

Transport Strategic Policy Committee

Thursday 16th December @9.30am

Present:

Cllr Frank Fahy Chairman TSPC	Ms Elaine Brick Bus./Commercial Sector	Cllr Alan Cheevers Councillor GCC	Cllr Colette Connolly Councillor GCC
Cllr Mike Cubbard Councillor GCC	Mr Shane Foran Community Network	Mr Pat Hardiman ICTU	Cllr Peter Keane Councillor GCC
Cllr Niall Murphy Councillor GCC	Mr Paul O'Donnell Community Network		

In Attendance:

Mr Uinsinn Finn Senior Engineer	Mr Patrick Greene Director of Services	Ms Anne Ruane Admin. Officer GCC	Mr Micheal Cormican Executive Engineer GCC
Ms Arlene Finn Admin. Officer GCC	Mr Michael Lally Executive Engineer GCC	Mr Fran McEvoy Snr. Exec. Engineer GCC	Mr Colm O'Riordan Snr. Exec. Engineer GCC
Mr James Farrell Executive Engineer GCC	Ms Aoife Keane Clerical Officer GCC		

Apologies:

Cllr Clodagh Higgins Councillor GCC	Cllr Noel Larkin Councillor GCC		
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Item:

Chairman Cllr Frank Fahy welcomed the Transport SPC members and Council Officials to the meeting which was held in the City Council Chamber and on the Zoom platform. Cllr Frank Fahy noted apologies from Cllr. Clodagh Higgins and Cllr. Noel Larkin. The Chair reminded all of the GCC protocol regarding the use of teleconferencing and video conferencing.

Cllr Frank Fahy re-iterated the need to keep to the agreed timeline so the agenda could be completed in time.

1. Minutes of meeting 9th November 2021

The minutes of the Transport SPC meeting dated the 9th November 2021 were proposed by Cllr Niall Murphy and seconded by Shane Foran.

2. Matters arising

- As a point of clarification from the previous meeting, Cllr Niall Murphy stated that Browne Roundabout was referred to as treacherous for cyclists not the Kirwan roundabout.

- Following a discussion on protocol and transparency in relation to the Transport SPC meetings, it was proposed by Cllr. Colette Connolly and seconded by Paul O'Donnell that a proposal be forwarded to the Corporate Policy & Procedures Committee to have the following raised:
 - Public access at virtual meetings.
 - Meetings being recorded and made available on City Council Website.

3. Kirwan Junction Feedback

Uinsinn Finn, Senior Engineer responded to the feedback given by councillors at the last meeting:

- All points made by councillors have been noted and their feedback has been taken on board by the Engineers involved for the Kirwan Junction.
- The next traffic count in Monument Road will take place in January / February 2022.
- Traffic volumes are back up to pre-Covid levels in Galway City so traffic heavy across the whole city, not just passing through the Kirwan Junction.
- This junction was designed primary objectives to improve safety of pedestrians and cyclists in mind.
- The designated cycle lanes on the Bodkin junction are not segregated from traffic and so cyclists travel alongside traffic. The Kirwan junction has fully separated cycle lanes due to change standards by the Department. It was pointed out that while some cyclists would prefer to go through the junction with traffic but this new junction system allows children, elderly cyclists to use the junction safely.
- The Kirwan Roundabout project went through the Part 8 Planning and an Oral Hearing process

Under clarification, further points were raised and were answered by the Senior Engineer and Director of Service.

4. Martin & Browne Roundabout Presentation & Feedback

Following a discussion it was agreed that the Martin and Browne Roundabout presentation would be heard followed by questions. This to be done within the 15 minutes time scheduled.

Following the presentation given by Michael Cormican, Executive Engineer on the Martin roundabout and Colm O'Riordan, Senior Executive Engineer, on the Browne Roundabout, the following queries were raised.

Browne Roundabout:

- Request for short term improvements such as Zebra Crossings and shared spaces to the existing Browne Roundabout, before the redesign to a junction.
- Crossings at Corrib Park could be a short term measure.
- Query re one of the options involves going through Shantalla Park.
- More provisions and modifications for cyclists be incorporated into the design, especially for more vulnerable cyclists' i.e. older or younger ones.
- Query why Browne should be replaced by a junction at all.

Martin Roundabout.

- Design of Martin Roundabout not an appropriate design for that location.
- Concerns raised re overall junction itself.

In reply the following was noted.

The process for arriving at the preferred option for the Browne Roundabout would be similar to the process for the Kirwan roundabout. The Browne roundabout would have a greater public transport provision compared to the Kirwan Roundabout as this project forms part of the Cross City Link where bus routes would be brought through the hospital grounds. Contact would be made with TII Road Safety Engineer to come and discuss short term measure for the provision of a pedestrian crossing at this location

Following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Connolly that the Galway City Council address the safety issues for pedestrians and cyclists at the Browne Roundabout. This was seconded by Cllr. Cubbard.

In relation to the Martin roundabout it was pointed out that the roundabout is not being upgraded to a junction to improve traffic flow, the objective was safety of road users. This junction will improve connectivity to Ardaun which will facilitate future development. A further junction from Martin to Ardaun is being considered and this junction will be used primarily for cars, whilst the other junction will be reserved for Public transport, cyclists and pedestrians.

It was agreed that a copy of the modelling for Kirwan be circulated to members and it was noted that modelling has not yet been carried out for the Browne Roundabout.

5. Update on Active Travel Scheme

Following a discussion it was agreed that this item would be taken at the next Transport SPC meeting on the 8th February, 2022.

6. Work Programme & SPC Schedule 2022

The following schedule of Transport SPC meeting for 2022 was proposed by Cllr. Colette Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Frank Fahy.

- Tuesday the 8th February, 2022 at 9.30am to 11.30am
- Tuesday the 10th March, 2022 at 9.30am to 11.30am
- Tuesday the 13th September, 2022 at 9.30am to 11.30am
- Tuesday the 8th November, 2022 9.30am to 11.30am

Following a discussion on the Work Programme for 2022, a request was made to have this item carried over to the next meeting of the SPC.

7. Gluas Presentation

Cllr Frank Fahy welcomed Brendan Holland, Brendan Mulligan & Grace Fox to the meeting. Cllr Frank Fahy went through the protocol regarding the use of teleconferencing and video conferencing.

Brendan Holland thanked the SPC members for adding this extra meeting to the 2021 schedule of SPC's. As the chair of the Gluas committee, he is here to ask the members of the Transport SPC to champion the Gluas.

Following the presentation the members expressed their thanks to the Committee and the following motion was proposed by Cllr. Colette Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Frank Fahy.

That the Transportation SPC recommend to Council to include a specific objective in the City Development Plan (2023 – 2029) to undertake a feasibility study of very light rail for Galway City.

It was noted that Cllr. Frank Fahy was going to Coventry to represent the SPC at his own expense to view their very light rail system. It was suggested that Senior Members of staff from Galway City Council accompany the Gluas team on their visit to Coventry. It was noted that the Gluas Committee met with Minister Hildegarde Naughton and are also in negotiations with the NTA and the Oireachtas Transport Committee.

Brendan Holland noted that he is available to talk to the full Council at any time. He confirmed that the date for the trip to Coventry will be on the 28th January 2022. He agreed to send a soft copy of the presentation to be forwarded to the SPC members.

8. AOB

Cllr Frank Fahy raised the issue of trucks damaging the School road and noted that road users do not feel safe on this road due to the heavy traffic. He will forward the email he received on this.

Cllr Frank Fahy wished everyone a Happy Christmas and thanked all GCC staff, Councillors and SPC members.

Next meeting: Tuesday 8th February 2022 @9.30am

Signed:

Councillor Frank Fahy
Chair Transport SPC