

**Tuairisc/Reporting Template for Galway City  
Community Network (GCCN) Reps**

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**Galway City Community Network**  
Líonra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

<b>Cruinniú /Name of Meeting</b>	Galway City Council Transport Strategic Policy Committee
<b>Ionadaí FPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) Name of GCCF Rep (note-taker)</b>	Paul O' Donnell & Shane Foran
<b>Dáta &amp; Suite Date &amp; Location of Meeting:</b>	12th November 2019 Galway City Council Training Room, City Hall
<b>I láthair/ Attendance</b>	<p>In attendance</p> <p>Cllr. Eddie Hoare (Chair) Cllr. Peter Keane Cllr. Alan Cheevers Cllr. Cloddagh Higgins Cllr. Pauline O'Reilly Cllr. Noel Larkin Cllr. Colette Connolly</p> <p>Community Network Paul O'Donnell Shane Foran</p> <p>Business Elaine Brick</p> <p>City Council Executive Ruth McNally Anne Ruane Martina Golding Uinsinn Finn (Engineer) Jimmy Callan? (Engineer) Michael Lalley (Engineer)</p>

## Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:

### Item: Bus Éireann Presentation

Brian Connolly: Bus Éireann Regional Manager - West

Sean Kyne: Bus Éireann Regional AVL (Automatic Vehicle Location) Control Centre Manager - West

#### Main points

- Revisions to bus routes and bus priority have been a success story in Galway
  - 2 operators, 6 routes by bus Eireann and 2 by City Direct
  - Until 2012 one looped cross city routes with many issues;
  - One exception in 2006-2012 period Route 9 had priority on road and numbers quadrupled
  - Sometime in 2020 passenger numbers will hit double 2011 numbers
  - 16.7% increase in Galway total passenger numbers from 2017 to 2018.
  - Galway has lowest complaints rate in the country at 8 per 100,000 passenger trips
  - Punctuality ranges from 78% in January to 68% in August /September
  - Increased journey times due to congestion:
    - Many new double decker buses;
    - Galway BusConnects
    - "Central spine"
- "Clock face" timetables with consistent bus times.
- Staffing has increased at AVL control center
- Bus connects Galway €200 million allocated

### Questions from committee members

Cllr. Peter Keane

- Welcome presentation
- NTA is licensing authority not City Council
- What can the city do for Bus Eireann?
- Pinch points at college road?
- Asked what can GCC do to support BE to improve the frequency of services and resolve the pinch points?
- Stated that some citizens reported to him that the real time information is sometimes inaccurate, and questioned this.

Cllr. Colette Connolly

- What about school transport
- Research needed around demand for school transport
- Progress on routes through hospital
- GMIT Pinch point - wants cars kept moving wants bus bays
- Circular road considered for a bus route?
- Pricing of bus tickets

Cllr. Pauline O'Reilly

- Questioned accuracy of RTPI
- People waiting for an hour for a bus
- If took away car parking on Bohermore would that solve some of the issues?

- How can we help to deliver needed services in not-necessarily financially profitable routes?
- How can City Council help to make more funding available?
- What about the prices and affordability? - It's cheaper to hop in the car for people bringing children to school for example.

Cllr. Noel Larkin

- Level of dialog with NTA
- Pinch point at GMIT - concerned about cars being blocked
- Outbound bus lane at GMIT
- Oranmore railway station

Elaine Brick

- Report confirms appetite for Public Transport in Galway, success of the 409 route shows this.
- We need to make difficult decisions to allocate road space to public transport.
- The 409 has most infrastructure priority at @ 24%, some routes have no priority.
- Not going to get priority w/o difficult decisions.
- GTS combined with ring road to remove traffic

Cllr. Alan Cheevers

- Oranmore train station passed a motion to look at bus lanes from Martin Roundabout to Parkmore along dual carriageway
- Tax Saver??
- Doughiska lost a bus route for children coming into the city

Cllr. Cloddagh Higgins

- Reliability Connectivity
- Need tough decisions about PT priority, we need support from BE.
- Is there a strategy for the challenge of Galway 2020?

Cllr. Eddie Hoare

- Bus connects
- 404 Corrib village
- Is it possible to route buses through NUIG to alleviate blockages at peak times?
- Bushy park service?

Shane Foran

- Welcome BE attendance something needed for years
- Could SPC have a working group to coordinate with BE?
- In some cities bus stops stay on-road and other traffic has to wait
- If we are trying to arrange bus service around prioritising cars then that is digging the same hole that go city into a mess.
- Clarification on rat running in Doughiska
- Transponders on buses - can the traffic lights detect the buses and then trigger a green for the buses?
- Does the AVL control centre cover City Direct services?

## Responses from Bus Eireann

RTPI

- Issues with RTPI are down to data lag. The data from the Galway and Cork? Control centres is being correctly sent to the centralised NTA IT system. But there is a lag between the NTA system receiving the data and it being updated on the messaging signs.

#### Pinch points

- There is some kind of working group between NTA council and BE

[Paul O' Donnell left at this point (10am), funnily enough to get a bus.]

#### School Transport

- Not in their remit but do provide a certain level of service that also provides school travel

#### Hospital Route

- Progressing through NTA
- Council needs to progress

#### Bus stops

- Under GTU the policy was to keep the buses on the road

#### Bus shelters

- NTA has funding
- Gort Na Bro - bus stop is on private land

#### Circular Road

- Hard to find a suitable turning point
- Looked at using the entrance to the Baily

#### Pricing

- Prices set by NTA eg EU2.30 adult fare
- Might be a trend towards cashless buses - certainly in Dublin

#### Park and Ride

- Park and Ride should be at the perceived edge of congestion

#### Punctuality

- Defend the punctuality of city services

#### Doughiska Rat running

- Cars are coming in from motorway/Oranmore side and then turning left at the top of Doughiska Road and coming back out onto Monivea Road at McGreals shop. The resulting traffic backed up on Monivea Road blocks buses from getting out of Doughiska.

#### Bus priority

- The BE Automatic Vehicle Location System (AVL) will not talk to the City Council Traffic Light System. The City Council uses Spot Utopia system.

<https://www.itsireland.ie/news/industry-news/2923/galway-city-council-to-introduce-the-utopia-urban-traffic-control-system/>

- Discussions went to a high level with both suppliers at a high level. Gave an example of a situation where it might have unintended consequences where if a bus stop was close to a set of traffic signals it might trigger a green for a bus at the bus stop.
- The BE Delegation were open to the idea that bus priority could be trialled along with QBC proposals.

#### Ticket prices and capacity

- Matters for the NTA

#### Lough Atalia/College Road one-way system

- Spoke favourably of the Lough Atalia/College Road one-way system during the bridge works
- These had included a bus lane
- Spoke favourably of traffic speeds at that time

### Item: Corporate Plan

- Received a presentation
- Note this presentation lists the GCCN under a heading of stakeholder engagement.

### Item: GTS

#### Reports from Unsin Finn

- Said something about will already hear at council meeting??
- Mentioned cross city link for PT
- City centre management plan

#### N6 Ring Road

- ABP Request for Further information process is complete
- Expecting the oral hearing in January and February

#### Reports Jimmy?? Name not given

#### Shop St rehabilitation scheme

- Phase 2 due to finish before Christmas shopping season
- Phase 3 due to start after Christmas

#### Kirwan Roundabout

- Contracts are signed
- They will start fencing before Christmas

#### Access improvement to Parkmore

- NTA doing an assessment
- Report before Christmas

#### Cycling Strategy

- Appendix F of GTS
- Two contracts gone out for East and West

#### Ardaun Roundabout

- Consultation complete

- Contracts gone out.

#### Resurfacing Works

- There are resurfacing works pending at various locations
- N84 Headford Road mentioned

## Questions from committee

#### Elaine Brick

- Asked about Shop Street

#### Shane Foran

- Headford road is very hostile for cycling Kirwan roundabout replacement will improve things for people on bikes but leave the Headford road in current state. Could the resurfacing works be combined with works to improve conditions on the Headford road

#### Colette Connolly

- Asked about the hospital route
- Asked about priority for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport at junctions.
- Can we look at bus priority

#### Noel Larkin

- Will Cemetery Cross happen at the same time as Kirwan Roundabout?

#### Pauline O'Reilly

- Representations have not been made on Bus Shelters (I may not have this right I think there have been some other conversations happening about bus shelters with mixed messages coming back)
- Can we put in bus shelters?
- What works on cycling infrastructure?
- Lack of joined up infrastructure

#### Alan Cheevers

- When would Martin roundabout start?
- Cycling infrastructure
- Cycle lane in Doughiska is up on the footpath and is unsafe

#### Clodagh Higgins

- Asked about the cycle path on the prom

## Responses

#### Shop street

- Regularising what is beneath the ground
- Drainage etc
- Recycling the bricks that are taken up
- Tarmac is a temporary surface
- Final surface will be agreed under Public Realm strategy

#### N84 Headford Road

- TII funded scheme purely focused on resurfacing
- Can put forward a separate safety scheme that TII might fund
- TII will fund separate schemes for things like skid resistance treatments

#### Kirwan Roundabout

- Advance works to deal with soft ground
- Contract is signed

#### Martin Roundabout

- Works will start q2 2020 there is no soft ground issue with Martyn

#### Hospital Bus Priority Route

- Has to be agreed with SAOLTA hospital groups
- There is also a new emergency department planned for the hospital that needs to be factored in

#### Priority for Cyclists and Pedestrians

- The works at Martyn and Kirwan roundabouts have a focus on cyclists and pedestrians.
- UF: Mentions going after “low-hanging fruit” in relation to URDF funding

#### Doughiska cycle lane

- UF: Does not see an issue thinks Doughiska cycle path design is acceptable.

#### Cemetery Cross

- Just resurfacing

#### Saltill Cycle Path

- UF: What promenade needs is rehabilitation

#### Cllr Colette Connolly

- Said she was asking about priority for cyclists, pedestrians and public transport at existing junctions

## Responses

910 FPNs issues for parking on bus stops

Bus shelters there are 130 shelters (out of how many stops - did not have that number)

#### Ruth McNally

- New project team - for bus connects?
- Pulling together work team
- Asked NTA for money for a cycling strategy?? Not sure I recorded this correctly

#### Shane Foran

- Questions UF claims regarding Doughiska seen internationally as an example of incompetent design - pictures of it used internationally
- Low hanging fruit if we are talking about cycle facilities that deliver people into the types of roundabout that are being removed elsewhere because they are seen as hostile for cyclists and pedestrians then many people would see that as a highly questionable use of public money.
- Raised the issue that both cycle campaign and GCCN sought meetings with Ruth McNally and were refused

- Ms McNally disputes that she refused a meeting. She does not have time to meet all the 10-20 groups a week that look for a meeting with her.

## Work plan

Additional items can be directed to the chair.

Cllr. Pauline O'Reilly asked about the availability of training for SPC reps.

Proposed Meeting Dates - I might not have all these recorded correctly.

Tuesday 17th December At 2pm?

Tuesday 21 January 2020 at 8:30am

Tuesday 21 April 2020 at 8:30am

Tuesday 15? September at 8:30

Tuesday 10 November at 8:30am

### **Socruithe déanta/ Key Decisions Made:**

nil

### **Gníomhaíochtaí**

**Action(s) required from GCCN:**

nil



**Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile**  
**Date of next meeting :**

Tuesday 17th December At 2pm

**Moltaí breise /Any Other Comments:**

## Any Other Business

Shane Foran: Attempted to raise issues deriving from Bus Eireann presentation

Rat running at Doughiska

- The road that is being used as a rat run between Doughiska and McGreals Shop is a tiny country lane - this could be closed to through traffic.

Gort Na Bro bus shelters

- The private lands where the bus stop is located is the subject of various planning applications. It is open to the city council to set planning conditions that include providing a bus stop.

Ruth McNally for the council executive protested that the committee was not to be used to make representations. Shane Foran rejected her assertions and pointed out that he was raising issue that came up in the Bus Eireann presentation that the committee had just received.

SF Note : According to my notes I also wanted to raise the point that if the car parking was taken out of Bohermore then the buses would not have to move at cyclist speed but we did not get that far. (Triggered by a question by Cllr. Pauline O'Reilly)

## After

Quick chat with Michael Lally (engineer)

He was with Tobins but has now joined council

The GTU seems to be gone as a brand but there are still some projects that were funded under the GTU name.

There is now a Bus connects office in the Transport Section mentioned Colim XXX?

Michael asked for information about other cycling groups