

Transport Strategic Policy Committee

Tuesday 25th May 2021 @9.30am – 11.30am

Attendees on Videoconference:

Cllr Mike Cubbard Councillor GCC	Cllr Alan Cheevers Councillor GCC	Cllr Clodagh Higgins Councillor GCC	Cllr Colette Connolly Councillor GCC
Cllr Peter Keane Councillor GCC	Cllr Niall Murphy Councillor GCC	Ms Susan Loughnane Senior Project Mgr. GCC	Ms Arlene Finn Admin. Officer GCC
Mr Shane Foran Community Network	Mr Pat Hardiman ICTU	Ms Sharon Connolly Senior Project Mgr. GCC	Mr Micheal Cormican Executive Engineer GCC
Peter Carroll Director A2 Architects	Mr Paul O'Donnell Community Network	Mr Ruairí Lehmann Tourism Officer	Mr Michael Mannion Assistant Engineer GCC

Attendees Present in Council Chambers:

Cllr Frank Fahy Chairman TSPC	Mr Uinsinn Finn A/Director of Services	Mr Jimmy Callan Senior Engineer GCC	Ms Anne Ruane Admin. Officer GCC
Ms Aoife Keane Clerical Officer GCC			

Apologies:

Cllr Noel Larkin Councillor GCC			
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1. Minutes of meeting 23rd February 2021

Chairman Cllr Frank Fahy welcomed the Transport SPC members and Council Officials to the meeting which was being held in the City Council Chamber and on the Zoom platform. Cllr Fahy reiterated the protocol guidelines of teleconferencing, which included, no recording of images, no audio recording of the proceedings and to make use of the 'raise 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 minutes of the Transport SPC meeting dated the 23rd February 2021 were proposed by Cllr Clodagh Higgins and seconded by Cllr Mike Cubbard.

Cllr Frank Fahy congratulated Mr Uinsinn Finn on his recent post as A/Director of Services, Transport and Mr Jimmy Callan on his post of A/Senior Engineer, Transport.

2. Matters arising

Mr Paul O'Donnell raised as a matter of accuracy from the previous minutes of the 23rd February, 2021 a request for legal clarification on signage for speed limits. This was seconded by Cllr Colette Connolly who had requested that legal advice be sought regarding this issue and asked when the 80km signs will be

replaced by 50km signs. Cllr Frank Fahy agreed that there is an issue with speed limit signs and that this should be rectified.

Mr Uinsinn Finn responded advising members as follows:

- At the last SPC meeting it was agreed to carry out an audit of speed limit signage this year and this commitment was re-iterated and any ambiguity between the legal limits applied to the public roads and the signage will be rectified over the course of this year.
- It was noted that there was a request for a legal opinion in relation to speed limits, but it was not agreed to proceed with getting a legal opinion as we are satisfied in relation to what the legal status is at present in relation to the speed limits.
- The review of the Byelaws would be completed, but would take approx. 2 years.
- The importance of the Galway City Council Special Speed Limit Bye-laws 2020 which were not approved last year was highlighted.

Following a discussion on the Transport SPC remit in seeking legal opinion, it was agreed to consider the matter further at the next meeting of the SPC on the 7th September, 2021.

In response to Cllr Mike Cubbard the A/Director advised:

- The Browne roundabout was tied into a National Route, with the Kirwan Roundabout being progressed, Martin Roundabout going to construction and this would be followed by the Browne Roundabout.
- He would ask Mr. Mike Mannion, Asst. Engineer to contact Cllr Mike Cubbard re parking issues for residents in Woodquay.

Cllr. Cubbard re-iterated that a temporary measure for a safe crossing at the back entrance to the hospital was required.

3. Presentations:

1) Pedestrian Safety Initiatives

A copy of the presentation was circulated to Transport members prior to the meeting and the presentations was delivered by Michael Cormican, Executive Engineer. The members welcomed the presentation and thanked Michael for same.

The members raised the following points:

- Clarification sought on whether the two pedestrian crossings at Miller lane / Western Distributor road were going ahead.
- Query re process of selecting potential pedestrian crossings.
- Queried re Merlin Woods being part of the School Streets project.
- Concern raised re speed trap from Laurel Park up towards Gaelcarraig Park.
- Cylbaun Road pedestrian crossing – any further works completed.
- Clarification sought on position for cyclists with Cross Street being closed and disappointment expressed that dish curving was not put in place on Dominick Street and Shantalla Road.

Michael Cormican responded to queries raised and Mr Uinsinn Finn summarised the upcoming developments in pedestrian crossings including the cantilever bridge which is planned for Wolfe Tone

Bridge. A Part 8 planning approval for this development is being progressed and will be submitted in Autumn for approval. Pedestrian crossings at Jury's Hotel and Raven's Terrace is linked to this project.

In relation to the GMIT crossings it was noted that these crossings form part of the Dublin Road Upgrade Scheme which was on the agenda at the last Council meeting.

2) Outdoor Dining Enhancement Infrastructure Scheme

A copy of the presentation was circulated to Transport members prior to the meeting and the presentations was delivered by Ruairí Lehmann, Tourism Officer, and Michael Mannion, Asst. Engineer. Following the presentation the members thanked Ruairi and Michael for the delivery of same and acknowledged the amount of work that has been done at a short time frame.

The following points were raised:

- Cllr Clodagh Higgins asked for the updated maps to be forwarded to SPC members.
- Cllr Colette Connolly raised concerns at the takeover of public space and its impact on residents, cyclists being discommoded. She also queried the legislative basis this scheme is under and asked if public concerns were taken into account during the planning process.
- Cllr Alan Cheevers asked for an update on grants for wet pubs and asked for a public campaign before pub openings on the 7th July, 2021.
- Mr Shane Foran expressed concerns re school children following one way systems on Sea Road and Palmyra Road and stated that two-way cycling on Galway streets should be allowed.
- Mr Paul O'Donnell asked what measures were being put in place to ensure outdoor furniture did not block wheelchair access.
- Cllr Frank Fahy said that the scheme seems to be geared more towards outdoor drinking than dining in as the closure is for 24/7.

In response Ruairí Lehmann confirmed that a walk through the proposed streets would take place with members of staff from the Chamber of Commerce and Access for All, to see what adjustments would need to be made. As this is a National Scheme Fáilte Ireland would be reviewing continually with changes implemented, if necessary. He confirmed that public consultation is ongoing and this scheme is not just about outdoor dining but about creating space in the public realm which is more inviting to the general public.

Mr Mike Mannion confirmed that the roads closure were being processed under the relevant Roads Acts. (Roads Act 1993 – Section 75 and Article 12 of the Roads Regulations 1994). He noted that the maps will be updated on the GCC website when the NODs (Notice of Decision) are circulated. Local media will also be briefed. Mr Mike Mannion said that the 24/7 closure was chosen as it was considered unfeasible to put out and remove street furniture each day. But that this is under review.

Mr Uinsinn Finn summed up the positive benefits of this proposal in supporting businesses to re-open while being mindful of the impact on residents. The NTA under an additional outdoor infrastructure fund (2021) was making finances available to support outdoor dining in 2021.

It was agreed to have this matter left on the agenda for the September, 2021 Transport SPC meeting.

4. AOB

The Chair, Cllr Frank Fahy noted that the 45mins was spent on reviewing the minutes from the previous SPC meeting, and subsequently a number of items of the agenda for today's meeting were not reached.

It was agreed that the quarterly report up to the 31st May, 2021 be circulated to Transport SPC members.

Mr Paul O'Donnell confirmed that he had sent an email to the GCC about Parklets and bike parking at 10pm last night and wished to hear a response. Mr Uinsinn Finn reminded the SPC that all SPC members should feel free to contact the GCC (*roads@galwaycity.ie*) and the Executive will respond to the emails in due course.

Cllr Mike Cubbard raised the issue of Shannon Airport as he believes it could have a detrimental effect on the local economy here if transatlantic flights or flights to major UK cities are curtailed. It was proposed by Mayor Cubbard and seconded by Cllr Frank Fahy that this matter be raised at the next City Council meeting.

Cllr Frank Fahy concluded the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Next meeting: Tuesday 7th September @9.30am – 11.30am