

## **MINUTES**

### **Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services**

#### **STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Via Microsoft Teams**

**04 February 2021**

#### **Attendees:**

Councillor Joseph Neville  
Councillor Anne Connolly  
Councillor Angela Feeney  
Councillor Colm Kenny  
Councillor Nuala Killeen  
Councillor Mark Stafford  
Councillor Paul Ward  
Brian Purcell  
Gerry Dornan

#### **Also Present**

Celina Barrett, A/ Director of Services  
Stephen Cummins, A/Senior Engineer  
Declan Keogh, Roads Safety, Cycling and Sustainable Transport Officer  
Pamela Pender, A/Senior Executive Officer  
Marie Kelly, Assistant Staff Officer.

#### **Apologies:**

David Reel  
Cormac Browne

### **Introduction**

Cathaoirleach Joseph Neville welcomed all the members of the SPC to the meeting and welcomed Stephen Cummins, A/Senior Engineer to the meeting who would present a briefing on Sustainable Transport.

### **Item 1 – Minutes- 05 November 2020**

On the proposal of Councillor Angela Feeney and seconded by Brian Purcell the minutes of 05 November 2020 were approved and taken as read.

### **Item 2 – Declarations of Interest**

No Comment.

### **Item 3 – Briefing from A/Senior Engineer**

The A/Senior Engineer, Stephen Cummins thanked the Cathaoirleach for the warm welcome to the Transportation SPC. He proceeded with introduction and gave a brief background on the work that he has delivered on projects in Scotland, New Zealand and transport project delivery in Ireland including Roads ,Buses and Cycling projects N4,M4 Maynooth to Leixlip, Bus Connects but to name a few.

The members of the committee were informed that newly established Sustainable Transport Team consisted of 1 Executive Engineer and 1 Assistant Engineer. The work that is being carried out by this team do not exclusively work on transport strategy.

The members were advised of the Sustainable Transport Section approach and challenges:

- Key Funding streams and Strategic Documents.
- Kildare County Council approach
- Design and Implementation
- Current and proposed workload/team

Stephen Cummins informed the committee members that funding is received from the Department of Transport through the National Transport Authority (NTA) as a

Sustainable Transport Measures Grant (STMG) and a Safe to School Programme which is new, Kildare County Council expect guidance later in 2021 on this programme. Complementary funding is received from Urban Renewable Development funding (URDF) and Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF). Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) covering the National routes.

The National Transport Authority (NTA) Cycle Network plan has been incorporated into the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2019-2035.

In relation to STMG projects, the NTA would be prioritising primary and secondary routes as significant modelling and appraisal would have been completed as part of NTA - Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy.

Kildare County Council Desire Approach:

1. Sustainable Travel Communities (Settlements/Zone)

Ability to cycle

- to school
- to sport/leisure facilities and key amenities
- to public transport hubs (eg train station)
- or commute by bike to work

2. Primarily segregated cycle infrastructure (with certain exception)

- Cater for schools and less confident (novice) cyclists (eg train commuters).
- Induce demand.

3. Holistic Approach (Walking, Cycle and Public Realm)

- Deliver an integrated and connected sustainable travel network and supporting infrastructure.
- Prioritise connections to schools, public transport hubs (train station) and active mode attractors (greenway, sport/leisure facilities, parks etc).
- Prioritise cycling parking and storage at these locations.
- Encourage overlap with projects that encourage a walking and cycling culture eg urban enhancements.

The members were advised that the Sustainable Transport Team refer to the following design manuals:

- National Cycle Manual -identifying how cycle lane widths are typically determined and the different types of cycle infrastructure.
- Design Manual for Urban and Streets- this provides guidance to urban roads and streets and other aspects of design such as road and footpaths widths etc.

The members of the committee were advised that they must be aware of the typical challenges with any project:

- Widths (Raised Cycle Track, Raised Two- way Cycle track and Shared Path)
- Parking
- Treatment at Junctions
- Drainage/Vertical Level

Members were advised that of all the width options, the Shared Paths are the least favourable.

Stephen Cummins gave the members a briefing on the new programme for government which would bring about a change in emphasis on how funding and projects are prioritised for Transport. Members were advised that funding was over 8 times greater in 2021 compared to previous year. The allocation to date is €4.4m for 2021 which excludes the NTA 5-year plan which should be announced in the next few weeks.

Committee members were informed of the programme management, collaborating, coordinating and working in partnership within and across Directorates to seek complementary projects/goals. He assured the members that they are working very closely with NTA Cycle Design Office. They are working to achieve a standardise template and procedures to achieve a right building foundation and to have a controlled delivery.



In relation to the NTA 5-year plan, it is envisaged that year 2021 will see an increase in projects coming on stream for delivery during 2022-2023. He advised the committee that the proposed concept is to commence or construct in year three.

Stephen concluded his briefing noting that a significant amount of Part 8 projects as well as NTA 5-year plan are due to commence. The huge challenge ahead is staffing resources to develop a new Sustainable Transport Team to have systems in place for controlled delivery. He assured the committee members that it has been agreed with the NTA that they may fund in the region of 10-12 additional staff for the five-year plan. 2021 will be the year for adding resources to the team albeit slowly.

The members raised the following points:

1. Capability of a cycle lane.
2. Deliver on cycleways facilities.
3. Propose to deliver on projects.
4. Part 8
5. Sallins/ Hazelhatch Greenway.
6. LED Lights on Blueways
7. Clarification on plans for a segregated policy

The A/Senior Engineer, Stephen Cummins confirmed the following points:

1. Major projects are easier than cycle ways. Segregate cycleways are the safest. Maynooth is a prime example of this. The NTA are looking at the primary and secondary routes first. Each case is assessed individually with extensive public consultation.
2. The NTA provide the funding and if it is not identified on their map (primary or secondary routes) it would be very difficult to get funding.
3. He assured the committee members that the team would work with Consultants and NTA on the best practice.
4. He informed the committee that Kilcullen road is at detailed design stage; Kill to Naas to commence Part 8 in 2021. He anticipates having a quick turn around on the Part 8 for the Dublin road. He reiterated that all NTA schemes will be done to standard and will all be documented.

5. He informed the committee that this greenway is not in his remit upon receiving clarification he would revert back to him.
6. He informed the committee that NTA don't provide funding for Blueways.
7. National Cycle Manual and Design Manual for Urban and streets are used for good practice.

Councillor Killeen requested update on the phase stage of the NTA lists of projects. Stephen Cummins assured them that this information would be circulated for the next meeting.

The members of the committee complimented Stephen on his presentation. A lengthy discussion did take place on the proposed projects identified by the NTA. and they reflected on the challenge to deliver on some projects within his remit.

Cllr Neville highlighted that segregated cycleways is a function of the Transportation SPC. Currently the Pre-draft issue papers for a new County Development Plan is on display until 08 March 2021 and he agreed to circulate the link to the members to assist in making an individual submission or as a group.

The A/Director of Services, Celina Barrett assured the committee that the Executive Planner, Jane O'Reilly would give a presentation to them on the Pre-draft issue papers if required. Celina reiterated that one of the key themes for the Transportation SPC is "Sustainable Mobility".

Members were advised that the County Development Plan is a key driver that leads the county into the future.

#### **Item 4 – Presentation from Road Safety,Cycling and Sustainable Transport**

##### **Officer**

Declan Keogh, Road Safety, Cycling and Sustainable Transport Officer was welcomed to the meeting and he updated the members on work to date and forthcoming events.

The members asked him various questions about areas covered in the presentation.

He informed the members of the campaigns over the past few months.

- Shine a light for Road Safety was held on 15 November 2020 which replaced the Remembrance Mass for traffic victims. This proved to be a huge success in terms of public interest and involvement. Kildare County Council hope it will be an annual occurrence going forward.
- Drug Driving Awareness were highlighted on a joint local media campaign. An Gardaí Síochána set up an MIT (Mandatory Intoxicant Testing) to highlight the dangers, risks of using drugs while driving. Declan outlined that the video was shared on the Council's website, local media and RSA (Road Safety Authority) social media platforms.
- Winter Ready- advisory notices were placed on the council website and local media.
- National Slow Down Day – The council supported An Gardaí Síochána and the RSA on Friday 14 December 2020. In Kildare last year only one driver was detected travelling at excessive speed on the R417 compared to 3 the past two years consecutively.
- Road User Visibility – This was an awareness campaign that advised vulnerable road users and drivers of the importance to be more visible to each other on the roads.

Declan confirmed that there was 5 Fatalities in Co. Kildare in 2020. It was agreed that the Kildare Fatalities Sheet 2020 would be circulated to the members of the committee.

Declan informed the committee members the following points:

- Minimum Passing Distance signs -The Municipal District (MD) areas are continuing the roll-out of erecting Minimum Passing Distance signage around the county.
- Bike Week winners: Scoil Íde, Kilmeade and Gaelscoil Coláiste, Naas won a bike shelter each for their school.



- Public Bike Parking Stations: The Roads, Cycling, Sustainable Transportation Officer is liaising with the MD engineers and the cycling engineer for the provision of public bike parking stations around the county.
- Mobile Bike Repair Workshops planned for May – July pending lifting Covid 19 restrictions.

Declan confirmed that the Cycle Forum meeting was held on Thursday 28 January 2020.

In the area of Sustainable Transport, the Municipal District Engineer and General Operatives have been working to ensure schools are ready for re-opening. He confirmed that the Celbridge/Leixlip MD Engineer has installed Pedestrian Lights and Pencil Top bollards outside the GAA in Leixlip, on the Green Lane for schools. These bollards will also be installed in Athy and hopefully Monasterevin subject to Section 38.

The committee was also given an update on the 'School Street' pilot scheme for Athy and Monasterevin. Declan assured members that the school street initiative aims to provide school goers, parents and guardians with a safer and easier route to school making it a healthy, active and sustainable means of transport to school, by walking and cycling. He indicated the 'school street' may revert to a 'school zone' due to local restrictions and in favour of a balanced approach to business owners and parents alike.

With reference to the Walkability Audits and Cycle route initiatives for schools , the Department of Transport in conjunction with Disability Ireland and An Taisce have produced a new Universal Design Walkability Audit which will assist in identifying any issues relating the route to schools. Walkability Audits are being carried out over the next few weeks by the RCSTO.

In relation to Active travel, walking and cycling are promoted on an on-going basis encouraging people to get active and to use any walking and cycling facilities in their locality while also been aware of the Covid-19 restrictions.



The following queries and comments were raised by the members:

- School Zones – how widespread will they be in the county.
- Safety concern on the R148 (Collision zone identified) and around Kilcock with a request for a Go-Safe van at these locations.
- Members were disappointed to see bollards in place in the county. Cllr Stafford requested that the roads department would examine “Policy on Bollards”.
- How many Walkability Audit have been completed?

Declan Keogh confirmed the following points with the members.

- Declan outlined that there are just two pilot schemes at present. He highlighted to the committee members that the ‘School Street’ pilot scheme for Athy and Monasterevin was for 6 months which has been extended to 18 months had received some remedial measures by the Municipal District Engineers. He highlighted that Maynooth had good infrastructure in place and such initiative was not required.
- In relation to Go Safe request would need to refer to the Joint Policing Committee (CPC). Promotion and Awareness that speeding is an offence under the Road Act.
- Declan indicated that these school zone bollards are under Section 38 and there would be a minimum number rather than a clutter of them.
- The RCSTO outlined that the recently produced ‘Walkability Audit’ was issued by the Department of Transport and only three audits were completed since its issue, but more will be carried out over the next few weeks/months.
- Bicycle repairs units and bicycle shelters have been installed in some café locations and outside Garda Stations. A joint initiative ‘Lock it or Lose it’ campaign between Kildare County Council, An Garda Síochána and Irish rail was undertaken to encourage cyclists to ensure that they leave their bicycles safely and securely in a public place.

### **Item 5- Cycle Forum**

The Cathaoirleach advised the members of the SPC that the Cycle Forum will need to be re-established and reconstituted as a subgroup of the Transportation SPC. In relation to cycling, he informed them that a lot of the work on cycling should be assessed through the Cycle Forum. Cycling is one of the many parts of the Transportation SPC. The Cycle Forum going forward need to communicate to the SPC members on their findings.

He asked the members for their vital impact and he envisaged that some members of the SPC would be on the Cycle Forum.

The A/Director of Services, Celina Barrett informed the members that the terms of reference for the Cycle Forum was distributed to them prior to the meeting. She informed the members that the cycle forum is a subgroup of the Transportation SPC. She discussed the current situation advised that now is the time for the members of the committee to submit their views on the Draft Terms of Reference for the Cycle Forum. She proposed to set up a Sustainable Transport Working Group, but the members need to establish this group linking directly to Transportation SPC. Celina encouraged the members to make submissions amending the terms of reference and in turn the roads department would communicate to the members, circulate and agree on the new Terms of Reference.

Cllr Feeney expressed her belief that it should be a more sustainable holistic approach and have a broader representation of cycling on the Transportation SPC.

Cllr Killeen agreed that a review of the terms of reference was vital and expressed her interest in having youth representation - schools, youth service to name but a few on the subgroup. She expressed her desire to have action and output going forward listed on the SPC agenda.

Cllr Neville assured members of the SPC that they would receive reports from the working group going forward.

Gerry Dornan gave the members a brief background to when the Cycling Forum was set up in 2014. Cyclists are general unhappy with the infrastructure. The death rate in this area has increased by 50% in the past 10 years. He highlighted that he attended the International Conference and that cyclists demonstrated a hard sell to Politicians if we were to meet Climate Action Targets. He gave an example of Maynooth demonstrating the lack of progress on Climate Action (air pollution and emissions).

Declan Keogh concluded this discussion that the membership of the Cycle Forum and amendment of the title would have to be re-established going forward.

#### **Item 6 –Work Programme for 2020/2021**

A lengthy discussion did take place at the meeting on the Work Programme 2021. It was agreed by all committee members that the position paper on item one on the work programme 'Fish-eye - Policy on the use of Fish- Eye Mirrors on public roads' would not proceed. The members agreed that the report be noted.

The Code of Conduct for Greenway position paper was circulated to the members prior to the meeting. The committee complimented the work commenced in this area.

Cllr Killeen expressed her concerns on rural transport requesting that it would remain on the Agenda. Cllr Neville reiterated that it is important not to lose sight of it as it represents rural transport with a means of moving forward.

The A/Director, Celina Barrett discussed the current situation of the Local Link which was not part of the Transportation SPC remit. She discussed that maybe reporting from a subgroup may be an option, but an agreement would have to be made on this by the committee.

Pamela Pender (A/SEO) referred to the Work Programme, she advised the committee that the roads department would prepare a position paper for each of the following items, to envisage if they are warranted or not at the May SPC Meeting 2021.



- Electric Vehicles -Policy on electric Vehicles in relation to free parking.
- Parking -Simplify parking by adopting colour code instead of street names in Kildare parking app.
- Rural Public Lighting – Rural Public Lighting scheme. Examination of the issue of rural lighting in terms of installation and lifecycle costs and in the context of the current requirement on Kildare County Council to reduce its energy costs in line with the EU Energy efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU).

### **Item 7– Any other Business**

Gerry Dornan, 12 submission papers were noted. The members agreed that a position paper would be prepared on the following 3 submissions from the 12.

1. Cycling Targets
2. Bike Accounts
3. Pedestrian/Cycling Counts

Councillor Neville expressed his concerns on the specific work required to proceed through the Transportation SPC Work Programme.

Councillor Killeen requested that update on the Cycle Forum would be circulated to the committee a month prior to the Transportation SPC meetings and possibly commence an audit every 6/12 months.

The A/Director, Ceilina Barrett reiterated that 'Kissing Gates' submission would not be discussed, and committee members agreed.

She informed the committee that the NTA Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035 public consultation is ongoing. She highlighted to the committee that the Mayor and the chair of the SPC will be invited to participate in a subgroup that could influence Dart expansion on the Maynooth line and the pilot scheme for a hard shoulder Bus Corridor on the M4 to name but a few.



Cllr Stafford highlighted that Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District meetings have commenced giving presentations at the meeting with the presentation circulated after the meeting. The members can submit questions directly to the relevant personnel who gave the presentations. The process is proving efficient and it may be an area for the members to consider for the Transportation SPC meeting.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Joe Neville requested Cllr Ward to contact him directly on this proposal.

Cllr Stafford requested clarification on his motion on "one hours parking" as to when it will be presented to the Transportation SPC. The A/SEO, Pamela Pender confirmed that motions were circulated and upon confirming his motion she would circulate these reports again prior to May SPC meeting.

The next meeting will be held on 06<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

  
