

**MINUTES OF THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION  
& EMERGENCY SERVICES SPC  
HYBRID MEETING HELD IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE  
ON MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 AT 11.00am**

**I Láthair:**

**Baill:** Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire (Chairperson)  
Cllr. Peter Feeney  
Comh. Tomás Ó Curraóin  
Cllr. Martin McNamara  
Cllr. Siobhan McHugh Ryan  
Cllr. Sean Broderick

**Baill ar Líne:** Cllr. Michael Connolly  
Ms. Anne Mitchell  
Mr. Mark Green

**Oifigí:** Ms. Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer  
Mr. Tom Prendergast, Senior Engineer  
Ms. Geraldine Byrne, Administrative Officer  
Ms. Sajil Elwood, Assistant Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Director of Services  
Mr. Gerry O'Malley, Chief Fire Officer  
Mr. Aodán MacDonncha

**Absent:** Mr. Colm Ryan

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Comh. Mac an Iomaire commenced the meeting by welcoming three new committee members Cllr. Martin McNamara, Cllr. Sean Broderick and Cllr. Siobhan McHugh Ryan who were co-opted last December.

**ITEM NO. 1 - MINUTES OF PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION & EMERGENCY SERVICES SPC MEETING HELD ON THE 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

On the **Proposal** of Comh. Ó Curraoin and **Seconded** by Cllr. Feeney the minutes of the Physical Development, Transportation & Emergency Services meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee held 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were agreed.

**ITEM NO. 2 – MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

### **ITEM NO. 3 – ROAD SPEED LIMIT UPDATE**

Tom Prendergast, Senior Engineer provided a progress update in relation to the implementation of the 2023 Department of Transport publication "Speed Limit Review". The mandated implementation date for the change in default speed limits on local roads was the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025, with the change in the default speed limit going from 80km/h to 60km/h being the first phase. He outlined the second phase in the process is to implement the national review recommendations in relation to urban areas, which includes all settlement centres-towns and villages that currently have a 50km/h or less. The outcome of these assessments will propose the introduction of 30km/h in urban cores, housing estates and some residential roads. Workshops will be held in April 2025 and following these the information will be brought back to this SPC and each Municipal District and the engagement process involved in introducing revised speed limits through bye laws will begin. The third phase will involve the reduction of speed limits on National Secondary routes to 80km/h. The second and third phases are not likely to be implemented until 2026.

#### **Committee Members raised the following points and queries:**

- Cllr. McHugh Ryan queried what was the reasoning behind replacing displaying the speed limit number with a symbol at some locations.
- Comh. Ó Curraoin queried would there be a special meeting held in relation to the R336 speed limit on the stretch of road from Furbo to the edge of Barna and outlined that there are requests for speed limit to be lowered to 50km/h and the provision of a footpath.
- Cllr. Broderick and Cllr. Feeney outlined that more signage needs to be provided on local roads advising motorists of different speed limits on the road ahead.
- Cllr. McNamara enquired are there plans to provide educational workshops.
- Comh. Mac an Iomaire queried in relation to schools located along the R336 would the reduction in speed only be during school times.

#### **Committee Members queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Prendergast:**

- The Rural Speed Limit Sign is a sign used as an alternative to the 60km/h sign face. The purpose of the Rural Speed Limit Sign is to be able to sign the 60km/h speed limit without the need to display a number and that speed limits are not signposted within the Rural Local Road network unless the speed limit is different to the Default speed limit of 60km/h. Thus, if road users do not see a speed limit posted the limit should be assumed to be 60km/h.
- Any changes in speed limits must go through the statutory process and he advised Comh. Ó Curraoin that he is happy to meet with the residents in Furbo.
- He advised that speed limit signs are provided more on the local road network and that ultimately the speed limit on local roads is 60km/h unless you see another sign advising differently. He advised Cllr. Broderick and Cllr. Feeney to forward on locations where they feel there is a need for signs to be provided and he will assess same.
- He advised that educational workshops are under the remit of the Road Safety Together Committee.

- In relation to schools, the recommendation from the National Review is that all schools will have periodic speed limits.

#### **ITEM NO. 4 – DRAFT ROAD SAFETY PLAN UPDATE**

The RSA Fatalities and serious injuries: Galway 2019-2023 report was circulated to the Committee Members prior to the meeting in relation to this item.

Rachel Lowe provided an update on the Draft Road Safety Plan for Galway City and County which is due to be finalised in April 2025 and it will be a 5 year plan from 2025-2030. The government's new road safety strategy is to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on Irish roads by 50% over the next 10 years and Vision Zero by 2050. It is hoped that this Plan will develop an improved awareness of the important issues surrounding road safety and make the roads a safer place for all road users. Ms. Lowe outlined that a Safe System Approach is needed i.e. safer roads, safe speeds, safe vehicles by way of NCT and safe road use/driver behaviour. Reports show that there has been a drop in numbers wearing seat belts and we are seeing a regression in behaviour.

Ms. Lowe outlined that there have been significant increases in funding in relation to the NTA Bus Stop Enhancement Programme which will provide clear demarcations for buses to stop and improving existing infrastructure and providing Bus Shelters and seating areas. This will help public transport safety.

#### **Committee Members raised the following points and queries:**

- Cllr. Broderick queried will the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme apply to school buses.
- Cllr. Feeney expressed he would like to see Active Travel projects progressed more speedily.
- Cllr. McHugh Ryan requested an update in relation to Bus Shelters to cater for school routes servicing the Corofin to Mountbellew route and Dublin Road area.
- Cllr. McNamara addressed the issue of Hedge Cutting and outlined how vital this is, in assisting motorists with visibility. He questioned does the local authority have their own hedge cutting machinery and provide the full service themselves.
- Comh. Ó Curraoin suggested the elected members could use their Notice of Motion monies to assist in funding the cost of the hedge cutting service.

#### **Committee Members queries were responded to as follows:**

- Bus Stop Enhancement Programme is funded by the NTA and in order for a bus shelter to be provided there must be 5 stops a day on a bus service for 5 days a week.
- In terms of Active Travel projects, the NTA are at present concentrating on urban design projects but balancing this with rural and urban Bus Stop enhancements.
- In relation to Hedgecutting operations, as far as possible, should only be undertaken outside the critical nesting period of 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> August each year. In relation to providing the service it is a combination of each MD carrying out same along with the hiring of contractors also.
- School Bus Stops are not included within the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme unless they coincide with a public transport stop.

- Ms. Lowe advised that the Active Travel team could present on the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme if required.

#### **ITEM NO. 5 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr. Feeney wished to receive clarity does the Physical Development, Transportation & Emergency SPC have any role in relation to the issue of Wastewater and can he make representations/discuss under the remit of this SPC.

Cllr. McNamara referred to a Notice of Motion he submitted at a Plenary meeting which was referred to SPC for discussion in relation to providing a car parking pass to individuals working as a carer and wished for same to be an item for discussion at next SPC that will be held.


It was agreed that the next SPC will take place 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

The meeting concluded.

**Críochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.**

**Signed &**

**Approved by:**

  
**Comh. Padraig Mac an Iomaire**  
**Cathaoirleach**

**Date:**

