



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City**  
& County Council

10<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**To the Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council  
Chairperson's Report of the Travel & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee Meeting  
of 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022.**

**Item 1: Briefing on the published Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) – NTA**

Mr. Hugh Creegan and Mr. David Clements from the NTA delivered a presentation on the published LSMATS outlining the background, the strategy, the implementation plans and the strategy outcomes.

The members thanked the NTA for the presentation and raised the following comments/questions:

- Can funding for projects be ring fenced in the implementation plan
- The status of the city traffic management plan.
- What is the funding source for maintenance of the Park & Ride infrastructure.
- The distribution vehicles for the TFI Bikes are currently diesel run vans in Limerick.
- The lack of connectivity between the Active Travel schemes.
- Rapid Transit system would be an advantage and would make the Park and Ride more viable.
- Update on a Ring Road to continue from Coonagh / Knocklisheen to Annacotty
- HGVs are toll free in the Dublin Port Tunnel; can this be examined for Limerick.
- The flexibility of the strategy in relation to the cycling network, how do we ensure it is delivered in a timely manner.
- What can be achieved by rail link with Shannon Airport.
- The omission of the LNDR
- The provision of bus shelters and RTPI signage.

In response, Mr. Creegan added the following points:

- LSMATS is a strategy document as against an implementation plan. The NTA can give guidance on the sequencing of projects, but implantation is a matter for the Council. Certain funds are ring fenced i.e. €350m p.a. for Active Travel for distribution.
- The NTA will progress the Traffic Management Plan in conjunction with the upcoming BusConnects project.

- It is not beneficial to have Park and Rides if there is not a more comprehensive Bus Service network in place. The maintenance of same will be raised at National level.
- The TFI bike scheme will be retendered in 18 months' time and the use of an electric distribution vehicle will be included as part of the contract.
- With regard to connectivity of Active Travel schemes, the Council in conjunction with the NTA has identified a core bike network and the most important routes will be developed first.
- High frequency Bus Transport achieves the same as Rapid Transit vehicles.
- Dublin port tunnel was built to facilitate HGVs and these HGVs still pay tolls on M50.
- All routes on Cycle network are indicative and flexible.
- There are benefits of rail to Shannon airport but delivery is some years away yet.
- Removal of LNDR from strategy was on direction of the Minister – The LSMATS is a strategy looking to the future.
- If a location is important enough to put in Bus Shelter, then RTPI signs will be integrated in new bus shelters.

### **Item 2: Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> October were proposed by Cllr. D. McSweeney, seconded by Cllr. M. Ryan and adopted.

### **Item 3: EV Strategy Presentation – Draft 1 – Mr. John McCarthy, Arups**

Mr. John McCarthy delivered a presentation on EV strategy and explained that Arup was asked to develop an Electric Vehicle Charge Point strategy for Limerick City and County Council. He include a pilot proposal of 13 locations for EV charging points within County Limerick.

The members thanked Mr. Mc Carthy for the presentation and raised the following comments/questions:

- Can Patrickswell be included on the list for charging points.
- Where will the pilot site be located at Castletroy College.
- Will EV laneways on motorways be included in the Plan for the strategy in Ireland.
- Will the ESB have the monopoly on charging costs as competition is needed.
- Is it the Gardaí or LA who enforce parking at EV charging points
- Locations can be poorly lit and should be addressed
- Charging for terraced houses is probably the most difficult for home charging
- Are E Bikes accommodated at charging points
- When is the next phase for additional EV locations in Limerick

In response, Mr. Gallagher added the following:

- With regard to the inclusion of Patrickswell in the list for charging points, separate discussions will take place with Cllr. D. McSweeney on this matter.
- The pilot site location map with regard to Castletroy College map will be forwarded to Cllr. Secas who requested this information.

- EV laneways have been trialled elsewhere with mixed outcomes.
- Installing ducting can readily be done by an LA however, running charging stations requires a big resource and this will be left to the market to decide.
- The policing of parking at EV stations will be investigated.
- Charging points should be well lit and this will be addressed.
- Charging for E Bikes is not currently accommodated at charging points, but may be considered in the future.
- The process in relation to terraced houses can be examined in more detail.

Mr. McCarthy also added that there are a number of different providers in the market, so there is healthy competition.

In relation to the next phase, the success of the 13 proposed locations on the list will dictate the market. The success will also be dependent on securing funding.

**Item 4: Update on trip to Holland – Mr. Sean McGlynn**

Mr. McGlynn delivered a presentation on a recent trip to Utrecht city in the Netherlands and described the city as a world leader in bicycle parks and facilitating cyclist innovative ways.

The members thanked Mr. McGlynn for the presentation.

**Item 5: Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Martin Ryan**

I ask this SPC to engage with the Minister for Transport asking that any civil works due on the Limerick/Foynes Rail Line reinstatement will future proof the line to become a dual line. I ask this to prevent incurring extra costs at later stages.

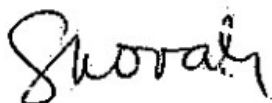
Cllr. McSweeney seconded the Notice of Motion.

Mr. Kennedy advised that a request can be made to invite Ianrod Éireann and Shannon Foynes Port Company to a future SPC Meeting as requested by the members.

**Recommendation from Travel and Transportation SPC:**

That Limerick City and County Council contact the Minister for Transport asking that any civil works due on the Limerick/Foynes Rail Line reinstatement will future proof the line to become a dual line.

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**Saša Novak**

**Chairperson of the Travel & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee**