

Transportation Strategic Policy Committee Meeting – 24th February 2015

Present

Cllr. John Walsh (Presiding)

Cllr. Mike Cubbard

Cllr. Frank Fahy

Cllr. Pearse Flannery

Cllr. Noel Larkin

Cllr. Anna Marley

Mr. Chris Coughlan, Business/Commercial Sector

Mr. Derrick Hambleton, Environment/Conservation Sector

Mr. Richard Manton, Community/Voluntary Sector

In attendance

Mr. Joe O'Neill, Director of Services

Ms. Sharon Connolly, Senior Engineer

Ms. Helena Martyn, Administrative Officer

Mr. Jim Molloy, Senior Executive Engineer

Ms. Elaine Walsh, Clerical Officer

Report by Richard Manton

Checked by Derrick Hambleton

Agenda

1. Minutes and Matters arising of 25/11/2014
 2. Proposed amendments to the Non-motorised Passenger Transporter Bye-laws, 2013
 3. Implementation of Bus & Cycle Network Plan (presentation)
 4. Input into the review of the City Development Plan
 5. Review of Christmas Park & Ride
 6. AOB
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1. Minutes and Matters arising of 25/11/2014

Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted

2. Proposed amendments to the Non-motorised Passenger Transporter Bye-laws, 2013

No further non-motorised passenger transport (rickshaw) licences are being issued by Galway City Council. These vehicles are not allowed to use pedestrian streets and An Garda Síochána must enforce these regulations. It was noted, however, that there is no place to store any rickshaws that are impounded. Submissions are sought as part of the continuing public consultation on amendments to the bye-laws.

A map was circulated to indicate proposed parking space for horse-drawn hackney carriages. It is proposed to allow horse-drawn hackney carriages to stand on a presently nominated disabled parking space outside of the Bank of Ireland in Eyre Square, while the lost disabled space is to be relocated to outside Hibernian House. This is to go for public consultation.

3. Implementation of Bus & Cycle Network Plan (presentation)

Presentation by Mr. Jim Molloy on the development of a bus and cycle network plan for the Galway Metropolitan Area for the purpose of delivering a five year investment plan. This included an assessment of bus delay times, bus stops, cycle route quality, 30km/h zone and city centre streetscapes. There is a need to condense existing policies/plans into a concise transport plan for the city.

Cllr. Frank Fahy raised the issue of school traffic and the possibility of school bus services, funded by the City Council, to reduce congestion. He also suggested that limiting pupils to their local schools be researched. Mr. Jim Molloy added that heavy school bags are an impeding factor for children walking or cycling to school. Cllr. Noel Larkin highlighted the need to recess bus stops from the carriageway to improve traffic flow – this is the policy pursued where land is available.

Cllr. Pearse Flannery suggested that bus lanes be opened up to car pooling, Mr. Jim Molloy agreed with the car pooling – bus lane proposal in principle, adding that there is an issue with enforcement. It was agreed that this proposal be discussed at the next SPC meeting, including consultation with An Garda Síochána. Cllr. Pearse Flannery also recommended pedestrian crossings for the Western Distributor Road. Galway City Council has applied to the NTA for funding for junction upgrades along the WDR.

Cllr. Mike Cubbard and Mr Derrick Hambleton raised the need for a bus route across the Quincentennial Bridge, servicing IDA estates at Parkmore. Mr. Jim Molloy responded that the City Council have recommended this route to the NTA and Bus Éireann, adding that Parkmore businesses could come together to provide a service for their workers. Mr. Chris Coughlan suggested a forum to discuss the possibility of a such a service, particularly at peak times.

Mr. Derrick Hambleton raised the need for longer-term planning for city transport, including the potential for light rail. He pointed out that a significant portion of city traffic originates in the county and that this must be considered. He asked about the adequacy of plans for the proposed Threadneedle Road cycle lane, and was informed that the cycle lane would be positioned on the upward side only. He also questioned why there was still no bus service crossing the Quincentennial Bridge and why no bus operator was on the Transportation SPC.

Mr Jim Molly stated that the National Transport Authority would not sanction use of the bus stops at the Cathedral, because Bus Éireann could not guarantee travel times from Eyre Square to the Cathedral.

4. Input into the review of the City Development Plan

An Issues Paper was circulated to members of the SPC. This is the pre-draft stage of the City Development Plan (2017-2023) process and is intended to create a debate on which

planning issues the new plan might address. Public consultation will run until Monday, 23rd March.

5. Review of Christmas Park & Ride

A report on the performance of the Christmas Park & Ride was circulated. This served 16,335 people (up from 15,584 in 2013) and 5,913 cars were parked. The service cost €108,000 and there was income of €18,000 (€3 per car). There was a brief discussion on alternative stops and the provision of a service from the west of the city, potentially using the NUI Galway Park & Ride.

6. AOB

Mr. Richard Manton raised the need for speed reduction across the city, particularly in residential areas in line with the Jake's Legacy campaign. He stated that the government has provided a €2 million fund for local authorities to investigate speed reduction and that this should consider reductions to 20 km/h and Home Zones. Mr. Jim Molloy, Mr Joe O'Neill and Ms. Sharon Connolly replied that there will be a speed review this year and this will include examining infrastructure for speed reduction.

The next meeting of the Transportation SPC will take place at 2.30pm on Tuesday, 26th May
