Cllr. Noel Larkin and Cathaoirleach of the County, Cllr. Michael Connolly. It was attended by the Chair of the Transportation SPC, Cllr. John Walsh. Road Safety Together Committee was set up by Galway County Council in May 2017. All the agencies involved have a common priority in relation to incident/collision reduction.The Committee meets on a regular basis and examines the options available to improve road safety for pedestrians, motorists and road users. The Committee consists of representatives from: An Garda Siochána, Galway County Council, Galway City Council, Transportation Infrastructure Ireland – TII, Road Safety Authority and Green Schools. The plan is available to the public. |
| **6.** | ***A.O.B.:-***Review of speed limits is being carried out by Ms. C. Kilcoyne, Senior Executive Engineer, in conjunction with the TII. On public display until 12th July, 2017. Special Meeting will be held with the Transportation SPC to discuss same on 1st September, 2017, at 10am, and copy of draft bye-laws will be circulated before the meeting. TII have commissioned reports on various speed limits and looked at special speed limit of 40km/h for inner City. Committee sought to increase the number of speed limit signs as drivers do not always know limit, depending on where they access road. It was proposed by Cllr. C. Connolly and seconded by Mr. D. Hambleton *“that Galway City Council Transportation SPC introduce immediate measures to tackle illegal parking along Forster Street and Eglinton Street, double parking in the taxi rank along Eyre Square and that Galway City Council provide alternative loading bays for both locations to facilitate bus priority measures.”*Cllr. F. Fahy, stated that there is difficulty for taxi drivers accessing rank in Eyre Square, especially at Christmas.Mr. N. Ó’Brólcháin asked that Connemara Greenway Group be invited to make a presentation to next Transportation SPC meeting. Cllr. Connolly requested that presentation be circulated beforehand.The next SPC meeting will be held on **Monday, 16th October, 2017, at 2pm.** |