

MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
HYBRID MEETING HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE
ON WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2024 AT 10.00am

I Láthair:

Baill: Cllr. Peter Roche (Chairperson)
Cllr. Jim Cuddy
Mr. John Finn

Baill ar Líne: Cllr. Geraldine Donohue
Cllr. Gerry King
Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin
Cllr. Albert Dolan
Cllr. Declan Kelly
Mr. Diarmaid Kelly

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

Apologies: Mr. Tom Prendergast, Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation

Absent: Mr. Tom Madden
Mr. Kenny Deery

Cllr. Roche began the meeting by conveying his sympathy to the family and friends of the late Mr. Pat Hynes, former County Councillor of County Galway, on hearing the sad news that he had passed away that morning. This sympathy was echoed by all the members of the SPC. Mr. Pender conveyed his sympathy on his own behalf, and on behalf of the staff of Galway County Council. As a mark of respect on the passing of Mr. Pat Hynes a minute's silence was held.

ITEM NO. 1 - MINUTES OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SPC MEETING HELD ON THE 20th September 2023.

On the **Proposal** of Cllr. Cuddy and **Seconded** by Cllr. Kelly the minutes of the meeting of the Transportation & Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee held 20th September 2023 were agreed.

ITEM NO. 2 – MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

ITEM NO. 3 – DELEGATION TO MEET MINISTER HUMPREYS REGARDING LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME.

At the January 2024 Plenary Meeting it was agreed that the Transportation & Infrastructure SPC which has a member from each Municipal District on it would be the appropriate delegation to meet with Minister Humphreys and it was agreed the SPC would coordinate the request.

A discussion took place, and it was agreed that Councillor Peter Roche in his capacity as Chairperson of the SPC should be part of this delegation along with a representative from the Executive also. It was also agreed that an invitation be extended to the Municipal Districts on behalf of the SPC to nominate one representative.

ITEM NO. 4 – PRESENTATION IN RELATION TO “SHELTERED BUS STOPS IN COUNTY GALWAY”

Donna Gibbons, Executive Engineer attended the meeting to provide an update to the SPC committee on this item.

Cllr. Dolan commented that throughout the County we are seeing Bus Services being upgraded, which is resulting in the public querying when the bus shelters will be provided and looked to know what the timeframe is in the delivery of these bus shelters.

Ms. Lowe responded that there are challenges involved in this delivery as some individuals do not wish to have these bus shelters in front of their premises or property. She advised that it is hard to give a timeframe on delivery as the provision of each Bus Shelter gives its own problems.

Cllr. Cuddy queried is their priority given the class of road as to whether it is a regional or national road.

Ms. Lowe advised that it doesn't matter if it is a regional or national road, if on a national road the Council will co-ordinate with the National Roads Project Office (NRDO). She advised that there is a minimum threshold of 5 bus stops on a route.

Cllr. Cuddy referred to an area in Cloonacauneen, Claregalway where the bus presently stops, that is not a designated bus stop, could a bus shelter be provided at this location?

Ms. Gibbons responded that these bus shelters can only be provided on existing bus routes and where existing bus stops are located. If an area wishes to request a bus to stop at a new location, they must make an application to the National Transport Authority (NTA) as they are the licensing authority. Galway County Council's remit is to look at location and assess if it is safe location.

Ms. Lowe clarified that the same application process for a new stop applies to all bus operators i.e., CIE and private bus operators.

Cllr. Roche referred to two locations where the bus stops at Abbeyknockmoy and Finn's Cross and advised that neither location has a bus shelter. He queried as this is smaller bus service than other routes and if to qualify for a bus shelter you must have 5 stops on a bus service, does that mean a bus shelter cannot be provided?

Ms. Lowe replied that the NTA are constantly changing and refining their guidelines, and that a case can be made with the NTA for certain areas as the service is rolled out.

Mr. Kelly welcomed this program of works and commented that anything that is done to encourage the use of public transport is welcome. He queried how many bus stops are involved in this round of funding.

Comh. Ó Curraoin commented that in South Connemara at present there is 2 bus shelters and advised that more are required as he receives a lot of complaints in relation to the Barna and Spiddal areas.

Ms. Gibbons replied to Mr. Kelly and advised that there are 12 bus stops as part of the first round of funding.

ITEM NO. 5 – THAT SIGNAGE BE PUT IN PLACE ON ALL LOCAL ROADS WITH NUMBERS – PROPOSED BY CLLR. DONOHUE.

Cllr. Cuddy raised the issue on behalf of Cllr. Donohue. Cllr. Donohue is proposing that all public roads be numbered and that green bollards be provided on regional roads.

Mr. Pender advised that there is no funding provision in the budget for road signage indicating road numbers. In respect of the numbering of roads, all roads in the charge of the council are numbered and added to a GIS database when taken in charge. He noted that if such signage were to be provided; there are potentially hundreds of local road junctions that would require that signage. This would absorb a very significant amount of money for each municipal district. Furthermore, the task would require significant input of staffing resources to manage and implement the proposal on the ground. Some of the attendees present referenced that road users tend to navigate using Eircodes, rather than road numbers. A brief mention was made of the posting of green bollard junction delineators; the Director confirmed that these are only installed at junctions on national roads.

Cllr. Cuddy queried could a Notice of Motion be put forward to seek this funding from the TII or the Department and Cllr. Roche advised that it would be best to bring this item to a Plenary meeting.

ITEM NO. 6 – SCHEDULE A DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Transportation & Infrastructure SPC was scheduled to be held 18th April 2024 at 10.00am

ITEM NO. 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Finn referred to the recent demonstrations that were staged by the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) around the country in solidarity with EU farmers protesting about regulation and income pressure. He outlined that there is frustration among the Irish Farmers at present especially in relation to the planning application process. He commented that all local authorities seem to have different regulations, and this is very frustrating.

Mr. Finn referred to Derrydonnell Cross and commented how it is a very dangerous junction and the speed limit is too high.

Cllr. Dolan referred to the recent funding allocation to make Derrydonnell Cross a safer junction and asked if Mr. Pender could advise what is the best approach to take to achieve this, he suggested the possibility of introducing traffic calming measures or gates?

Mr. Pender replied that as this road is a regional road, he would investigate the situation at this location.

Mr. Kelly welcomed the funding that was recently announced for the development of new Wastewater Treatment Plants for Craughwell and Clarinbridge. As part of this new infrastructure and to help in preventing pollution he suggested that Galway County Council should be looking at forming a policy in dealing with animal waste treatment, e.g., biogas treatment.

Cllr. Roche advised Mr. Kelly as this is an environmental issue, he would need to refer his proposal to the Planning, Environment & Agriculture SPC for their consideration.

Cllr. Cuddy looked for an update on the appointment of new traffic warden. Mr. Pender advised that funding has been set aside for this new position and that they are presently waiting on the Strategic Work Force Plan to be signed off before any new appointments are made.

Cllr. Cuddy addressed the issue of illegal dumping on the N6 and what can be done to alleviate this issue.

Cllr. Roche replied that this work will have to be driven by Community Volunteers and that registration for the National Spring Clean 2024 is now open and applications can now be made to the Environment Section.


Mr. Pender advised that this would be his last SPC meeting as he will be resigning from Galway County Council shortly to take up a new position with another local authority. He thanked the SPC Committee for their professionalism over the last three years.

Cllr. Roche thanked Mr. Pender on behalf of the SPC committee for all his hard work and commented that he was a pleasure to work alongside and was always very reachable over the last three years and wished him well in his new position.

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

Críochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

**Signed &
Approved by:**


Cllr. Jim Cuddy
Acting Cathaoirleach
Transportation & Infrastructure S.P.C.

Date: 29/4/24