

Minutes of the Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee meeting  
held on 06<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 10.30 a.m.

Minutes of the Roads and Transportation, Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 06<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 10.30 a.m. in Room GO1, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway.

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**I Láthair:**

**Baill:** Cllr Michael Finnerty  
Cllr Des Joyce  
Cllr Martina Kinane  
Cllr Michael Maher  
Cllr Peter Roche  
Mr Mark Coffey

**Oifigí:** Mr Michael Timmins, Acting Director of Services, Roads, Transportation, Marine and General Services Unit  
Mr Damien Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Roads, Transportation, Marine and General Services Unit  
Ms Máire Ní Chionna, Senior Engineer, Roads, Transportation, Marine and General Services Unit  
Ms Nuala Heffernan, Administrative Officer, Roads, Transportation, Marine and General Services Unit

Apologies were noted from Mr Healy. Cllr Joyce also apologised for his absence at the previous meeting of the SPC.

**1. Minutes of meeting of Roads SPC held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

On the proposal of Cllr Roche, seconded by Cllr Kinane, the minutes of the meeting of the Roads, Transportation and Marine Strategic Policy held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were agreed and adopted.

**Matters arising from the minutes.**

Cllr Roche said that additional funding was required for the repair of footpaths. He noted that a lot of claims were lodged for injuries due to accidents on damaged footpaths. Mr Timmins advised that Irish Public Bodies had identified specific locations where footpaths should be repaired. Mr Mitchell said that there had been 35 claims for accidents on footpaths in the Ballinasloe area. He noted that no dividend had been received yet from IPB for 2017. He said that there was no specific budget allocated for the repair of footpaths, that any repairs on them had to be done using the general roads maintenance allocation. Cllr Maher informed the members that Irish Public Bodies had been requested by the CCMA not to allocate a dividend until the Department allocates the annual roads budgets in February 2018. Mr Mitchell said

that the priority for the Council was the maintenance of the current footpaths rather than the provision of new footpaths.

## **2. Meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland**

Cllr Finnerty stated that correspondence had been received from Transport Infrastructure Ireland advising that the staff of TII do not attend SPC meetings but that a small delegation could be hosted in their offices at a mutually convenient date and time, to discuss significant national road issues of interest to County Galway. Cllr Kinane said that she was hugely disappointed with the refusal of the TII to attend a meeting of Roads, Transportation and Marine SPC for County Galway. She said that the SPC members are representatives of the Council. She said that she had a list of issues which she wanted to discuss with the staff of TII. It was decided that all members would submit matters which they wished to raise with the TII to Ms Heffernan for compiling into correspondence with the TII, accepting their invitation for a delegation to attend a meeting in their offices in Dublin. Following discussion, it was decided that a member from each Municipal District and two officials should attend the meeting, a total of seven people.

## **3. Railway Bridge at Annagh Hill**

Cllr Roche enquired about the timing of the replacement of the bridge at Annagh Hill, as the current realignment works are nearing completion. Mr Timmins advised that the detailed design of the bridge has been submitted to TII and Iarnród Éireann for their decision. He said that they are obliged to consult with the European Railway Commission for their input on the project. Cllr Roche said that it had been previously stated that the reconstruction of the bridge would happen alongside the realignment works.

## **4. Motorway Signage**

Cllr Finnerty said that the TII had confirmed that they are aware of the issues raised in relation to local signage. Mr Timmins said that a lot of representations had been made to the TII regarding signage on the M17/M18 Motorway. He said that the final picture regarding signage would be known around Christmas time. Cllr Finnerty said that it is unclear on the Motorway, when coming from Gort, where the turn-off is for Tuam. Cllr Joyce said that he is aware that people are unintentionally ending up on the M6 Motorway to Galway due to confusion with signage. Cllr Roche said that the TII should be supporting local communities, in relation to the provision of residual signage. Cllr Kinane said that it was a huge oversight not to provide signage for Clarinbridge on the M17/M18 Motorway.

In response to a query from Cllr Maher, Mr Timmins, advised that the responsibility for the maintenance of the Motorway rest with contractors appointed by TII. Cllr Maher said that

there was temporary signage on the Gort Road regarding flooding, at a location approximately two miles outside Gort on the Crusheen side. He said that the TII should be requested to address the problem, to make the road safe for motorists.

Mr Timmins outlined that the TII has stated that it is not possible to alter the blue Motorway signage, but that additional signage is being considered. He said that the cost of maintenance for additional signage has to be agreed with the contractor.

## **5. Update on Local Improvement Schemes**

Cllr Roche enquired as to how schemes were selected for funding for improvement under the Local Improvement Scheme. Mr Mitchell advised that all 115 schemes, for which applications were received on time and were deemed to be valid, were prioritised by the Council staff in the Municipal District and submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development for consideration for funding. When the schemes were being prioritised, there was a requirement to be mindful of the need for the works and the ability of those who applied to make the relevant contribution. Cllr Roche asked if larger roads, serving more land and house owners were considered a higher priority than smaller roads, with less landowners. Mr Mitchell said that all of the funding had been allocated for 2017 and all outstanding applications would be kept in hand for consideration for funding in 2018, when details of the 2018 scheme were received. Cllr Kinane welcomed the news that there would be an allocation for the scheme in 2018.

## **6. Road Opening Licences**

Mr Mitchell stated that the Roads Management Office, based in Donegal County Council, has a remit to standardise the process for applying for a road opening licence via an online application system. He said that there are currently discussions ongoing on standardising fees, at a national level. Cllr Kinane noted that lots of roads are being opened to allow for new developments. She enquired as to what is considered a reasonable length of time for the person who opens the road to be responsible for its repair if it deteriorates. Mr Mitchell said that an inspection fee is included as part of the road opening application, and two inspections are carried out at each location. Mr Timmins said that the general rule is to initially temporarily restore the location and to provide a final restoration after a period of time.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Cllr Maher asked when the multi-annual roads programme would be prepared and submitted to Councillors for their approval. He also asked when traffic calming measures would be introduced in Craughwell and if it was possible to allocate Notice of Motion monies to a road leading into a graveyard. Cllr Roche proposed that such allocations would be allowed. Mr Timmins said that no notification had yet been received from the Department of Transport,

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Tourism and Sport requesting that a multi-annual programme of works be prepared. He said that the provision of a traffic calming scheme at Craughwell was dependent on the allocation of funding from DTTAS. Mr Mitchell said that Notice of Motion monies could not be spent on roads which are not public roads.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30 a.m.

**Críochnagh an cruinniú ansin.**

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_

**Cllr. Michael Finnerty**

**Cathaoirleach**

**Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_