

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER DOORADOYLE AND ONLINE, ON THURSDAY 2nd NOVEMBER, 2023, AT 2.30PM TO DISCUSS AN AVERAGE SPEED CAMERA SAFETY SYSTEM ON ALL REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ROADS.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor G. Mitchell, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Benson, Butler, Carey, Collins (B), Collins (M), Collopy, Daly, Donegan, Egan, Galvin, Hartigan, Keary, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, Murphy, Novak Uí Chonchúir, O'Brien, O'Donoghue, O'Donovan, O'Sullivan, Pond, Ruddle, Ryan (E), Scanlon, Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (K), Sheahan (M), Sheehan (C), Slattery, Talukder, Teskey.

Apologies were received from Cllr Ryan (M) and Cllr Teefy.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Deputy Chief Executive and Director, Support Services (Mr S. Coughlan), Director, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation (Mr. J. Delaney), Director, Transportation and Mobility (Mr. B. Kennedy), Chief Officer LCDC Rural and Community Development Department (Mr. S. O'Connor), Senior Executive Officer, Ukrainian Response, (Ms. S. Reidy), Senior Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy (Mr H. McGrath), Meetings Administrator (Ms. L. Flannery), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services & Governance (Mr. M. Leahy).

Apologies were also received from Dr. Pat Daly, Chief Executive.

At the outset, the Mayor and Members extended their condolences and sympathy to the family and friends of former Member of Limerick County Council, Cllr Joe Meagher, following his recent passing. Members observed a Minutes silence as a mark of respect.

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Special Meeting and he stated that he had been asked to call the Special Meeting following a request from Cllrs Scanlon, Daly, O'Brien, O'Donoghue, Ryan (E) and Teefy to discuss the issue set out in the Agenda as follows:

“To discuss the issue as set out in the attached Requisition calling for the introduction of an Average Speed Camera Safety System on all Regional and National Roads.”

In proposing the Motion, Cllr Scanlon thanked the Mayor for agreeing to calling this Special Meeting to discuss the possible introduction of an Average Speed Camera Safety System on

all Regional and National Roads. This system was currently in use on the M7 Motorway outside Nenagh and had proven very effective in altering driver behaviour and improving road safety.

He referred to the increasing level of road fatalities and serious injuries following road accidents in 2023. He emphasised the importance of addressing this issue with whatever measures could be introduced, so as to reduce the level of speed of drivers and to try and change driver behaviours and attitudes in relation to speed.

In addition to various other road safety enforcement measures, he believed that the introduction of an Average Speed Camera Safety System on all Regional and National Roads could be introduced to help with this. The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ryan (E).

Members welcomed the Motion and the discussion in relation to tackling the issue of increasing levels of road fatalities and injuries, and that any additional measures would be welcome in dealing with it. They agreed that an Average Speed Camera Safety System should be looked at, but that there were also practical issues to be resolved as part of the introduction of such a system on any Regional or National Road.

Members agreed that other important road safety measures could also be introduced, such as additional Gardaí and increased resourcing of the Road Traffic Corp; the reduction of speed limits on certain roads; engineering measures and works to improve the safety at accident blackspots and dangerous junctions; and additional educational measures to improve driver behaviour and performance.

Members also agreed that the operation and use of Go Safe vans across the city and county were not really a deterrent currently, and were more a revenue generating exercise instead of being a targeted deterrent for road safety and enforcement.

The Director, Transportation and Mobility acknowledged the views of the Members and their concerns about the increasing levels of road accidents, deaths and injuries. He confirmed that road traffic speed and its enforcement was a matter for An Garda Síochána, but that any measures that the local authority could look at from an engineering perspective, could also be looked at too.

The Senior Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy confirmed that a Speed Limit Review Group, which had been set up by the Department of Transport as part of the Governments Road Safety Strategy had looked at the use of Average Speed Camera Safety Systems and had reported as follows:

Average speed camera enforcement differs from fixed-point speed camera enforcement through measuring the time of travel between two points on the road network and calculating the average speed. Used internationally for some time, average speed cameras have been successfully used in Ireland on two sections of motorway to date and have shown an improvement in safety and speed reduction. As well as improving safety, average speed cameras can, through greater compliance, reduce emissions, as drivers will both drive within

the speed limit and at a consistent speed, which has been shown to improve efficiency compared to constant acceleration and braking.

The use of (lower cost) mobile average speed cameras to further reinforce the speed reduction at locations across the road network, particularly where issues of safety and speeding exist should be considered and piloted. This has the potential of offering greater flexibility to deployment for different scenarios across the road network and at a lower cost. The roll out of mobile average speed cameras should be considered as part of the next tender for safety cameras.

The Senior Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy confirmed that Limerick City and County Council could certainly look at a pilot for a mobile average speed camera system when it was being rolled out by the Department of Transport.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Date: _____