

MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE
ON WEDNESDAY 6TH JULY 2022 AT 10.00am

I Láthair:

Baill: Cllr. Peter Roche (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Jim Cuddy
Cllr. Albert Dolan
Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin
Cllr. Gerry King
Cllr. Declan Kelly
Mr. Kenny Deery

Oifigi: Mr. Derek Pender, A/Director of Services, Roads & Transportation
Ms. Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Ms. Geraldine Byrne, Administrative Officer, Roads & Transportation
Ms. Paula Higgins, Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel
Mr. Padraic Wall, Executive Engineer, NRDO
Ms. Sajil Elwood, Assistant Staff Officer, Roads & Transportation

Apologies: Cllr. Geraldine Donohue
Mr. Diarmaid Kelly
Mr. Tom Madden

Absent: Mr. Martin Gibbons

Cllr. Roche began the meeting by addressing the issue of high absenteeism at the Transportation & Infrastructure SPC meetings. He expressed that the SPC needs engagement from its committee members and that if a committee member is not willing to do same, then a new committee member needs to be appointed in their place. The matter of high absenteeism is been investigated.

ITEM NO. 1 - MINUTES OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SPC MEETING HELD ON THE 20th APRIL 2022.

On the **Proposal** of Cllr. Jim Cuddy and **Seconded** by Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin, the minutes of the meeting of the Transportation & Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee held 20th April 2022 were agreed.

ITEM NO. 2 – MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Roche queried had responses been received from Minister Eamon Ryan TD in relation to the cancellation of bus route X20 and Minister Catherine Martin TD in relation to the signage at Baile Chláir/Claregalway.

Mr. Pender confirmed that no responses had been received, reminder letters have previously issued and confirmed further reminders will issue.

Mr. Pender referred to page 3 of the minutes in relation to Cllr. Donohue comments with regard to Stoney Island and Kilcolgan and clarified that the proposed Greenway routes are not going through zoned lands, they may be used for agricultural purposes but it is not zoned.

Cllr. Roche noted Cllr. Donohue's apologies at been unable to attend SPC meeting and advised that she requested him and Committee Members of the SPC to consider a Hybrid option. He commented that it was regrettable at present that this option is not available as the technology is currently not in place.

Cllr. King referred to the 2022 Local Improvement Scheme and amount of funding available. Mr. Pender advised that there is a supplementary list submitted to the Department and if a further allocation of funding is received, applications will be taken from this list in order of priority listing. Cllr. Cuddy commented in view of increasing costs and inflation will GCC be able to fully complete the LIS scheme. Mr. Pender advised that it is not the intention to eliminate anything from LIS scheme.

ITEM NO. 3 – UPDATE ON WORK PROGRAMME 2022

Ms. Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer presented and outlined to the committee members an update on roads work programme as of July 2022. Presentation was circulated to committee members via email also. She advised the committee that the major challenge facing the work programme was the inflation in costs of materials and labour.

Cllr. Roche thanked Ms. Lowe for her very informative presentation and commented that the standard of work been delivered is exceptional.

Mr. Pender thanked Ms. Lowe, the MD teams, Ms. Byrne and her team for their excellent work in continuing to deliver the works programme under the current pressures of dwindling resources both financially and human. He commented that due to everybody working in unison, the Roads Programme for 2022 will be completed.

Cllr. Cuddy, Cllr. Kelly and Comh. Ó Curraoin concurred Mr. Pender's comments. Cllr. Kelly advised that he works as a full-time elected representative and spends a lot of time travelling the roads of County Galway and finds them in excellent condition. Considering comments made a recent plenary meeting, Cllr. Kelly wished it would be recorded that

since he became an elected representative, he has had no time experienced any difficulties in contacting staff of GCC.

Cllr. King referred to the Community Involvement Scheme 2022 and queried where funding is received and who carried out these works. Ms. Lowe advised that the scheme is an element of the Roads Programme but has a separate funding resource and the work is carried out by the MD staff.

Cllr. Dolan thanked Ms. Lowe for works carried out at Furzypark and queried can constituents sign up to GCCs Map Alerter.

Cllr. Dolan raised the question with regard to notice of motion monies in relation to Works Programme, Councillors allocate their NOM funds and he would like to be kept updated how these allocated funds are used.

Ms. Lowe advised that the benefit of NOM funds is that it transfers from year to year as it is GCC own money, so the money allocated never disappears. She advised that a printout and update on funds allocated by each Councillor can be easily provided as the funds are managed internally.

Cllr. Roche queried the timescale for a new Job Code set up. Ms. Byrne replied that it usually is a quick process and if Cllr. Roche had a particular query she would investigate the matter.

ITEM NO. 4 – UPDATE ON N59 MOYCULLEN BYPASS

Mr. Padraic Wall, Executive Engineer presented and outlined to the committee members an update on N59 Moycullen Bypass. An handout was circulated to the committee.

Cllr. Roche thanked Mr. Wall for his very informative presentation. He asked was consideration given to a Pedestrian/Cyclist pathway. Mr. Wall advised that this scheme was developed some time ago and was not considered.

Mr. Pender thanked Mr. Wall for his presentation and advised that the proposed completion date is June 2023.

Cllr. King commented that it is a massive project and that the works done from Maam Cross to Bunnakill already have shortened the journey time. He asked will the peat be kept on site. Mr. Wall advised that the bulk of peat will be kept on site.

Mr. Deery acknowledged the massive work that has been carried out so far and stated that it will result in a huge boost to the business and tourist economy in that area, and looks forward to seeing the completed project in June 2023.

Cllr. Cuddy advised he was concerned about the huge cost of the project at €32m and it could rise higher. Mr. Pender advised that was a valid concern as that contract was signed before the rise in inflation and the Ukrainian War. He advised that the Government have drafted a Co-Operation Framework Agreement, which allows for GCC to claw back from government any costs that go over.

ITEM NO. 5 – UPDATE ON ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

Ms. Paula Higgins, Senior Executive Engineer presented an update on the Active Travel Scheme to the committee members.

Cllr. Cuddy referred to the issue of scooters been used on footpaths and that Traffic Management Plans need to be in tandem with Active Travel proposals.

Comh. Ó Curraoin queried is adequate funding in place to complete all projects.

Cllr. Kelly sought clarification was the Safe Route to School Programme a separate scheme from Active Travel Scheme and was this scheme still open to make an application. Ms. Higgins advised that this scheme is part of Active Travel and new applications can still be submitted.

ITEM NO. 6 – UPDATES ON N63 LISS TO ABBEY REALIGNMENT AND N17 MILLTOWN TO GORTNAGUNNED REALIGNMENT

Mr. Pender advised that in relation to the Milltown to Gortnagunned scheme confirmation was received from An Bord Pleanala on the 24th March 2022, that the one objection to the CPO had been withdrawn. GCC on the 28th April 2022 made a confirmation confirming the order in the Tuam Herald and Irish Independent as well as making available on the councils website and also writing to each landowner individually. With regards to planning permission the decision date was due 22nd June 2022 but was extended as required further consideration. New decision date is anticipated to be December 2022.

In relation to N63 Liss to Abbey scheme Mr. Pender advised that an application was lodged with An Bord Pleanala 25th February 2022 and six submissions were received. It is anticipated that an Oral Hearing will be held at start Q3 or Q4 and that a decision will be made by the end of the year.

ITEM NO. 7 – AGENDA FOR NEXT SPC & SCHEDULE A DATE FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING

It was agreed to hold the September meeting on Thursday 8th September 2022 at 10.00am.

ITEM NO 8. – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. King requested updates in relation to roadworks on N59 Lettergunnett to Oughterard and roadworks from Maam Cross to Clifden, Clifden to Leenane. He advised that there are a lot of issues with buses travelling on the roads in the Moyard area.

Cllr. Cuddy looked for an update in relation to Galway Ring Road. He referred to the issue of traffic congestion at Coláiste Claregalway and that the Oranmore Traffic Management Plan is needed to alleviate these problems.

Mr. Pender replied to Cllr. King and advised that planning permission has been granted for Maam Cross to Oughterard, the section Bunnakill to Oughterard has been completed and a temporary fence was erected at Claremount and Bunnakill. He advised the NPWS

have put a team of experts in place who are to agree the works with GCC. In relation to Maam Cross to Clifden this section was omitted from funding by the TII. With regard to Maam Cross to Leenane. Mr. Pender acknowledged that there is an issue with heavy goods and buses travelling on these roads and that no specified funding allocation has been received for North of Clifden.

Mr. Pender advised Cllr. Cuddy that 3 submissions were received under the judicial review of the Galway Ring Road. In relation to Oranmore Traffic Management Plan, the process of appointing consultants has begun, and it is hoped that contracts will be signed shortly.

Cllr. Roche, Cathaoirleach thanked the committee members for their attendance and concluded the meeting.

Críochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Signed & Approved by: 
Cllr. Peter Roche
Cathaoirleach
Transportation & Infrastructure S.P.C.

Date: 8/9/22

