

Transport Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of Meeting held at 9.30 am on the 10th November, 2020 on the ZOOM Platform, hosted by Uinsinn Finn, Senior Engineer, in Council Chamber, City Hall, Galway.

Present:

- Cllr. Eddie Hoare, Chairman
- Cllr. Alan Cheevers
- Cllr. Clodagh Higgins
- Cllr. Colette Connolly
- Cllr. Mike Cubbard
- Cllr. Noel Larkin
- Cllr. Peter Keane
- Cllr. Niall Murphy
- Ms. Elaine Brick, Business / Commercial Sector
- Mr. Pat Hardiman, Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

In Attendance:

- Ms. Ruth McNally, Director of Services, GCC
- Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Senior Engineer, GCC
- Mr. Brendan McGrath, CE
- Ms. Arlene Finn, Administrative Officer, GCC
- Mr. Fran McEvoy, Senior Executive Engineer.
- Ms. Anne Ruane, Administrative Officer, GCC
- Ms. Arlene Finn, Administrative Officer, GCC
- Ms. Martina Golding, Clerical Officer, GCC

Apologies:

	Item
	<p>Chairman Cllr. Eddie Hoare welcomed Transport SPC members, Brendan McGrath, CE and Council Officials to the meeting which was being held in the City Council Chamber and on the Zoom platform. The meeting commenced with a manual roll call of all in attendance. Cllr. Hoare re-iterated protocol guidelines of tele conferencing, which included, a restriction on length of time of meetings of up to 2 hours.</p>
1.	<p><u>Minutes of Transport SPC Meeting and Matters arising.</u></p> <p>Director of Services, Ruth McNally informed members that a letter dated the 13th October, 2020 was received from Galway City Community Network CLG notifying the Director and Chair of the Transport SPC of their intention to withdraw from participation from the Transport SPC. The Director advised the members that they would be kept informed and the Corporate Policy Group was the appropriate forum to discuss this matter.</p> <p>Clarification was sought and members were advised that members of the public or media would not be permitted to attend SPC meetings being held on the Zoom platform.</p> <p><u>Matters arising.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report on Pedestrian Crossing at the Browne Roundabout.• Trial of parking for residents only in Bohermore/Woodquay.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position in relation to Park-n-Ride in the West side of the City. • Clarification in relation to cycling down Shop Street during loading time and the operation of a permit system for businesses. • Forster Street – query regarding loading bay. • Position of Bus Connects going through Shantalla Park. <p>Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Senior Engineer outlined as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal to upgrade junction at Browne Roundabout, check if pedestrian crossing can be provided, commitment for same not given. • No provision for residents only parking in Woodquay, parking permits are available. • Shop Street is a designated pedestrian area and all other forms of travel are prohibited. Loading/unloading is permitted from 6.00 am to 9.00 am. Additional signage was provided at Shop Street at the request of Superintendent Marie Skehill in February 2020. Access to Shop Street to load and unload could be operated without a permit system and would be monitored by the Community Wardens and the Gardai. • An update in relation to Park-n-Ride was given at the most recent City Council meeting and progress was ongoing in setting up an NTA office. • The bus route through the hospital is a live proposal and is an objective in the Transport Strategy. This objective is currently not part of the Development Plan. • An application has been made seeking funding to erect signage in 2021. <p>The minutes of meeting dated the 10th November, 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Noel Larkin and Seconded by Cllr. Niall Murphy.</p>
3	<p><u>Presentation on School Streets and School Zones Pilot.</u></p> <p>Ms. Arlene Finn, Administrative Officer, gave a presentation to the members on the School Streets School Initiative which is progressing in Scoil Iognaid, Raleigh Row. Arlene set out why the City Council were carrying out the project and outlined details on the pilot.</p> <p>The following points were noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school street initiative was first raised in 2019 by parents in Scoil Iognaid and elected members. • A school street is a road outside a school with a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times – creating a calm, safe space for children, parents and residents to walk or cycle. • Galway City Council is working with Scoil Iognaid, The National Transport Authority, and Green Schools to create Galway’s First Pilot “School Street” project. • Galway City Council intend to pedestrianise Palmyra Park, Parmyra Avenue and Raleigh Row during school terms from Monday to Friday from 8.15 am to 9.15 am and 2.00 to 3.00 pm.

	<p>Following the presentation the members thanked Arlen her presentation and the following points were noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This pilot project was a good example of stakeholders working together on a worthwhile project. • Safety of school children is paramount. • Query re roll out to other schools in the City. • School not included in the 30Km/h – could they be prioritised. • Query re delay in rolling out zebra crossings as a safety measure. • Clarity sought re consultation with parents. <p>In reply Arlene confirmed that the City Council were awaiting the statutory signage with works taking place through 2020/2021. The pilot would identify and obstacles to the initiative Potential locations for further School Zones would be reviewed, subject to NTA funding and buy in from schools. It was agreed to circulate a copy of the presentation to the members following the meeting.</p>
3	<p><u>Road Traffic Special Speed Limits -Galway City Bye-laws No. 1 - 2017 Housing estates slow zones No. 1. 2017.</u></p> <p>Mr. Fran McEvoy, Senior Executive Engineer, Transport gave a presentation to the members of the Transport SPC on the above and confirmed that the most recent speed limit bye-laws adopted by Galway City Council are the Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) Galway City Bye-Law, No. 1 – 2017 (Housing Estates Slow Zones) which implements 30km/h slow zones in 120 no. housing estates. It is intended to carry out a separate speed limit review in relation to the inclusion of additional housing estate slow zones and to bring draft bye-laws in this regard through the Transport Strategic Policy Committee and to the Council for adoption in 2021.</p> <p>Following the presentation members sought clarification on a number of issues which were replied to by Mr. McEvoy. Members requested a clear policy on speed ramps and Mr Uinsinn Finn advised that there is a cost implication in putting in speed ramps and speed ramps were not always favoured by drivers or householders in city estates.</p>
5.	<p><u>Any Other Business:-</u></p> <p>It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Transport SPC is Tuesday the 26th January, 2021 at 9.30 am.</p>