

**Minutes of the Roads and Transportation, Strategic Policy Committee
meeting held on 14th February 2019 at 10.00 a.m.
Room GO1, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway.**

I Láthair:

Baill: Cllr. Michael Finnerty - Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Jim Cuddy
Cllr. Martina Kinane
Cllr. Michael Connolly
Cllr. Peter Roche
Comh. Seosamh Ó Cualáin
Mr. Bryan Egan
Mr. Mark Coffey
Mr. Michael Healy

Oifigi: Mr. Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Infrastructure and Operations Unit
Mr. Damien Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure and Operations Unit
Ms. Máire Ní Chionna, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure and Operations Unit
Ms. Eibhlin Curran, Administrative Officer, Infrastructure and Operations Unit

Absent: Cllr. Des Joyce, Cllr. Michael Maher and Mr. Tom Madden

In attendance for Item No. 3 (Dunkellin Drainage Project Update): Enda Gallagher,
A/Senior Executive Engineer, Infrastructure and Operations Unit

1. Minutes of meeting of Roads SPC held on 17th December 2018

On the proposal of Cllr. Kinane, and seconded by Cllr. Roche, the minutes of the meeting of the Roads, Transportation and Marine Strategic Policy Committee held on 17th December 2018 were agreed and adopted.

Matters arising from the minutes.

Cllr. Roche stated his discontent with the response from the TII in relation to signage for villages referring to the minutes of 17th of December 2018. Cllr. Cuddy stated that the signage on the roundabouts was inadequate. Cllr. Kinane expressed her discontent with signage to Oranmore.

Cllr. Kinane expressed discontent with the requirement on the revised 'Material Damages Claim Form' to attach a photograph of the damage, stating that the requirement is not highlighted sufficiently to claimants.

Cllr Kinane requested feedback from TII in relation to electronic signage and noted that the public continue to park along the yellow line in Oranmore and that enforcement is required. Cllr Kinane requested that the SPC contact the Traffic Corp to have this enforced. Cllr. Finnerty, Cathaoirleach, sought agreement from the meeting and added that it is possibly a matter for our own wardens. D. Mitchell stated that the wardens carry out regular patrols to congested areas however they have a large area to cover.

Cllr. Cuddy agreed that there is a problem in Oranmore with people parking on the yellow lines and this is an enforcement issue.

10.15 a.m. – Comh Seosamh Ó Cualáin arrived
10.16 a.m. - Mr. Michael Healy arrived

A response from Minister Seán Kyne of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht was read out by E. Curran regarding the request for bilingual signage at Baile Chláir /Claregalway.

Cllr. Cuddy stated his discontent with the response from the Department, he stated that he understood the necessity to have signage in Irish for Gaeltacht areas, but to avoid confusion, signage on approach roads and roundabouts in non-Gaeltacht areas should be bilingual. Cllr. Finnerty, Cathaoirleach, proposed a reply be issued to the Department; thanking them for their response and but also to disagree with their views on the matter. J. Cullen agreed that the question of changing the signs deserves to be asked.

Cllr. Roche stated that there is a drop of a foot leading off the roundabout adjacent to the motorway leading into the town of Gort that needs to be addressed. J. Cullen suggested that this to be raised with the Loughrea Municipal District.

2. i) National Road Grant Allocation 2019

J. Cullen stated that the allocation of €21.49m has been granted is similar to last year. There are many significant schemes such as:

- Galway City Ring Road which has been lodged with An Bord Pleanála. The deadline for submissions was the 24/12/2018. Submission are now being considered and we are awaiting an oral hearing date.
- TII are now the funding body for the Athlone to Galway Greenway, an allocation of €200k has been granted to start the scheme.
- The allocation for Claregalway Traffic Calming will see the project to construction stage this year

- Also mentioned are Moycullen By-Pass, Maam Cross to Bunnakill, N59 Widening at Letterfrack, and Ballinderreen to Kinvara.

J. Cullen stated that overall there has been a decent allocation for the National Roads for 2019.

Cllr. Connolly queried where will the Athlone to Galway Greenway office be based. J Cullen replied that it would not be based in the city but that Loughrea and Ballinasloe were being considered as possibilities to accommodate an office of approximately 10-12 people which would be in an easily accessed prominent location. Cllr. Connolly stated that Ballinasloe would be a viable option, having many suitable spaces and Cllr. Finnerty, Cathairleach, agreed with this suggestion.

Cllr. Roche queried if the N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment Scheme would go to CPO. J. Cullen replied that it would with an allocation greater than that of the €100k which is the current allocation.

In relation to the N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment Scheme J. Cullen stated; that despite works having finished there are on-going costs for 2019 and possibly 2020. Cllr Roche stated the drain in Ballyglunin is always full and questioned can this be rectified with this allocation. J. Cullen stated that he would look into this issue.

Cllr. Cuddy expressed his dissatisfaction with the plan for Claregalway stating that it doesn't reflect the opinions of the public, for example the removal of the pedestrian crossing at Hughes and the refusal to put traffic lights at the Claregalway Hotel. He stated the volume and demand require this to be addressed and that the bottleneck will get worse in Claregalway unless these issues are addressed. He suggested that a pelican crossing be put in place. J. Cullen stated that there are design standards to that have to be adhered to in relation to Claregalway, the issues can be raised during the Part VIII process possibly in March of this year. Cllr. Cuddy queried whether the TII are following their own agendas rather than the public's. J. Cullen reiterated that traffic standards can't be compromised and that issues can be raised during the Part VIII process. D. Mitchell agreed that safety standards must be met. Cllr. Finnerty, Cathairleach, agreed that the Part VIII allows for the public to have their say.

ii) Non-National Road Grant Allocation 2019

D. Mitchell summarised the table on Appendix 3, he highlighted that all the items will be addressed at each individual Municipal District Meeting.

Comh. Ó Cualáin thanked the Engineers for their work on the bridges but expressed his concerns that the list of bridges is not exhaustive and there are bridges that require attention. Cllr. Finnerty, Cathairleach, requested that Comh Ó Cualáin make a list of these bridges and should be forwarded to Máire Ní Chionna Senior Engineer for review.

Minutes of the Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee meeting
held on 14th February at 10.00 a.m.

Cllr. Roche stated his discontent with the CSO of figure for Abbeyknockmoy as being 262, he urged that this be revisited.

10.44 – Cllr. Roche left the meeting

Cllr. Connolly stated that more funding is required for bridges that remain a hazard - those that have low walls and that narrow in comparison to the road. He sought clarification in relation to Community Involvement Scheme allocations. D. Mitchell confirmed that the allocation for CIS at €630k in 2018; this is broken in to two amounts €400k for 2018 and €230k carried forward into 2019, with an additional funding of €316k for the supplementary CIS – which totals €546k for 2019.

Cllr. Cuddy queried the status of Local Improvement Schemes. D. Mitchell replied that there were two tranches last year and that works on the second tranche need to be completed by March 2019 before any further allocations can be assessed. Cllr. Finnerty, Cathaoirleach, expressed his thanks to everyone involved in the schemes. Cllr. Cuddy questioned whether people can apply now for LIS funding. D. Mitchell replied no as 2019 terms and conditions need to be clarified. Cllr. Connolly expressed his concern that applicants on the current waiting list for LIS funding are becoming wary of waiting. D Mitchell said that a cost benefit balance is required. That applications must be prioritised according to value for money and of the resulting benefit to the public. Cllr. Finnerty, Cathaoirleach, expressed his agreement. Cllr. Kinane voiced that people are watching the list and are not happy with new priority listing although it makes sense, and wanted it noted that people think that after they have been allocated LIS funding they presume their road can be taken in charge which is not always possible for example Cave, Clarenbridge – the locals were disappointed with the work that was carried out.

Cllr Kinane also queried could Notice of Motion monies be used for salt boxes, in relation to the salting of paths outside the four schools. Oranmore Community Development have indicated that they will salt. D. Mitchell responded that salt boxes have been provided in times of extreme weather.

M. Healy stated that there are holes on the road and grass growing in the middle of Lakeview/Molloughmore road – that the road needs attention as nothing has been done since the Rally.

Comh. Ó Cualáin expressed his concern that the LIS application window was short at only two weeks.

D. Mitchell reverted to the Regional & Local Road Allocation for 2019, and stated that in relation to the Discretionary Grant for 2019, it looks lower than 2018, but to recall that a once-off transfer of €1.2m from Restoration Improvement grant to Discretionary grant was approved in 2018. In terms of maintenance figures, we are no better off than last year. The total allocation has increased but the maintenance figures are the same.

3. Dunkellin Drainage Project Update

Enda Gallagher, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Infrastructure and Operations Unit provided a presentation of the Dunkellin Drainage Project.

Cllr. Kinane said that boundary changes have resulted in the Dunkellin project having an impact on her constituency. She stated that the information provided in relation to the project has been very informative.

4. Any Other Business

Comh. Ó Cualáin referred to the previous meetings held on the 17th of December 2018 stated that we should be investing in slipway/piers in coastal areas as there is growth in the seaweed industry and that we should be utilising our natural resources. Cllr. Finnerty, Cathaoirleach, said that he should provide a list for Máire Ní Chionna – Senior Engineer Infrastructure and Operations, for this issue.

Cllr. Connolly expressed his concern that the bridges in the County are in a state of collapse and would it be possible to obtain additional funding for their repair. J. Cullen replied that we have an extensive list of bridges – many of which need work. There is a budget of €700k and that this money will be used to repair the higher risk/heavily trafficked bridges.

Cllr. Connolly further expressed his concern that we are not repairing the bridges at the rate of deterioration. D. Mitchell replied that funding had been sought however the budget as outlined is the allocation that has been approved for 2019.

5. Date for next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee on Wednesday 17th April at 10.00 a.m.

Críochnaigh an cruinniú ansin.

11.40a.m.

Approved by 
Cllr. ~~Michael Finnerty~~ M. Connolly
Cathaoirleach
Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee

Date:

17/4/2019