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| ***Transportation******Strategic Policy Committee******Minutes of Meeting held at 2.00pm on Monday, 5th November, 2018,******in Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre, Headford Road, Galway******\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_******Present: Cllr. John Walsh, Chairman*** ***Cllr. Pearce Flannery***  ***Cllr. Colette Connolly*** ***Cllr. Noel Larkin*** ***Cllr. Frank Fahy*** ***Cllr. Mike Cubbard*** ***Mr. Derrick Hambleton, Environment Seat***  ***Mr. Pat Hardiman, Irish Congress of Trade Unions*** ***Mr. Niall O’Brolcháin, Community/Voluntary Seat******In attendance: Mr. Tom Connell, Director of Services, GCC*** ***Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Senior Engineer, GCC*** ***Ms. Anne Ruane, Administrative Officer, GCC*** ***Ms. Martina Golding, Clerical Officer, GCC***  ***Ms. Sarah King, Clerical Officer, GCC*** ***Ms. Catherine Hall, Clerical Officer, GCC******Apologies: Cllr. Peter Keane***  ***Cllr. Mark Lohan***  |

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| **No.**  | **Item** |
|  | Cllr. John Walsh welcomed Sarah King and Catherine Hall, two new members of Clerical Staff in the Transportation Department, to the meeting. |
| **1.** | ***Minutes of Transportation SPC Meeting:-***On the proposal of Cllr. F. Fahy and seconded by Mr. D. Hambleton, minutes of the Transportation SPC meeting held on 20th July, 2018, were taken as read, adopted and signed.  |
| **2.** | ***Matters arising from the Minutes:-***The following points were raised:-City Transport Plan: Cllr. C. Connolly.* Asked if an analysis on loss of income as a result of implementation of City Transport Plan was carried out.
* Queried land take in Castlegar, if any.
* Requested information on solution to right turn from Tuam Road to Dog Pound (Old Ballybane Road).
* Request for Tuam Road lighting installation near McHugh’s Pub and Rugby Club to be submitted to Galway County Council.
* Consultation required with residents regarding future flooding.

Dyke Road Bridge**:** Cllr. F. Fahy. * Complimented staff on provision of signage relating to Dyke Road Bridge. Ms. C. Kilcoyne informed the meeting that the Bridge was struck since the signage was erected. Extra signage was recently installed.

Parking Permits Woodquay**:** Cllr. M. Cubbard.* Residential parking permits in Woodquay to be looked at.

Traffic Counts**:** Cllr. M. Cubbard. * Queried why traffic counts surveys in Ballinfoile Park, Tirellan and Menlo, were not carried out during school term.

Salmon Weir Bridge: * Request for Bridge to be cleaned for 50th Anniversary of opening of Cathedral.

Mr. T. Connell replied to queries raised:-City Centre Transport Management:* Discussions ongoing with HSE. Agreement in principal re preferred route through University College Hospital.
* Agreed route will be brought to the members in first quarter 2019. UCHG are a criticial party to the Plan.
* Public consultation in relation to the Plan will be significant.
* Helicoper pad issue is to be sorted out.
* Assurance given that meeting would be held with Woodquay residents in the 1st quarter 2019, this meeting to also include residential parking.

Tuam Road Bus Corridor:* Scheme design and planning report submitted to the NTA.
* Advised NTA re Old Ballybane Road.
* Estimated at €9.5m plus CPO costs.
* McDonagh Site will have implications for the Tuam Road Bus Corridor.
* Convey request to Galway County Council to install lights at McHugh’s Pub on Tuam Road.

Salmon Weir Bridge:* Health & Safety issues for works on the Salmon Weir Bridge are significant and there will be no work carried out there in 2018. These works will require scaffolding on the river side of the Bridge.
* Working with OPW in relation to flooding and there will be significant consultation with the public.

Traffic Counts:* Will revert back re traffic counts during school term.

Issues raised by Councillors:-Cllr. C. Connolly:* Raised concerns regarding helicopter pad at University Hospital which was origininally to be in place for 6 months and asked when this land would be given back.
* No planning permission granted for Heli Pad.
* Commitment given by the HSE, Multi Storey Carpark is now built.
* Request for further details regarding bus corridor route.
* Residents in the Claddagh and in particular the elderly need more consultation in relation to flooding.
* Residents only parking, to be followed up.
* Transport Strategy does not address planning for parking.
* Sought information of land zonings along route of N6 with particular reference to sound barriers.
* Noise in Shantalla from traffic on Seamus Quirke Road,
* Asked for figures on overall car reduction in the City Centre.
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| **3.** | **Galway City N6 Project – N6 Galway City Ring Road.**Mr. U. Finn gave an update to the members.* Application submitted to An Bord Pleanála and submission can be made up to the end of December, 2018.
* 44 houses will be affected by the N6 Ring Road which will be 18km in length.
* The CPO process will be used for affected properties.
* Oral Hearing is expected to be held in April 2019.

Issues raised by Councillors:-Cllr. M. Cubbard:* Asked for Liaison Person to be in place in order to deal with issues of home owners on a one to one basis relating to N6.
* Cllr. F. Fahy agreed with Cllr. Cubbard and proposed that: *Transportation SPC write to Galway County Council to request that they appoint a Liaison Person to deal with home owners.* This was seconded by Cllr. M. Cubbard.
* Restrictions on planning and the need for planning to be favourable for people who are required to relocate was stressed.

Cllr. F. Fahy:* Motion – attended meeting re infill Ballnfoile where information was sought on traffic counts. Requested that plebiscite be held about the new junction at Kirwan Roundabout.
* Tirellan estate – requested that estate be made safe for residents, 4 entrances to estate and speed limits introduced. Ramps being taken out.
* N6 – Menlo village, half the land will be taken for motorway. It must be favourable for people to relocate.
* Asked for noise restrictions to be put in place to avoid noise from traffic.
* No public transport over the Quincentennial Bridge.
* When will design for Bridge be in place?

Mr. N. O’Brolchain:* Queries when work is likely to commence and completion date on the N6 Ring Road project. What will the impact be on traffic in the City.
* Queried level of resources this is going to take from the City Council.

Cllr. N. Larkin:* Welcomed the N6 Ring Road which he stated will be for the betterment of the City.
* Traffic will be taken out of the City.
* Previous plan had listed 130 properties to be impacted by the road but it is now at 44.
* The Transportation Strategic Policy Committee should be giving their full support to this project.

Mr. D. Hambleton:* Some people will suggest that building the N6 is the wrong option.
* Cars will continue to be the biggest problem and asked if it will cure the traffic problems.
* Environmental issues will be raised. Very little mention of climate change and wildlife. There are 2 reports outlining significant losses in regard to animals and insects.
* This project will be used as a test case. Other alternatives have not been looked at.
* Referred to letter sent to Mr. Donal O’Donoghue, previous City Manager, from Transportation SPC, regarding planning issues in County relating to housing. People come to live in the City with no increase in public transport.

Mr. U. Finn replied to queries raised:-Galway N6 City Ring Road * A project team has been set up and staffed and includes a Project Manager and Liaison Person. These staff members have engaged with all the landowners affected.
* A glass noise barrier on the bridge across the Corrib will address the noise and visual aspects. The noise issue will form a big part of the E.I.S.
* Works on the project will begin in 2021/2022 with a completion date of 2025.
* Two vital components of the Galway Transport Strategy are the N6 project and the City Centre Transport Plan.
* Number of routes were looked at. This is the preferred route.
* Increased bus priority in the City centre.
* Sites on both East and West side of the City being look at for Park and Ride.
* Reduction of cars into City will occur when N6 and GCCTMP are in place.  Junctions are at over capacity.  Increasing bus priority on City centre.   Far less car parking facilities being granted in various developments. Fewer parking spaces allocated in the City centre.

Issues raised by members:-Cllr. C. Connolly:-* Clarification of estimated reduction of cars through the City centre when the N6 is in place.
* Queried car parking requirements in City Development Plan.
* Requested to look at parking ratios for commercial and residential development.

Mr. N. O’Brollchain:-* Will bus priority measures be put in place before the N6 is in place and are they contingent on park and ride being installed.
* He voiced concern on waiting until Ring Road is in place.

Cllr. N. Larkin:-* Stated that electric cars will be in place in 20 years.
* Train fares to Dublin excessive. Car pooling worked well for him recenty with 3 others on journey to Dublin.

Cllr. P. Flannery:-* Car ownership in 20 years will be 50% less that what it is today.
* Apps are currently being looked at where people can call up to request to hire a car.
* In 20 years time, there will be no traffic congestion problem.

Cllr. M. Cubbard:-* Sought further details on park and ride in West side of the City.
* This issue has been raised by him for the last 4 years.
* Should have a trial run of the scheme.

Mr. D. Hambleton:-* Stressed that he cannot see any vision for carparking in the City.

In reply, Mr. U. Finn advised as follows:-* That all projects within the Galway Transport Strategy are to be implemented and confirmed that the NTA have given their backing to Galway City Council to implement the projects.
* With regard to the charging points for electric cars, the ESB are the lead in rolling them out and are looking at upgrading electric charging points in the City.
* In relation to increasing bus routes, it was confirmed that remedial bus routes will be part of the Galway Transport Strategy with a hub in Eyre Square. Confirmed that there are two key areas to increase bus times ie. the Salmon Weir and College Road. Stressed the need to work closely with bus companies. There are also a significant number of buses coming into the City from the region.

Following a request by Cllr. Connolly to have the loading bays at Forster Street/Eglinton Street removed, it was agreed to look at this.Cllr. F. Fahy advised that it was private cars after 6pm which were causing the difficulty.Mr. T. Connell informed the Committee that land for Park & Ride schemes is being looked at on East and West sides of the City. |
| **4.** | **Update on Strategic Transport Projects:-**Copy of the Quarterly Report to September 2018 was circulated to the members and each project was discussed.The following points were noted:-**Pavement Improvements to City Centre pedestrianised areas**:Consultants have been appointed and a trial section is to commence from January to March 2019.**Coke Zero Bike Scheme:**Significant uptake in the numbers using the scheme.**Local Improvement Works:**Meetings held with Area Councillors.**Continued expansion of UTMC:**Putting contract in place for operation and maintenance.**Parking Management:**All pay and display machines have now been replaced.**Flood Prevention and Mitigation:**Liaising with OPW in setting up project team to advance the Plan.The Councillors raised the following points:-* Could measurement be taken of impact of all project works on climate change.
* Priority should be given to cyclists at junctions.
* Insufficient cycling bays in the City.
* Proposal for 30 Km speed limit to be put in place at all schools.
* Not utilising the use of the UTMC.
* What is the expected date of the Kirwan Roundabout completion.
* Footpaths required out to Ballindooley on the left hand side of the road.
* Complimented works on the Dublin Road but asked why the bus lane was not resurfaced.
* Cyclists are not visible at Castelgar Complex – more lighting required.
* Staff were complimented on the work carried out during the last 3 storms.
* Presentation on climate change plan to be requested for the next SPC meeting.

Mr. U. Finn replied as follows:-* Legal issues in relation to Coke Zero Bike Stations have been resolved and the provision of additional bays will be discussed with the NTA.
* Traffic counts carried out across the entire city for November 2018 will be brought to the next SPC.
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| **5.** | **Any Other Business:-*** Traffic Counts deferred to next meeting.
* Cllr. C. Connolly asked if information in relation to speeding can be downloaded from the Radar Speed Signs. Speeding in areas such as Shantalla and Castlepark was causing a difficulty.
* A request for an update on the costs of Christmas Park and Ride was sought.
* Draft SPC Work Programme 2019 to be decided at next meeting.
* A query was raised regarding the Ardaun Corridor and general planning.
* ***It was agreed that the next meeting of the SPC would be held on Monday, 25th February, 2019 at 2.00 pm.***
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