



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

8th November, 2021.

To the Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

**Chairperson's Report of the Travel & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee Meeting
of 19th October, 2021.**

The Chair, Cllr. Leddin opened the Meeting and proposed moving Item 4 on the agenda to Item 1 to facilitate the online attendance of the CEO and Deputy CEO of the NTA.

Item 1: Limerick Shannon Metro Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) Update

CEO of the NTA, Ms. Anne Graham thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address Limerick's Travel and Transportation SPC on the latest status of LSMATS. Deputy CEO, NTA, Mr. Hugh Cregan then gave an update on the status of LSMATS. He confirmed that 112 submissions were received following the first draft of LSMATS and these submissions provided valuable feedback. The NTA are working through issues raised including rail network matters identified by the Minister for Transport. He outlined that a number of elements have to be added into the strategy including alignment with the Climate Action Plan, which is due to be finalised in the next few weeks. LSMATS will follow and will be fully aligned with all current policies. It is hoped that LSMATS will be finalised in December and that a second public consultation will commence in January 2022.

The Members thanked the NTA for the update and the chair opened the floor to Questions. In response to Questions Mr. Cregan added the following:

- The overall Limerick Rail Network is being examined and there is a possibility of a more comprehensive commuter rail network in the strategy;
- In terms of funding for LSMATS projects, this is managed by Central Government and agreed with Members that funding will be difficult in the absence of a published LSMATS;
- Prioritisation of projects will be determined by the National Development Plan 2030.

Mr. Kennedy added the Council works very closely with the NTA regarding Active Travel Schemes and that there is great momentum behind Active Travel Schemes and that these schemes will be complementary to LSMATS. He gave examples of Active Travel schemes such

as the recently opened Castletroy Urban Greenway, and the fully segregated cycleways on Dooradoyle Road and Groody Road.

The Chair then thanked Ms. Graham and Mr. Cregan for addressing the concerns of the SPC Members and said he looked forward to the second public consultation in January 2022.

Item 2: Adopt Minutes of Travel and Transportation SPC Meeting of the 20th April 2021

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee held on the 19th July 2021 were proposed by Cllr. O'Donovan, seconded by Cllr. Secas and adopted.

Item 3: Dockless Bike Hire Scheme - Peter Williams, A/Administrative Officer:

Mr. Williams delivered a presentation on a potential Dockless Bike Hire Scheme for Limerick City and Environs and outlined the current schemes operating in Ireland. He also outlined the benefits and challenges of dockless bike hire schemes generally and added that a dockless bike hire scheme would be complimentary to the existing NTA Coke-Zero docked bike share scheme in Limerick. Mr. Williams advised that the next stage in the process is to draft Bye laws for the control of dockless bike hire schemes and commence a public consultation on the bye-laws.

The Chair thanked Mr. Williams for the presentation and opened the floor to questions and comments. In Response to questions, Mr. Williams added the following:

- LCCC is engaging with Dublin City Council for advice and lessons learned from the operation of their Dockless Bike Hire Schemes;
- The Council will be liaising with the NTA to consider if there is a need to have additional bike stands installed in advance of introducing the scheme;
- The size of the city and population dictates the number of operators required and based on the city's population it is proposed to initially licence one operator only;
- Tribikes and Cargo Bikes will be considered but are dependent on the licensee having a fleet of these bikes. It is intended that there will be no stipulation as to the type of shared bike that the operator can offer i.e. manual pedal bikes or electric bikes or a combination of the two;
- Timeframe: 1st Stage - brief the Travel and Transportation SPC and Metro Councillors and draft bye-laws (November). 2nd stage - Public Consultation on draft bye-laws (December/January); 3rd Stage - report on public consultation; byelaws presented to Council for adoption; Competition for operator's licence in tandem (March/April 2022).

Item 4: Greenway Update / Approving Authority – Brian Kennedy

Mr. Kennedy gave an update on the approving authority for Greenways and advised that Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) will be taking over the administration and development of Greenway schemes from the Department of Transport going forward and this will be managed in Limerick through the Mid West National Road Design Office (MWNDRDO). There will be a requirement for the MWNDRDO to comply with TII guidelines and spending codes going forward.

The Chair thanked Mr. Kennedy for the update and opened the floor for discussion. In response to questions posed by the Members, Mr. Kennedy added the following:

- Several routes will be considered for segregated cycleways and that Greenways will have a similar approval process to existing TII road projects.
- In relation to a feasibility report for the UL to Montpelier greenway, Mr. Kennedy agreed to address this in the Director's report as part of the December Travel and Transportation SPC Meeting.
- The Community Development Directorate will continue to manage the Rathkeale to Abbeyfeale Greenway.
- The Rathkeale to Limerick Greenway is at a preliminary stage and will be linked to the Active Travel network while some of the greenway routes will be incorporated into CFRAMS projects.
- Such projects will be subject to a process involving an Environmental Impact Assessment and An Bord Pleanála approval and that all schemes have the potential to be referred for judicial review.

Item 5: Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. S. Hartigan (referred from Metro Meeting)

"I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that driver feedback signs are adapted to log the speeds detected in order to identify how serious the problem of speeding is in particular areas and ascertain areas where speed reduction measures need to be introduced."

In a written response Mr. Kennedy stated that:

"Driver Feedback signs are used as a traffic calming device in Limerick City and County Council and are currently not used to log traffic and speed data. We will review our current infrastructure in this regard to determine the feasibility of the proposed adaptations."

Limerick City and County Council Adopted a Traffic Calming Policy in March 2018. This Policy requires that a speed survey is undertaken in the area of interest for a period of 24 hours or more. The 85th percentile of the observed speed is then compared to the posted speed limit in the area and a determination is made on whether traffic calming measures are warranted. These speed surveys are carried out using mobile equipment that is set up for a number of days in the area of interest, primarily residential areas.

Limerick Metropolitan District is currently in the process of training additional staff members in the use of this mobile equipment and intends to purchase another unit in the near future. This methodology is considered the most appropriate means of identifying areas where speed reduction measures are required”.

Cllr. Hartigan stated that collecting data from driver feedback signs can be useful to find ways to solve traffic calming problems. He asked if a pilot speed survey could be undertaken and identified the Cappamore Road for the pilot. Mr. McGrath agreed to explore the possibility of undertaking this pilot.

Cllr. Secas seconded the motion and added that data collected would inform traffic calming measures. Cllr. Novak also supported the motion.

The Chair then brought the meeting to a close and thanked all for attending. He confirmed that the next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 14th December 2021 at 3:30pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Chairperson of the Travel & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee