



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City**  
& County Council

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Limerick City and County Council's Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle and ONLINE by MS Teams Video Conference.**

**Members Present:** Cllrs. Novak (Chair), Butler, Collopy, Foley, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, O'Donovan, O'Hanlon, Secas, Sheahan (M), Teefy, Ms. M. Browne, Mr. B. Harper, Mr. D. Lillis, Mr. D. O'Shea.

**Officials Present:** Mr. B. Kennedy, Mr. A. Finn, Ms. A. Leahy, Mr. J. Cregan, Mr. J. O'Leary, Ms. K. McDonnell, Ms. N. McGarry, Ms. M. Corrigan, Ms. M. Fitzgerald, Ms. M. Hennessy, Mr. R. Gallagher, Mr. S. Hanrahan, Mr. Shane Farrell, Ms. S. Kennedy.

**Item 1: Minutes:**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were proposed by Cllr. D. McSweeney, seconded by Cllr. Leddin and adopted.

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

- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

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

**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 the Chair opened the floor to questions.

Cllr. Leddin stated that Park and Ride is a key piece of infrastructure and it is very important that sites are identified. He added that Limerick is a growing city and an increase in staff in the Raheen Business Park will demand an efficient Park and Ride infrastructure with a bus service every 5 minutes.

Cllr. McSweeney agreed with Cllr. Leddin and referred to the Park and Ride at the Red Cow. He asked if there was a timeline and if there are any issues with zoning in relation to the high-tech companies in Raheen Business Park.

Mr. Kennedy confirmed that BusConnects was going to public consultation and will be launched tomorrow, the 22<sup>nd</sup> February in Limerick. He added that this is a very important step and the Executive is also working with the NTA to identify sites. With regard to the timeline, the NTA is hoping to progress and it is one of their key projects. Lands at Raheen Business Park are zoned high-tech/manufacturing in the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028. With regard to Castletroy, Junction 28 will have to go through the planning process. The NTA wants to advance the scheme and is a very positive step.

Cllr. Secas stated that for Park & Ride to work a holistic approach is required. She referred to Park & Ride at the University Hospital which is not efficient. Staff have to wait for a shuttle bus in the evenings and are stuck in traffic. She suggested that infrastructure needs to be in place like bike facilities etc.

Mr. Gallagher stated that Park & Ride will be very important in Limerick but only if people have confidence in it. BusConnects will propose higher frequency for bus routes. The 304 service from Raheen to UL operating at 15minute intervals is very successful in the current climate. By the time this is approved and in place, the infrastructure will be improved. LSMATS says future Road Park and Ride will take account of dual rail and bus travel in future. In relation to a holistic approach, he added that there is an alternative, there is a dockless bike system in place in the Castletroy area and there will be various different models in the coming years.

Cllr. Teefy asked if Park & Ride is identified in Ballysimon and what is the timeframe. She added that there is large volume of traffic on the N24 and R512.

Mr. Kennedy confirmed that Ballysimon is identified in the Transport Strategy. As there is a train station in the area, Irish Rail is looking at dual tracking from Limerick junction to Colbert station. As an environmental assessment and design is required, there is currently no timeframe but the NTA is looking at different sites. Mr. Gallagher added that the rail at Ballysimon has been identified as one of the short-term aspects, therefore will not take long.

Cllr. Leddin queried the timeframe and asked if sites are state owned or will CPO be required. Mr. Kennedy advised that the sites are in private ownership and a funding model will have to be identified.

The Chair recognised that it is a complex process and asked about the train station in Moyross and if there is a proposal to do Park & Ride there. Mr. Gallagher advised that there are constraints in the Moyross site but main parking is at the Coonagh site. Mr. Gallagher confirmed that Road Park & Ride is being examined in that 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.

### **Item 3: - Dockless and TFI Bike Schemes**

Ms. K. McDonnell delivered a presentation on Dockless and TFI Bike Schemes. The members thanked Ms. McDonnell and the Chair opened the floor to questions.

Cllr. O'Donovan observed that TFI station maintenance in Limerick is very poor and unreliable; and this should be communicated back to TFI Bikes. She added that it is positive that there is a new campus on Sarsfield Street, however the closest site is on Henry Street, which is unsafe and can be dangerous to park. She suggested relocating to the city campus. She added that Dockless Bike going ahead is positive but disappointing that it is a pilot in Castletroy. It would run a lot better in the city and the nature of city living would benefit. She added that €5 fee is excessive for a student. She raised two questions as follows:

1. What is the outcome of the pilot
2. Will we see Dockless scheme in city

The Chair added that it is great to see the pilot and see students using them. She agreed in relation to the €5 fee and that it is too high for a student and referenced an annual charge of €3 in Europe.

Mr. Harper was pleased that TFI Bike Scheme is going to UL. He raised concerns regarding the €5 fee and suggested the need to put in extra bike stands as they can fill up.

Ms. McDonnell advised that it is intended to extend 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. In relation to parking for dockless bikes, the team is currently looking at key locations, Castletroy, Annacotty, NTP, shopping centres & playgrounds.

### **Item 3: - Safe Routes to School Programme**

Ms. K. McDonnell delivered a presentation on Safe Routes to School. The Chair opened the floor to questions.

Cllr. Leddin acknowledged the work by Ms. McDonnell and team. He raised concerns of the proximity of S.C.R. scheme to local schools.

Cllr. Teefy was pleased to see schools included in her area. She advised that there are a lot of new footpaths in Caherconlish and hopes this will continue. She added that Hospital secondary school has 1,200 students and traffic is very congested and some could walk to school if infrastructure was in place. She asked about the timeline.

The Chair complimented the excellent work and added it is life-changing for children. 37 schools showed expressions of interest and 8 schools selected in Round 1 with 5 more now added is very positive. She would like to see it expand and asked if scheme is going to re-open.

In response to Cllr. Leddin regarding S.C.R., Mr. Gallagher advised that it will have to be re-examined. Regarding timeline, Ms. McDonnell advised that there will be consultation in the late spring with schools and parents.

In response to the Chair, Ms. McDonnell advised that it is anticipated that Round 3 will be announced in the autumn nationally. She 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 welcomed the strategy and thanked Mr. O'Leary.

Cllr. Teefy was very pleased to see extra charging points in the county and city area and 4 in her area. Mr. O'Leary added that the draft EV Strategy is to be issued for consideration during Q1 2023 and the final strategy is expected Q2 2023. An implementation plan will follow on from this.

It was agreed to circulate the presentations as requested by Cllr. Secas.

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 and it is intended to be completed by the end of the summer. It is then intended to procure and appoint an operator by end of the year.

### **Item 3: - Bike Week**

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

Cllr. Teefy asked who can apply and will there be notification of grants. Ms. McDonnell advised that it will be advertised on the LCCC website and is open to community groups. Ms. McDonnell confirmed that it is usually €500 per group with a guideline of €10 per person participating in the event.

Mr. Harper asked how the grant process works and if funding can be obtained ahead of event. In response Ms. McDonnell confirmed that receipts need to be submitted before funding can be processed.

### **Wayfinding Project**

Mr. Shane Farrell delivered a presentation on the Wayfinding Project.

The Chair welcomed the Place Making & Public Realm team to the meeting. She asked about future proofing of project from 2 aspects –

1. Marketing campaign – will signage be dated in future years
2. As there is more and more information on line are we cluttering our outdoor areas with signage.

Mr. Harper asked that when decluttering of signs commences, if tree cages can also be examined. Cllr. Secas commended the work on this project from an aesthetics point of view.

In response to the Chair Mr. Farrell advised that certain future proofing can be built into signs as the city changes. Signs can be easily printed and updated. The green branding sign of Limerick has a right to stand as sculpture and is attractive. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the brand should have longevity and referenced the recent branding of Adare, which is built into the County & City Development Plan. Mr. Farrell also added that tree cages will be examined.

#### **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.

Mr. Harper welcomed the grant allocations. He referred to a previous SPC meeting at which it was agreed to circulate a detailed list of Active Travel schemes showing progress and completion date. Mr. Kennedy agreed that an update will be circulated to all members by email.

Mr. O'Shea asked if there was an update on the Traffic Management Plan and a timeline for the works at the Mackey Roundabout.

Mr. Kennedy confirmed that the Transport Plan will run in parallel with BusConnects, which will be launched tomorrow, the 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Once the routes are approved as part of BusConnects, the Transport Plan will follow.

In regard to Junction 28, €50k was the allocation for this year. It is hoped to appoint consultants this year to advance design. There is a lot of work to be done and the crossing of the Mulcair will require an EIAR. A timeline is not currently available.

Cllr. Teefy enquired about the local and regional roads allocation for the county compared to last year. Mr. Kennedy advised that the DoT allocation is similar to last year and confirmed that Municipal meetings will be scheduled over the next month or so. He advised that the NTA committed to a number of Active Travel 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.