

MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
HYBRID MEETING HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE
ON WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 9.30am

I Láthair:

Baill: Cllr. Peter Roche (Chairperson)
Cllr. Jim Cuddy
Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin
Cllr. Albert Dolan
Cllr. Declan Kelly

Baill ar Líne: Cllr. Geraldine Donohue
Cllr. Gerry King
Mr. Diarmaid Kelly
Mr. Tom Madden

Oifigi: Mr. Derek Pender, A/Director of Services, Roads & Transportation
Ms. Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Mr. Tom Prendergast, Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Ms. Edel Hourigan, Administrative Officer
Ms. Sarah Silke, Executive Engineer
Ms. Kasia Garvey, Executive Engineer
Ms. Geraldine Byrne, Administrative Officer, Roads & Transportation
Ms. Sajil Elwood, Assistant Staff Officer, Roads & Transportation

Apologies: Mr. Kenny Deery

Absent: Mr. John Finn

ITEM NO. 1 - MINUTES OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SPC MEETING HELD ON THE 21st June 2023.

On the **Proposal** of Cllr. Dolan and **Seconded** by Cllr. Cuddy the minutes of the meeting of the Transportation & Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee held 21st June 2023 were agreed.

ITEM NO. 2 – MATTERS ARISING

Mr. Pender referred to Item No. 3 and advised that correspondence will be issuing shortly to the NTA in relation to the sub-committee that Cllr. McKinstry had requested to issue.

Cllr. Donohue looked for clarification as to who are the members of the Transportation & Infrastructure SPC sub-committee. Mr. Pender advised that he would arrange for same to circulate to the SPC Committee (*full list of members of the sub-committee was forwarded by email 22nd September 2023 to all the members of the Transportation & Infrastructure SPC*).

Cllr. Donohue requested more clarity on this sub-committee, i.e., how often they meet and any updates on their work so far. Cllr. Roche advised that he is aware they have met at least once since their formation.

Cllr. Cuddy requested an update on the Galway to Claregalway Bus Corridor. Mr. Pender advised that there is a Section 85 Agreement in place with the City Council and that he will request an update from Galway City Council who are the lead authority.

ITEM NO. 3 – UPDATE ON INIS OÍRR PIER DEVELOPMENT

Sarah Silke, Executive Engineer attended the meeting to provide an update to the SPC committee on Inis Oírr Pier Development.

Mr. Pender wished to put on record his appreciation to Sarah Silke E.E. & Tom Prendergast S.E. for all their effort and hard work on behalf of GCC in progressing this development.

Committee members raised the following points and queries:

- Cllr. Donohue outlined that she would like to see a Master Plan developed for Rinville Pier in the near future.
- Mr. Kelly queried as to the level of storm protection and Ms. Silke advised that the Protection is for a 1 in 1 year storm event.

ITEM NO. 4 – UPDATE ON LOCAL TRANSPORT PLANS.

Kasia Garvey, Executive Engineer attended the meeting to provide an update to the SPC committee on Local Transport Plans and outline what is an LPT and why they are done.

Mr. Pender wished to put on record his appreciation to the entire Active Travel Team for all their work in developing and progressing the Local Transport Plans. The Active Travel Team are leading the delivery of LTPs and coordinate with other departments within GCC and with other stakeholders, like TII, CIE etc and the funding comes from the National Transport Authority. SYSTRA has been appointed for the delivery of LTPs and Transport Plan for County Galway.

Committee members raised the following points and queries:

- Cllr. Cuddy commented that it seems Claregalway has been omitted from these LTPs and wondered why considering the major traffic problems been experienced in Claregalway, while cycling and walking lanes are welcomed, he commented that same need to be separate.
- Cllr. Cuddy referred to the issues with E-Scooters and that legislation is required.
- Cllr. Cuddy advised that a regular public bus transport is needed.
- Cllr. Dolan outlined that he has concerns regarding smaller villages, that he is fearful they will be left behind and may not be able to apply for funding for future projects if there isn't a LTP done for smaller villages.
- Mr. Kelly concurred with Cllr. Dolan's comments and outlined that it is important that smaller towns are not forgotten.

- Cllr. Donohue commented that it is great to see the new footpaths that are been developed/upgraded in areas as part of Active Travel. She would like to see the hard shoulders made safer and kept in better condition and would like to see more synergy in this area.

Mr. Pender responded as follows to queries raised:

- There is a significant investment planned for Claregalway which has Part 8 approval and work has commenced in respect of site investigations.
- Bus services are provided by service providers with the consent of the NTA. The no. of services does not fall under the remit of the local authority.
- The Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023, which governs the use of e-scooters was signed in June, but he understands that regulations are awaited. This does not fall under the remit of the local authority.

Ms. Lowe responded as follows to queries raised:

- Claregalway is part of Galway Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan and is included in the County Development Plan.
- Local Transport Plans are required for larger towns and are aligned with Local Area Plans. Smaller towns and villages do not have Local Area Plans and do not require LPTs. This will not preclude those locations from active travel investment.
- The Regeneration team has a project prepared in respect of Athenry and work is continuing in respect of the development of a town regeneration project for Gort.

ITEM NO. 5 – UPDATE ON TAKING IN CHARGE

Edel Hourigan, Administrative Officer attended the meeting to provide an update to the SPC committee on Taking in Charge. She outlined staff structure and role of TIC and the process involved when a request to have services within a housing estate taken in charge by the local authority.

Mr. Pender thanked Ms. Hourigan and her team for their hard work, he commented that TIC is a minefield as there are a vast number of stakeholders that proactively engage in the process. He wished to highlight the need for members to be putting monies aside in the budget for funding for unfinished estates. He advised that the target is 12 per annum and 8 have been completed so far this year.

Cllr. Dolan, Cllr. Cuddy and Comh. Ó Curraoin thanked Ms. Hourigan for all the work that she has achieved and commented that she replies to all queries with an in-depth speedy reply and how she is always very forthcoming.

ITEM NO. 6 – SCHEDULE A DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Transportation & Infrastructure SPC was scheduled to be held 14th December 2023 at 10.00am


ITEM NO. 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr. Kelly addressed Mr. Pender regarding reply to correspondence he was awaiting in relation to a long-standing issue with regards to delineation of a public road and to erect a barrier to public right of way. Mr. Pender replied that this correspondence had been forwarded to the Municipal District Office for their attention and reply. He advised that he was satisfied with what he observed himself 18 months ago when he visited the area in question. Cllr. Kelly responded that this matter is still an ongoing issue.

The meeting concluded. Cllr. Roche, Chairperson thanked the committee members for their attendance.

Críochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

**Signed &
Approved by:**



Cllr. Peter Roche
Cathaoirleach
Transportation & Infrastructure S.P.C.

Date: 28/2/2024