

**Transportation
Strategic Policy Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 2.00pm on Tuesday, 19th July, 2016,
in Council Chamber, City Hall, Galway**

Present: *Cllr. John Walsh, Chairman*
 Cllr. Noel Larkin, Mayor
 Cllr. Colette Connolly
 Mr. Richard Manton, Community/Voluntary Seat
 Mr. Derrick Hambleton, Environment Seat
 Mr. Chris Coughlan, Business/Commercial Sector

In attendance: *Mr. Jim Molloy, Senior Executive Engineer, GCC*
 Ms. Anne Ruane, Administrative Officer, GCC
 Ms. Martina Golding, Clerical Officer, GCC

Apologies: *Mr. Joe O'Neill, Director of Services*
 Cllr. Anna Marley
 Cllr. Peter Keane
 Cllr. Pearce Flannery
 Cllr. Frank Fahy
 Cllr. Mike Cubbard
 Mr. Pat Hardiman, Irish Congress of Trade Unions

No.	Item	Action to be taken	Action by
1.	<p><u>Minutes of Meeting of 19th April, 2016:</u></p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Larkin and seconded by Cllr. J. Walsh, minutes of the Transportation SPC held on 19th April, 2016, were taken as read, adopted and signed.</p>		
2.	<p><u>Matters arising:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr. C. Connolly asked for an update in relation to motion proposed in relation to the "introduction of a free school transport service for all children attending City Schools", this motion was proposed by her at the last Transport SPC meeting on the 19th April, 2016 and which was to be included on the Agenda for the next City Council meeting. • A discussion on the difficulty of private coaches parking in the City and in particular the difficulty with illegal parking at the bus loading bay at Merchants Road took place. A request was made for further signage to be installed showing the locations for coach parking in the City. It was pointed out that significant revenue was being lost through tourism by the lack of coach parking spaces in the City Centre. A request was made for an overview of the number of current spaces for coaches in the City. • The issue of traffic enforcement by the Community Wardens was raised and the need for more Community Wardens enforcing traffic regulations was stressed. It was noted that a pilot was carried out during the summer months on Sunday traffic enforcement by the 	<p>Update from Corporate Services prior to the next SPC meeting.</p> <p>Review of locations and signage for coach parking in City Centre.</p> <p>Review loading bays in Forster Street/Court area.</p> <p>Blitz on illegal parking.</p>	<p>J. Molloy</p> <p>J. Molloy</p>

	Community Wardens which proved to be very successful.		
3.	<p><u>Update on Galway Transportation Strategy:</u></p> <p>Mr. J. Molloy indicated that the consultation period had ended for this Strategy and a response from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs was due by the 26th July, 2016. A meeting had been held with the National Transport Authority (NTA) with regard to advancing funding for projects which include the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundabout upgrades. • Installation of bus route from UCHG to College Road. • Extend the brief on the Parkmore Road. • Review and prioritise installation of more bus stops in particular at Corrib Park and Tirellan Heights. • Finalise works for Tuam Road to Claregalway bus lane. • Management Plan for City centre prepared in conjunction with businesses to be announced shortly. <p>Various issues were raised relating to these projects:</p> <p>Cllr. Larkin asked if land could be acquired under Compulsory Purchase Order in Parkmore to help alleviate traffic problems.</p> <p>Mr. C. Coughlan confirmed that there were 2000 responses from people working in Mervue, Parkmore and Ballybrit to a survey carried out by the Chamber of Commerce in relation to traffic. The results of this survey were published and the Chamber of Commerce will work closely with Galway City Council in relation to traffic issues. The following was noted from the survey:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bus lane would not be a viable option on the Quincentennial Bridge. • A Park & Ride in some form is required at Parkmore. • Next phase is to work with businesses in Parkmore seeking staggered work patterns and car pooling. <p>Cllr. C. Connolly sought clarity in relation to the Bus and Cycle Strategy and asked what role the NTA had in the Strategy.</p> <p>Mr. J. Molloy said the Strategy was developed by the NTA to determine bus routes/shelters. This was a function given to them by the Department of Transport.</p> <p>Cllr. Connolly brought up the issue of problems with traffic and traffic coming to a standstill after GAA matches in Pearse Stadium. The following points were made:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garda management of traffic is not working. • Park & Ride scheme should be put in place to cater for amount of people arriving and leaving Stadium at same time. • Consideration should be given to using Dyke Road car park and, ideally, the Racecourse for match traffic. • Letter of complaint should be issued to the organisers. Cllr. Connolly proposed that GAA and all sports representatives be invited to attend at SPC meeting where long term traffic management solutions would be discussed. This was seconded by Mr. D. Hambleton. <p>Mr. D. Hambleton asked for traffic calming measures previously removed from Siobhán McKenna Road to be reinstated (poles still in situ). Mr. J. Molloy agreed to check this matter.</p> <p>Cllr. C. Connolly stated that there were insufficient zebra</p>	<p>Invite GAA and all Sports Representatives to attend at SPC meeting to discuss traffic issues at Pearse Stadium.</p> <p>Look at reinstatement of traffic calming measures on Siobhan McKenna Road.</p>	<p>J. Molloy</p> <p>J. Molloy</p>

	<p>crossings in the City and that the courtesy crossing at Monroes on Dominick Street is not working. Mr. R. Manton agreed with Cllr. Connolly on this.</p> <p>Mr. J. Molloy stated that a number of new zebra crossings were presently being installed and that currently 2 No. crossings have been installed on each junction of the Western Distributor Road. Zebra crossings in the Salthill area are currently being looked at. Efforts need to be made to educate the visually impaired and children with difficulties on the use of these crossings by working with An Taisce and Green Schools. Funding will be applied for next year to have more pedestrian facilities installed by 2018.</p> <p>Mr. C. Coughlan enquired as to methodology used in compiling the Galway Transportation Study. Mr. Molloy said census results and traffic data were used. Mr. Coughlan stated that the Chamber of Commerce report showed that there was not a significant flow of traffic from west to east of the City. Bulk of traffic travelling from County areas to industrial estates originates mainly from East Galway.</p> <p>The Chamber were in favour of having a bus lane over the Quincentennial Bridge but there was a lack of space on the Bridge. Mr. Coughlan said statistics did not justify installing a bus lane for full day – only required morning and evening. Park & Ride would be more suitable for workers in Parkmore. Carry out road works first in Parkmore.</p> <p>Mr. J. Molloy said core transport network will be installed first and follow on with rest of projects later. The guidelines are in place but funding needs to be available, costs are being finalised.</p> <p>Mr. J. Molloy advised that Galway City Council are presently examining closing Forster Street, Eglinton Street and Eyre Square for a trial period during Mobility week in September, 2016.</p> <p>Cllr. C. Connolly proposed restriction on City centre access to private vehicles and suggested to only allow vehicles through for loading and unloading for commercial use. This was seconded by Mr. C. Coughlan. Signage would show restrictions and permits could be looked at for private vehicles.</p>		
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Any Other Business:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr. J. Walsh stated that due to no licence from the NTA no trains currently stop in Oranmore, where parking would be available and which would be very popular for commuters working in the City. Mr. J. Molloy said the NTA are currently reviewing train schedules with C.I.E. NTA also checking situation with regard to Athenry station as times for trains are not suitable for normal working hours. • Mr. D. Hambleton made reference to the 2007 competition for a rail line to Athenry. Mr. Hambleton said SPC Committee should contact CIE with regard to investing in commuter rail which would help to decarbonise transport. • Mr. R. Manton extended his congratulations to the City Council on the recent Green Leaf Award. • Mr. Manton sought clarification on the extension of the Bike Rental Scheme, which is funded by Coca Cola. The NTA are to roll out 7 more stations in the following areas: - 		

	<p>Claddagh Hall, UCHG, 3 stations at NUI, Huntsman – College Road, and one on the Dublin Road.</p> <p>Mr. C. Coughlan asked that a sustainable way be looked at to install scheme in Salthill area as this location would be a key area. South Park, Raven Terrace, Bridge Street, Dominick Street and Town Hall, were other areas of importance. It was suggested that parking spaces be removed and larger bicycle stands installed at Raven Terrace. Mr. Molloy stated that there is a 5m long parking bay and more than 1 space would need to be removed. A request was made for an update on the Bike Scheme by Cllr. C. Connolly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. R. Manton asked if there was an up-date on reduction of speed limits. Mr. J. Molloy stated that these Byelaws are progressing. • Ms. A. Ruane reported that the annual Bike Week event which was held in June 2016 was very successful and supported greatly by schools, clubs, parents and children. The scheme was a great promotion for cycling and is sponsored annually by the NTA. • Park & Ride Scheme will be discussed at next meeting. <p><u>Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 18th October, 2016, at 2.00 p.m.</p>	<p>Progress Speed Limit Bye-Laws.</p>	<p>J. Molloy</p>
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