

Transport Strategic Policy Committee

Tuesday 23rd February 2021 @ 9.30am – 11.30am

Attendees on Videoconference:

Cllr Frank Fahy Chairman TSPC	Cllr Alan Cheevers Councillor GCC	Cllr Clodagh Higgins Councillor GCC	Cllr Colette Connolly Councillor GCC
Cllr Mike Cubbard Councillor GCC	Cllr Noel Larkin Councillor GCC	Cllr Peter Keane Councillor GCC	Cllr Niall Murphy Councillor GCC
Ms Elaine Brick Bus./Commercial Sector	Mr Paul O'Donnell Community Network	Mr Shane Foran Community Network	

Attendees Present in Council Chambers:

Ms Ruth McNally Director of Services GCC	Mr Uinsinn Finn Senior Engineer GCC	Mr Fran McEvoy Snr. Exec. Engineer GCC	Ms Anne Ruane Admin. Officer GCC
Ms Arlene Finn Admin. Officer GCC	Mr Colm O'Riordan Snr. Exec. Engineer GCC	Ms Sarah King Clerical Officer GCC	Ms Aoife Keane Clerical Officer GCC
Ms Caroline Phelan Senior Planner GCC	Ms Helen Coleman Snr. Exec. Planner GCC	Ms Michele Beirne Executive Planner GCC	Ms Kate Moloney Asst. Planner GCC
Ms Maura Harrington Executive Planner GCC			

Apologies:

Mr Pat Hardiman ICTU			
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Item:

Chairman Cllr. Frank Fahy welcomed Transport SPC members, 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 record taken of all in attendance. Cllr. Fahy re-iterated protocol guidelines of tele conferencing, which included, no recording of images, no recording of audio of the proceedings and to use the raised hand icon. It was also noted that in compliance with Government Guidelines there is a restriction on length of time of meetings of up to 2 hours.

The members extended best wishes to the new Chair, Cllr. Fahy in his new role as Chairman of the Transport SPC.

1. Minutes of Transport SPC Meeting

The minutes of the Transport SPC meeting dated the 10th November, 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Clodagh Higgins and seconded by Cllr. Noel Larkin.

Clarification was sought and members were advised that in accordance with corporate procures members of the public or media are not be permitted to attend SPC meetings being held on the Zoom platform.

2. Matters arising

- Report on Pedestrian Crossing at the Browne Roundabout.
- Trial of parking for residents only in Bohermore/Woodquay.
- Parking in Bohermore and difficulty with Emergency Services having safe access.
- Business in the City Centre receiving fixed charge notices for illegal parking.
- Pedestrian facilities at all roundabouts.
- Policy on speed ramps.
- Facilitate cycle lanes on roundabouts.
- Clarification sought in relation to the NTA office.
- Query re School zones, - Nomination by Cllrs. for schools.
- Dublin Road Bus Corridor –Implications on entrance to Merlin Park Hospital.
- Query re consideration for Park n Ride at the Airport Site.
- Pedestrian crossing at Barna Woods – Slightly adjusted position.
- Clarification re members of the public accessing/recording zoom meetings.
- Benefit of zebra crossings –v- pedestrian lights.

The Director, Ruth McNally, advised the members that a CPG meeting had taken place following which the Community representatives have re-joined the SPC today. A process of mediation has been agreed and will be managed through, Brian Barrett, Director in Corporate Services.

Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Senior Engineer responded advising members that the update on Capital Projects would cover most of the matters arising but agreed that the following matter would be brought back to the next Transport SPC.

- A presentation on pedestrian crossings would be placed as an items on the agenda for the next meeting of the Transport SPC.
- Residents parking only in Woodquay. This item would be left on the agenda for the next meeting of the Transport SPC.
- An update on the hospital entrance at Merlin Park as part of the Dublin Road Bus Corridor.
- Speed ramps to be left on the work programme for the Transport Directorate.

It was noted that the National Transport Authority were looking at Park & Ride for Galway City.

3. Presentation on commencement of review of City Development Plan –Strategic Issues paper. (SIP's)

The Chair welcomed planning staff, Caroline Phelan, Helen Coleman, Michele Beirne, Kate Maloney, and Maura Harrington to the Transport SPC.

A copy of the presentation was circulated to Transport members prior to the meeting and the presentation was delivered by, Helen Coleman, Kate Maloney and Caroline Phelan.

Following the presentation the members thanked the planning staff for the delivery of same and the following points were raised.

- Difficulty with public consultation for people with no access to the internet.

- Query re members of the public get feedback on their submissions.
- Query regarding requirement to wait for the Chief Executive's report before reply to submissions is made available.

In response Helen Coleman and Caroline Phelan responded to queries raised. It was noted that due to the difficulty caused with libraries and community centres currently not available for public information days being closed, provision was made for people to make contact by phone or zoom appointments to discuss the Plan. Planners also attended a series of zoom public meetings organised by the community network. All submissions and the CE report will be available to view on the consultation portal.

4. Guidelines for setting and managing speed limits in Ireland (2015)

The following was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

- A copy on the Guidelines for setting and managing speed limits in Ireland (2015). Incorporating Guidelines for the application of Special Speed Limits.
- Presentation on the guidelines for setting and managing speed limits in Ireland.
- Extract – Road Traffic Act, 2004 – 9-(1)...Provides the legislative basis for speed limits.

Mr. Fran McEvoy, Senior Executive Engineer, Transport set out the background, contents of the guidelines and gave an introduction on the legislative basis for speed limits under the Road Traffic Act 2004.

It was noted that the Galway City Council Special Speed Limit bye-Laws 2020 were not approved by the City Council in late 2020. These byelaws were the foundation that future bye-laws would be based on going forward.

The current bye -laws in place are:

- Special Speed Limit bye-Laws 2009.
- Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) Galway City Bye-Laws, No. 1 -2017 (Housing Estates Slow Zones) – implements 30km/h slow zones in 120 no. housing estates.

Following a discussion on the 2020 bye-laws the following was proposed.

- The Chair Cllr. Fahy, proposed to commence the process of reviewing the 2020 byelaws, with non-statutory consultation incorporated. This was further proposed by Shane Foran and Cllr. Colette Connolly
- To consider it a priority to have the incorrect speed limit signage in the City corrected.

In response the Senior Engineer advised of the following.

- The review of the 2020 draft bye-laws and an audit to identify the incorrect signage re speed limits would require a significant resource input and advised the members that a full review of speed limit bye-laws would take approximately 2 years.
- There is currently no update on active travel staff. NTA have committed funding and meeting to be held re staff.
- In 2023 new EU regulations would be coming into force in relation to limiting speed of new vehicles to the speed limit. Any speed limits considered not appropriate will be further highlighted under these restrictions.

5. **AOB**

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Transport SPC is Tuesday the 25th May, 2021 at 9.30 am to 11.30am.

Next meeting: Tuesday 7th September 2021 @9.30am - 11.30am