

MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE
ON THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2022 AT 10.00am

I Láthair:

Baill: Cllr. Jim Cuddy (Acting Chairperson)
Cllr. Geraldine Donohue
Cllr. Albert Dolan
Cllr. Gerry King
Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin
Mr. Diarmaid Kelly
Mr. John Finn

Oifigí: Mr. Derek Pender, A/Director of Services, Roads & Transportation
Ms. Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Mr. Sean Breathnach, Senior Executive Engineer, NRDO
Ms. Geraldine Byrne, Administrative Officer, Roads & Transportation
Ms. Sajil Elwood, Assistant Staff Officer, Roads & Transportation

Apologies: Cllr. Peter Roche (Chairperson)
Cllr. Declan Kelly

Absent: Mr. Tom Madden
Mr. Kenny Deery

ITEM NO. 1 - MINUTES OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SPC MEETING HELD ON THE 8th September 2022.

On the **Proposal** of Cllr. Albert Dolan and **Seconded** by Cllr. Geraldine Donohue, the minutes of the meeting of the Transportation & Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee held 8th September 2022 were agreed.

ITEM NO. 2 – MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. King requested an update from Mr. Prendergast on when he might receive list of all Slipways in County Galway.

Mr. Kelly looked for an update as to how Objective MCC4 – Integrated Framework Management Plan of the County Development Plan is going to be put together and what is the pathway/timeframe and would the SPC be involved.

Mr. Pender advised that this plan is the responsibility of the Forward Planning Section

Cllr. Donohue looked for clarity on would she be receiving a refund of her NOM that she donated in relation to bridge works that were carried out.

ITEM NO. 3 – ISSUE WITH SIGNAGE FOR BAILE CHLÁIR/CLAREGALWAY

Cllr. Cuddy outlined the urgency for sign to be erected on motorway that would read "Baile Chláir na Gaillimhe" that was agreed by the Minister as advised to him by An Coiste Logainmneacha in correspondence received August 2022. Mr. Pender advised that he will liaise with TII to have the new signage erected.

ITEM NO. 4 – CLAREGALWAY RELIEF ROAD

Cllr. Cuddy outlined how a preferred route was established some time ago for the Claregalway Relief Road and the urgent need that this project is progressed.

Mr. Pender advised that he had received correspondence from the TII in both 2019 and 2021 which stated that the Claregalway Relief Road was not included in their current roads programme and is not part of the National Development Plan. He advised that funding for transport is predominantly going towards Active Travel and public transport as part of the National Development Plan but at the request of the SPC he would raise the issue with the Chief Executive of TII.

ITEM NO. 5 – UPDATE N17 MILTOWN TO GORTNAGUNNA REALIGNMENT

Mr. Sean Breathnach, SEE, NRDO presented and outlined to the committee members an update on N17 Milltown to Gortnagunna realignment which has recently been granted planning consent by An Bord Pleanála.

Mr. Pender stated how GCC are very proud of this scheme, as this scheme was put forward as a pilot scheme not to use design consultants and that the detailed design of this project was carried out by GCC staff. This resulted in saving money by using GCC own skill set.

ITEM NO. 6 – SUMMARY OF ROADWORKS PROJECTS COMPLETED TO DATE

Ms. Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer presented and outlined to the committee members an update on the Roadworks Projects completed to date for 2022.

Mr. Pender thanked Ms. Lowe for the update and commented that it was fairly evident the large number of projects that have been successfully completed with minimum resources throughout the county.

A discussion arose and the following points were raised:

- Cllr. Donohue PROPOSED writing to the Central Government seeking additional staffing and financial resources.
- Mr. Kelly looked for clarity in relation to drawdown of funding for Active Travel 2022.

- Mr. Kelly referred to the European Commission policy on “Protecting the Environment and Oceans with the Green Deal” their mission is to “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030” and outlined that there was potential with this policy for GCC to receive additional funding and advised that Cork County Council has already signed up.
- Cllr. Dolan queried what is the policy on dealing with contractors in relation to footpath completion and is there a timeframe in place.

ITEM NO. 7 – AGENDA FOR NEXT SPC & SCHEDULE A DATE FOR MARCH 2023 MEETING

It was agreed to hold the next SPC meeting on Thursday 16th March 2023 at 10.00am.

ITEM NO 8. – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Finn referred to the recent meeting which was held in relation to Galway Athlone Greenway. He advised that there is a perceived breakdown in communications between the landowners and GCC. He suggested that some landowners are not happy.

Mr. Pender commented that a workshop held in October 2022 had a very positive outcome. He advised that he accepts there are two to three locations where additional and ongoing engagement is required. Another workshop is to be held in January 2023.

A discussion arose, Cllr. Donohue raised her concerns regarding the meeting been postponed until January.

Mr. Kelly suggested that Public Workshops should be held as there is a lot of anxiety at present and the key is to engage with the landowners and the communities affected as there is a lot of scaremongering taken place.

Cllr. King referred to LIS scheme and raised concerns that roads upgraded under LIS were affecting decisions on planning applications. Mr. Pender advised that there was a condition in place up to 2021 that a road upgraded under this scheme, could not be taken in charge but this condition was omitted from 2022 scheme.

Cllr. Donohue raised the issue of traffic congestion in Galway and as a result busses are arriving late at their bus stops, and people are missing their connecting bus. A discussion arose regarding the issues Bus Eireann are experiencing.

Mr. Kelly proposed that the SPC as part of their function should create a Policy for Public Transport. This is to be discussed at next SPC meeting in March 2023.

Cllr. Cuddy, Acting Chairperson thanked the committee members for their attendance and concluded the meeting.

Criochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

**Signed &
Approved by:**


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

Date: 22/3/2023

