

**Transportation
Strategic Policy Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 2.00pm on Monday, 25th February, 2019,
in Room 48, City Hall, Galway**

Present: *Cllr. John Walsh, Chairman*
 Cllr. Pearce Flannery
 Cllr. Colette Connolly
 Cllr. Noel Larkin
 Cllr. Mark Lohan
 Cllr. Frank Fahy
 Cllr. Mike Cubbard
 Cllr. Peter Keane
 Ms. Elaine Brick, Galway Chamber of Commerce
 Mr. Derrick Hambleton, Environment Seat
 Mr. Pat Hardiman, Irish Congress of Trade Unions
 Mr. Niall O’Brocháin, Community/Voluntary Seat

In attendance: *Ms. Ruth McNally, Director of Services, GCC*
 Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Senior Engineer, GCC
 Ms. Anne Ruane, Administrative Officer, GCC
 Mr. Jimmy Callan, Senior Executive Engineer, GCC
 Mr. Fran McEvoy, Senior Executive Engineer, GCC
 Ms. Martina Golding, Clerical Officer, GCC

Observer: *Mr. Gerard Barrett, City Direct Bus Ltd.*

No.	Item
	Cllr. John Walsh welcomed new City Council staff members, Ms. Ruth McNally, Director of Services for Transportation, Planning & Physical Development and Mr. Fran McEvoy, Senior Executive Engineer to the Transportation Department. Ms. Elaine Brick was also welcomed as a new member of the Transportation SPC representing the Business / Commercial Sector.
1.	<p><u>Minutes of Transportation SPC Meeting:-</u></p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. F. Fahy and seconded by Mr. P. Hardiman, minutes of the Transportation SPC meeting held on 5th November, 2018, were taken as read, adopted and signed.</p>
2.	<p><u>Matters arising from the Minutes:-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members request that SPC meetings not be held in the same week as other SPC meetings. • Proposed by Cllr. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Fahy that all documentation for meetings be provided in hardcopy. • Cllr. Connolly requested response to matter raised in Page 1 of minutes relating to an analysis on loss of income in car parking as a result of implementation of City Transport Plan. • Cllr. C. Connolly wished to note her dissatisfaction with the decision of the Chief Executive with regards to the UCHG Helipad. • Cllr. Connolly requested that her reference to flooding on Grattan Road at the Celia Griffin memorial at the previous meeting be reflected in the minutes. • Members requested that a location be identified in Salthill to extend the Coke Zero Bike Scheme. • Members requested report on loading bays at Eglinton Street & Forster Street, and misuse of same. • Members requested extensive Public consultation take place on the implementation of the GCCTMP. • Members requested that maps circulated to the SPC should be in a more legible format. • Members requested that Galway County Council be requested to appoint a liaison person to work with home owners affected by the proposed N6 Galway City Ring Road.

	<p>In reply Ms. R. McNally stated that the raising of operational matters was not appropriate for Strategic Policy Committee meeting and that these should be raised through the various mechanisms available to Elected Members for such queries such as through Questions at the monthly meeting or at LIS meetings. It was further noted that public consultation on the GCCTMP was scheduled to commence at the end of March 2019 and that a number of the issues raised would be addressed in the context of this.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Galway's City Centre Pedestrian Area Rehabilitation.</u></p> <p>Mr. J. Callan circulated a project update re-iterating that the purpose of this scheme is to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Galway's streets and public spaces. • Rehabilitation of the existing pedestrian area. • Increase pedestrian footfall and manage traffic movements. <p>Members raised the following queries:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of City Council's Heritage Officer in the planning and design of scheme given the City's medieval heritage. • Timeline for completion of works and the implications of Galway 2020. • Need for tighter enforcement on weight of vehicles used for deliveries on the streets in question. <p>In reply to queries raised, the following was noted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A contractor had been appointed to carry out an initial 50 m trial run near Anthony Ryans Shop. • The final permanent surface has not yet been decided and will be considered in the context of the new public realm strategy and available budget. • A Project Liaison Officer has been appointed to engage with affected businesses in the area. • The second phase of the works is provisionally scheduled to commence in September / October 2019, in tranches of 200m stretches at a time. Total length of works will be 800m. • Confirmed that work on Shop Street will not be completed by 2020 and works will be impacted by the City's European Capital of Culture designation next year which will have to be factored into the work programme. • Confirmed that works cannot be carried out at night time due to the high level of night time activities and volumes of pedestrians on the City centre streets at night time. • Restrictions on type of vehicles will be introduced in tandem with a wider review of loading bays, delivery times etc. • The Planning Section have been informed of the works. The Heritage Officer is an integral part of this project. <p>The Chairman thanked Mr. Callan for his presentation.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Transport Department Projects:-</u></p> <p>Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Senior Engineer, updated members on the key Transport Department Projects.</p> <p><u>Galway City Centre Transport Management Plan.</u></p> <p>A project update was circulated to the Members who noted their dissatisfaction that a copy of the City Centre Transport Plan was not presented to the Transport SPC before being presented to the full Council and also the quality of the maps contained therein. Mr. Finn advised that the Transport Management Plan will be updated in March 2019 and an update provided to the next SPC to include larger more legible maps.</p> <p><u>Members noted the following:-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross City bus routes were welcomed. • Discussion should be held with NUIG re operation of Park & Ride Scheme. • Pedestrianisation of old Salmon Weir Bridge and new proposed bridge cater for vehicles instead. • No cycleways, greenways in place on the N59. • Clarification required regarding land take at Shantalla for UHCG helipad. • Request for bus routes at both Circular Road and Menlo. <p>In reply to queries raised, Mr. Finn advised as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019 TII (Transport Infrastructure Ireland) funding is approx. €6,436,283 up from €1,137,509 in 2018. • 2019 Department of Transport funding is €2,862,500 including €306,000 for bridge rehabilitation. • 2019 NTA funding will be announced in March 2019. • Confirmed need for helipad at the hospital and the constraint within which the HSE operating.

	<p><u>Kirwan Junction:-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral Hearing held in January 2019 and awaiting An Bord Pleanála Inspector’s report. • If scheme approved, there is a 40 day period for advanced works procurement and work will commence before the end of the year and scheduled for completion in early 2020. • Additional funding being provided by TII for resurfacing of N6 Briarhill to Tuam Road junction. <p><u>N6 Galway City Ring Road.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • c.300 objections have been received to scheme. Oral hearing is expected to take place in 2019.
5.	<p><u>Noise Action Plan 2018-2013:-</u></p> <p>The members expressed concern that the Draft Noise Action Plan was only circulated on the morning of the SPC meeting and they had not time to consider its contents. It was clarified by Mr. Francis McEvoy who was presenting the plan that the draft had only been completed on the previous Friday evening and was circulated immediately following this. He confirmed that the Plan would be available for public inspection from the 1st March to the 1st April, 2019. Any submission received by the 15th April, 2019 would be taken into consideration and the implementation of this plan is an executive function. The Director advised that specific briefing meetings for members would be organised if required to go through the plan in more detail.</p> <p>Following a general discussion the following matters were raised by members:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures to be put in place to monitor noise. • Why domestic activity was left out of the Plan. • How does Galway City rate in comparison to other Cities in relation to the number of roads that exceeds the threshold under this plan. • Specific noise issues with the Kingston Road due to the nature of its surface and how this could be mitigated. <p>Mr. McEvoy replied as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the 3rd Action Plan prepared by the City Council since 2006. • Plan is required for all major roads with a traffic flow threshold above 3 million vehicle trips per annum and its remit does not cover domestically generated noise. • Noise emanating from road activity is complex and arises from a combination of factors such as different surface treatments, weather events and types of car tyres. • Noise barriers are more effective in rural areas as distinct from the urban environment. • Need to apply a matrix assessment method to identify specific areas for further assessment as engineering solutions are limited and there is no one size fits all solution. • All submission made during consultation process will be considered prior to finalising the draft. • Galway is very similar to other cities as regards noise levels.
6.	<p><u>Climate Change:-</u></p> <p>The Director confirmed that a draft Climate Change Action Plan was currently being prepared by the City Council’s Environment Department and as such fell within the remit of the Environment SPC. The Director suggested that the Chair Cllr. John Walsh discuss with his colleague the Chair of the Environment SPC, the possibility of having a joint Environment/Transport SPC meeting at which a presentation could be given to the members on the draft plan preparation process to date. The Members highlighted the importance of looking at climate change and asked that a presentation be given to the Transport SPC as soon as possible.</p>
7.	<p><u>Any Other Business:-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following a discussion on traffic counts in specific areas of the City, it was confirmed that a report on traffic counts was currently being prepared. • Following a discussion on Parking Permits and changes with regards to the procedures with regards to issuing of same, members were advised that the Galway City Council Parking Control Byelaws 2009 provided for the granting of permits for certain categories of persons and the management and administration of applications for same was a matter for the Traffic section. It was agreed that in the interest of clarity details of the procedures and criteria applied to the assessment of such applications would be brought to the next SPC meeting. • Need for traffic calming on Siobhan McKenna Road. • Clarity on ending of sponsorship for Coke-Cola Zero Bike Scheme and schemes extension to Salthill. <p><i>It was agreed that the next meeting of the SPC would be held on Tuesday, 23rd April, 2019 at 2.00 pm.</i></p>

