



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

9th March, 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 21st February 2023.**

Item 1: Minutes:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee held on 20th December were proposed by Cllr. McSweeney, seconded by Cllr. Leddin and adopted.

Item 2: To confirm proposed dates for Travel & Transportation SPC Meetings for 2023

Tuesday 20th June 2023

Tuesday 17th October 2023

Tuesday 12th December 2023

The above dates were proposed by Cllr. McSweeney, seconded by Cllr. Teefy and agreed. It was also proposed and agreed to change the times of the 2023 SPC Meetings from 3:30pm to 3:00pm.

Item 3: LSMATS Supporting Measures Update

- Park and Ride
- Dockless and TFI Bike Schemes
- Safe Routes to School Programme
- EV Strategy
- Bike Week
- Wayfinding Project

Item 3: - Park and Ride

Ms. N. McGarry delivered a presentation on Park and Ride. The members thanked Ms. McGarry and sought clarification on the following:

- Are there any issues with zoning in relation to the high-tech companies in Raheen Business Park.
- A holistic approach is required i.e., Infrastructure needs to be in place i.e., bike facilities

- Are sites for park and ride state owned or will CPO be required
- Is Park & Ride identified in Ballysimon and what is the timeframe.
- What is the update for the Castletroy area
- Regarding the train station in Moyross is there a proposal to do Park & Ride there.

In response to questions, Mr. Kennedy added the following –

- Lands at Raheen business park are zoned High Tech/Manufacturing in the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028
- BusConnects is going to public consultation. It will be launched tomorrow, the 22nd February in Limerick and is a very important step. The executive is also working with the NTA to identify sites and hoping to progress.
- Regarding Castletroy, Junction 28 will have to go through the planning process. The NTA want to advance and is a positive step.
- It is a holistic approach, there are alternatives like a dockless bike system in place in Castletroy area and there will be various models in the coming years.
- Sites for Park and Ride are in private ownership and a funding model will have to be identified.
- Ballysimon is identified in the Transport Strategy. Irish Rail is looking at dual tracking from Limerick junction to Colbert station. As Environmental Assessment and design is required, there is currently no timeframe.
- There are constraints in the Moyross site, but main parking is at Coonagh site. Road Park & Ride is being examined in the area and in vicinity of Coonagh. Its aim will be to develop and serve the community.

The Chair added that it might make it more viable if we look at alternatives. Mr. Gallagher stated that Park & Ride will be very important in Limerick but only if people have confidence in it. Bus connects will propose higher frequency for bus routes. LSMATS says future Road Park and Ride will take account of dual rail and bus travel in future and will have a holistic view on it.

Item 3: - Dockless and TFI Bike Schemes

Ms. K. McDonnell delivered a presentation on Dockless and TFI Bike Schemes. The members thanked Ms. McDonnell for the presentation and highlighted the following points during discussion: -

- Members agreed that the fee of €5 charge was excessive for a student
- Maintenance of TFI stations in Limerick is poor and unreliable and this should be communicated back to TFI Bikes.
- The closest TFI site to the new Campus on Sarsfield Street is on Henry Street, which is unsafe to park. Relocating should be addressed.

- The dockless bike pilot in Castletroy, would run a lot better in the city and the nature of city living would benefit.
- There is a need to put in extra bike stands
- What is the outcome of the pilot and when will Dockless Bicycle Hire Scheme be in the city.

In response Ms. McDonnell advised the following -

- It is intended to extend the Dockless Bike Scheme to the city centre with agreement with the NTA.
- The pricing is an indicative price 'pay as you go' price and there will be subsidies available for students. It is usually €1 to unlock and a fee per minute.
- The team is currently looking at key locations for parking of dockless bikes, Castletroy, Annacotty, National Technology Park, shopping centres & playgrounds.

Item 3: - Safe Routes to School Programme

Ms. K. McDonnell delivered a presentation on Safe Routes to School. The Chair thanked Ms. McDonnell for the presentation and the work on the scheme to date. The members asked about the timeline for Round 3 and if the scheme is going to re-open.

Ms. McDonnell advised that there will be consultation in the late spring with schools and parents and is anticipated that Round 3 will be announced in the autumn nationally. She also added that the SRTS has advised that they will not be reopening for new applications in the short term.

Item 3: - EV Strategy

Mr. John O'Leary delivered a presentation on EV Strategy. The members thanked Mr. O'Leary for the presentation and were very pleased to see extra charging points in the county and city area.

Mr. O'Leary added that the draft EV Strategy will be issued for consideration during Q1 2023. The final strategy is expected Q2 2023 with an implementation plan to follow.

The Chair asked if the stations listed in the presentation are part of the national strategy. Mr. O'Leary advised that the sites listed are part of the pilot project. He added that civil works (ducting and cabling) will commence in the coming weeks with completion by the end of the summer. The next step is to procure and appoint an operator by end of the year.

Item 3: - Bike Week

Ms. K. McDonnell delivered a presentation on Bike Week Event for 2023, which will run from Saturday 13th to Sunday 21st May.

The members thanked Ms. McDonnell for the presentation and sought clarification on the following: -

- Who can apply and will there be notification of grants
- How the grant process works and if funding can be obtained ahead of event.

In response, Ms. McDonnell added the following:

- Bike Week will be advertised on the Council website and is open to community groups.
- The grant is usually €500 per group with a guideline of €10 per person participating in the event.
- Funding cannot be obtained ahead of the event as receipts need to be submitted before funding can be processed.

Item 3: - Wayfinding Project

Mr. Shane Farrell delivered a presentation on the Wayfinding Project

The Chair thanked Mr. Farrell for the presentation and commended the work on the project.

The members raised the following queries -

- When decluttering of signs takes place can tree cages also be examined
- The future proofing of project - will signage be dated in future years
- As there is now more information online, are we cluttering our outdoor areas with signage.

In response to questions raised, Mr. Farrell added the following -

- Tree cages will also be examined.
- Certain future proofing can be built into signs as city changes. Signs can be easily printed and updated.
- Signs are consistent with the branding of Limerick – the green signs have a right to stand as sculpture and are attractive.
- Brand should have longevity and the recent branding of Adare was referenced, which is built into the Limerick Development Plan.

Item 4: Review of Budget Allocations for 2023:

Ms. N. McGarry delivered a presentation on Budget Allocations for 2023 from the Department of Transport, the National Transport Authority and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

The members thanked Ms. McGarry for the presentation and raised the following questions:

- Request for an updated detail list of Active Travel Schemes to be circulated
- Update on the Traffic Management Plan
- Timeline for the works at the Mackey Roundabout.

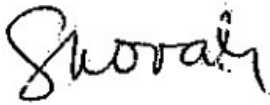
- The local and regional roads allocation for the county compared to last year.

In response, Mr. Kennedy added the following -

- A detailed update on Active Travel Projects will be circulated to members by email.
- The Traffic Management Plan ran parallel with BusConnects, which will be launched tomorrow, the 22nd February. Routes have been identified and this will have a huge impact on transport schemes.
- €50k was allocated this year for Junction 28. It is hoped to appoint consultants this year to advance design. The crossing of the Mulcair will require an EIA and there is a lot of work to be done. A timeline is not available at present.
- The DoT allocation for Local and regional roads is similar to last year and Municipal meetings will be scheduled over the coming months. The NTA committed to a number of AT schemes in excess of €900k in each district and the Directorate will continue to work with the NTA during the year.

The Chair thanked the presenters and members for their contribution. The meeting then concluded.

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Saša Novak

Chairperson of the Travel & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee