



**To: The Mayor, Príomh Chomhairleoir and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council**

**Chairperson's Report of the Travel & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

**18<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**A Chomhairleoir, a chara,**

A blended meeting of the above Strategic Policy Committee took place on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.

The following is a summary of the business transacted at the meeting.

**Item 1: Minutes:**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were proposed by Cllr. E. O'Donovan and seconded by Cllr. E. Ryan and adopted.

**Item 2: Notice of Motion submitted by Farron Flaherty, Dan O'Neill & Seán Golden, (Limerick Cycling Campaign, ICTU/SIPTU and Limerick Chamber) –**

**Enhancement of Bus Services in Raheen and Mungret Areas**

We request that the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee of Limerick City and County Council take the following actions to prioritise the earliest possible delivery of proposed BusConnects routes 4a and 4b:

**1. Facilitate a Stakeholder Meeting:**

Organise a meeting involving all relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to: -

- Limerick City and County Council
- Bus Éireann
- National Transport Authority (NTA)
- Industrial Development Authority (IDA)
- Limerick Chamber
- ICTU/SIPTU
- Representative from the affected schools and their respective Parents' Associations.

**2. Initiate Trial Services During Peak Times:**

As an initial step, implement trial runs of the 4a and 4b routes during peak times from late August 2025. This trial will assess the feasibility, demand, and operational considerations of the new routes, providing valuable data for full-scale implementation for the full rollout of the BusConnects project.

Mrs. M. Browne seconded the Notice of Motion.



**Response:**

*We acknowledge the importance of improving public transport connectivity in the area and appreciate your proactive engagement on this matter. In response to your request, we will facilitate a stakeholder meeting involving all relevant parties, including Limerick City and County Council, Bus Éireann, the National Transport Authority (NTA), the IDA, Limerick Chamber ICTU/SIPTU, and representatives from the affected schools and their Parents' Associations.*

*The NTA and Bus Éireann are responsible for delivering the redesign of the bus network in Limerick, we will therefore, formally advise the NTA of your request for a trial of the 4a and 4b services during peak times from late August 2025, in advance of full rollout of BusConnects.*

*We are currently actively working with the NTA to progress the implementation of new routes and associated infrastructure under the BusConnects programme and are we are committed to ensuring that routes 4a and 4b are delivered at the earliest possible opportunity.*

During discussion the members raised the following points: -

- The members expressed frustration that it will be 2027 before the roll out of Bus Connects and asked if routes can be implemented as a matter of urgency.
- The new mechanism with the Mayoral legislative Project Oreland Delivery Board sub-group for transport in Limerick unfortunately did not meet. This sub-group needs to meet as soon as possible.
- In addition to Raheen, there are 3,000 people working in Castleconnell / Annacotty Business Park and early discussion is important.
- Members also expressed disappointment in the NTA and highlighted the traffic congestion to the schools in Raheen/Dooradoyle area.
- The NTA attending a meeting the end of the year was not satisfactory as discussions have been on-going for five years and already had Bus Connects consultation.
- This city needs a frequent service and the message from this committee needs to go to the NTA, Bus Éireann and the TII.
- It was suggested that rural services also be included on the agenda for next meeting.



In response Mr. McGrath gave a summary of the current situation as follows:

- The PSO city bus service contract with NTA was discussed at the last SPC meeting and Mr. McGrath advised that members should contact NTA with any issues and copy Limerick City & County Council.
- The Mayor agrees with the urgency to remove the delays and is arranging a meeting of the Transport sub-group for Project Ireland Delivery Board. Mr. McGrath will address again with the Mayor.
- The Annacotty Business Park was not included in BusConnects initially. There have been a number of discussions with the NTA who will look at potential ways to facilitate this area.
- Before the 4a and 4b are in place, issues such as buses, mechanics, drivers and funding need to be in place by NTA\BE for each element. Services cannot be implemented until resources are in place.
- A meeting will be facilitated as requested and an invitation extended to the NTA.

**Item 3: Limerick City Centre Transport Plan Update - Mr. Hugh McGrath A/D.O.S:**

Mr. McGrath confirmed that the Transport Plan comes out of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Plan (LSMATS) and shared a map indicating the overall initiatives. He will brief members as progress is made and advised that the NTA will attend a meeting at the end of the year.

The members thanked Mr. McGrath for the update and during discussion raised the following comments and questions:-

- Update on Park & Ride (P&R) in the Ballysimon area.
- Are e-scooters included in the data presented?
- Does the plan have to go to Cllrs for approval – or to Dept. for funding?
- The lack of disabled spaces in the city was highlighted.
- The depletion of rural taxis was highlighted and more spaces for taxis in the city was proposed.
- A more rural presentation was suggested for the next meeting.
- It was suggested that local link be invited to attend next meeting.
- There is a time and convenience factor as bus is not an option for some people in the county and some routes have been pulled due to lack of usage.
- While Park & Ride sites are welcome, they are too near the city centre and traffic congestion.



In response, Mr. McGrath added the following:-

- 24-hour bus service is embedded in bus connects network redesign on the high frequency route from UL to Raheen.
- Irish Rail are working on NTA's behalf to determine the best location of the P&R at Ballysimon. The Ballysimon location on N24 aspires to have rail connectivity option.
- Locations for P & R need to be connected to a high frequency bus network. Congestion happens at specific times and the principle is to locate the P&R outside the congested area.
- There are new specific requirements around operation of e-scooters. It is intended to launch a Pilot with the NTA on shared bike and e-scooters.
- The approval of the Transport Plan is not a reserved function – Members will be fully briefed prior to public display of the draft Transport plan.
- The Main corridor through O'Connell Street is intended as a bus priority corridor. Taxis can access the bus corridor and are a supporting part of sustainable transport solutions.
- Regarding the lack of disabled bays, sensors are on all disabled bays and the reports from same will be examined to see if there are gaps.
- Limerick is currently installing rapid EV chargers at over 12 sites in the County and can give updates on this project at future SPC meetings.

**Item 4: Presentation of the Active Travel Interactive Map - Toby Goodwin, Behavioural Scientist.**

Mr. Toby Goodwin delivered an update on the Limerick Active Travel Interactive Map showing 145 km of cycle lands between the city and county.

The members thanked Mr. Goodwin and raised comments and questions on the following issues: -

- Update on TFI bikes in Limerick.
- Is it possible for the Council to work with the RSA to show increased dangers to members of the public and can their data be shared?
- A rural emphasis was suggested for the next meeting.



In response, Mr. Goodwin added the following:

- A cycleability audit is being undertaken and information is currently being collated to survey and identify challenges for potential cyclists to make improvements.
- The usage of TFI has seen a 2.5 times increase from 2022 to 2024. TFI bikes to be re-tendered this year.
- When the RSA is allowed to share data, it will be shared with local authorities and could be pulled in the audit to show our priorities.

It was proposed that a representative from the MWNRDO office be invited to a subsequent SPC Meeting regarding the CPO process on the Limerick to Foynes project.

Mr. McGrath reminded members that the SPC is a policy and strategy driven committee only and advised that members can submit a motion to the SPC for consideration. He added that Induction training is to be delivered by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to all members of Local Authority SPC's on the 17th of April next.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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**Brigid Teeffy**

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