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|  ***Transportation*** ***Strategic Policy Committee******Minutes of Meeting held at 2.00pm on Monday, 29th January, 2018,******in Council Chamber, City Hall, Galway******\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_******Present: Cllr. John Walsh, Chairman*** ***Cllr. Noel Larkin*** ***Cllr. Colette Connolly***  ***Cllr. Mark Lohan*** ***Cllr. Mike Cubbard*** ***Cllr. Peter Keane*** ***Cllr. Frank Fahy*** ***Mr. Derrick Hambleton, Environment Seat***  ***Mr. Niall Ó’Brolcháin, Community / Voluntary Seat***  ***Mr. Pat Hardiman, Irish Congress of Trade Unions******In attendance: Mr. Tom Connell, Director of Services, 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*** ***Apologies: Cllr. Pearce Flannery*** ***Mr. Chris Coughlan, Business / Commercial Sector***  |

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| **No.**  | **Item** |
| **1.** | ***Minutes of Transportation SPC Meeting held on 2018:-***On the proposal of Cllr. Noel Larkin and seconded by Mr. Niall Ó’Brolcháin, minutes of the Transportation SPC meeting held on 23rd October, 2017, were taken as read, adopted and signed.  |
| **2.** | ***Matters arising:-**** Cllr. C. Connolly formally requested that a reply be sought from the Department on situation regarding school transport.
* Mr. N. Ó’Brolcháin is seeking update on motion to lobby the NTA with regard to implementing Bus Rapid Transport [BRT], particularly in context of City Transport Plan.
* Facilitate a presentation on progress of Greenway scheme at next meeting.
* Mr. T. Connell and Mr. U. Finn met with the NTA and presented the Work Programme 2018 with particular emphasis given to prioritising various projections for development of City and emphasing the SPC members views in relation to the provision of bus infrastructure, including bus shelters
* Addressing illegal parking on Eglinton Street is being prioritised. Fixed Charge Notices have increased. Gardai to be asked to prioritise core areas in regard to parking enforcement.
* In relation to licences for Horse drawn carriages, it was noted that one licence is granted annually for a Horse drawn Carriage. The viability of having two operators could be reviewed in the Autumn.
* An update on speed limits was given by Mr. U. Finn who advised that a meeting had been held with the Gardai in January 2018. Prior to going on public display, the proposed bye-laws must be in agreement with the statutory guidelines. Advice in relation to same has been sought from the Department of Transport and in response the members asked for a copy of the response from the Gardai and the TII to be circulated to the SPC members.
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| **3.** | ***Galway City Centre Transport Plan:***Mr. U. Finn gave an update on the Draft Galway City Centre Transport Plan to the members, a copy of which was circulated. The following points were made by the members:-* The document should have a broad vision to deal with the City’s traffic problems.
* Feasiblity study is required on BRT.
* Galway should take the opportunity to install modern bus stops, facilitated with message boards.
* No Park & Ride mentioned in the Plan.
* In relation to new pedestrian bridge adjacent to Salmon Weir Bridge, it was noted that this area has heritage character issues and plans would need to be sensitive to the area.
* Consideration needs to be given to the impact on Woodquay residents.
* Queries were raised in relation as to when Arup Consultants would have the options finalised and when workshops are to take place.
* It was noted that Bus Éireann are looking to reduce the number of routes around the City from 11 to 5.
* School transport is not included in Plan.
* No reference to light rail in Plan.

Mr. T. Connell and Mr. Finn replied to matters raised by the members:-* The project is radical and will have significant Implications with a need to give a balance and reduce the dependency on the car.
* Key routes will be finalised in the next few weeks in consultation with the NTA.
* The project will be delivered on a phased basis and will be funded by the NTA.
* Detailed surveys of the Salmon Weir Bridge will be carried out.
* The Galway City Ring Road planning application will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála over the next number of months.
* The five bus routes will be extended with a focus on bus infrastructure on these routes.
* The provision of a Park & Ride site forms part of the overall strategy of the Transport Plan and an update will be provided in due course.
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| ***4.*** | ***Transportation Work Programme 2018:***A copy of Work Programme was circulated to members who were advised that further additional items could be included. Projects set out will to be funded by the NTA. Ensure projects are advanced through Planning during 2018. Funding will become available for projects in 2019-2020. In relation to a query re Ceannt Station, it was noted that the strategy for the Docks area which includes the Ceannt Station is a matter for the Planning SPC.Merlin Park Bus Lane: *It was proposed by Cllr. F. Fahy that Merlin Park bus lane stay on main Dublin Road and seconded by Cllr. C. Connolly*. It was further proposed that a new entrance be installed at Merlin Park and that lights be moved back halfway between the petrol station and Galway Crystal, which would have minimum impact on south woods.It was requested that lights be installed outside McHughs Pub on the Tuam Road, and also seeking commitment for inclusion on bus corridor. The meeting was advised that junction safety at McHughs is a matter for the County Council. Cllr. M. Cubbard proposed that the SPC write to the County Council on this matter – motion passed. A further request was made for a full audit to be carried out in relation to the Aldi site on Seamus Quirke Road due to the dangerous nature of this junction. Coke Zero Bike Scheme: Legal and technical issues have been resolved since last meeting. Numbers of users across City have doubled in last year. Damage to the bikes has been minimal. NTA are happy with scheme. Objective is to expand out of the City to suburbs. It is intended to increase usage in 2018 and then consider increasing number of stations in 2019.It was noted that the OPW are the lead authority in relation to flooding who work in partnership with the City Council. A flood protection scheme for Galway is being progressed.  |
| ***5.*** | ***Transport Annual Service Plan 2018:***Plan sets out the objection and priorities for the Transport Directorate. Will be brought to Council Meeting in February. Mr. N. O’Brolcháin asked for final column to be filled in. Also requested alignment of Work Programme with Service Delivery Plan. He stated that Park & Ride should be included in Service Delivery Plan.Mr. U. Finn was complimented on work carried out on LIS schemes. Update sought for 2017 and 2018 schemes. It was noted that funding of €364,000 for the maintenance of existing bridges had been received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the 26th January. Update sought on Kirwan Roundabout. A Car Share Scheme has been introduced as a pilot scheme in the City. There are 11 cars available on scheme, generally located in car parks. Can be rented by downloading app.  |
| ***6.*** | ***Any Other Business:***Following a discussion on parking and pay & display machines located around the City, a request was made for an update at the next meeting.A request was made by Cllr. C. Connolly to look at loading bays in particular in Forster Street. Ongoing issue of parking enforcement on Eglinton Street was raised. A request to have Bohermore become a residents only parking area was raised.It was noted that the recent increase in resident permits from €20 to €30 was an operational issue and an Executive decision. Queried if vehicles with limousine licence can drive on bus lanes. Mr. U. Finn stated that the use of bus lanes is guided by national regulations.Cllr. C. Connolly asked for facilities for the disabled to be improved across the City i.e. extend pedestrian facilities, make Eyre Square more accessible. |