



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 16th September, 2015, IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN 2

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Cllr C. Cuffe, Chairperson; Cllr P. McCartan, Cllr J. Horgan-Jones, Cllr. R. McHugh, Cllr F. Kennedy, Cllr T. Keegan, Cllr C. O'Moore, Cllr K. Binchy, Cllr M. Flynn, Cllr P. Smyth, Cllr P. Hand, Ms F. Kelty, Mr D. Brennan, Mr D. Peppard, Mr R. Guiney, Mr J. Leahy.

Apologies: Mr F. Mulligan

Non-Members: Cllr R. McAdam

Dublin City Council Staff: Mr D. Wallace, Executive Manager; Mr B. O'Brien, Head of Technical Services; Ms E. Kelly, Senior Executive Planner; Mr R. O'Dea, Senior Engineer, Roads Construction; Mr A. Walsh, Senior Engineer; Mr A. Dundon, Executive Engineer; Mr D. Brennan, Executive Engineer; Ms C. French, Assistant Engineer; Mr K. Meade, Administrative Officer; Ms E. Hickey, Administrative Officer; Mr S. Hickey, Senior Staff Officer; Ms B. O'Reilly, Assistant Staff Officer; Ms C. Curran, Clerical Officer.

National Transport Authority: Mr Hugh Creegan, Director of Transport Investment and Taxi Regulation, Deputy Chief Executive.

1. Minutes of meeting held on 10th June, 2015 (**copy attached**)

Cllr M. Flynn asked for the terms of the contract with JC Decaux to be made public, or submitted confidentially to the contracts committee. The Chairperson noted that that the €150 deposit is an obstacle that we will need to come back to at a future meeting.

Minutes noted.

2. (i) Letter dated 14th May, 2015, from An Garda Síochána in response to request that action be taken against rickshaws operated in pedestrian areas and on footpaths (**copy attached**)
- (ii) update on regulation of rickshaws (**verbal update**)

Mr D. Wallace, Executive Manager, said that the Gardaí have confirmed that rickshaws come under fixed penalty notices for cyclists and can be used in relation to rickshaw operation. Following legal advice received from the NTA, it is proposed to proceed with the previously drafted Bye-Laws with some changes. It is hoped to submit draft Bye-Laws to the next SPC meeting. Mr D. Brennan said that proposed Bye-Laws must be strong, enforceable and must be a deterrent for people breaking the law.

Noted. It was agreed to write to An Garda Síochána for the number of fines issued in relation to rickshaws and to stress the seriousness of the matter.

3. Letter dated 27th July, 2015, from the National Transport Authority regarding the inclusion of Coca-Cola Zero dublinbikes scheme on the Leap card (**copy attached**)

Noted.

4. Letter dated 11th June, 2015, from the National Transport Authority regarding taxi licences to operate in more than one county (**copy attached**)

Noted. It was agreed to write to the NTA to request the number of taxis coming in to Dublin from other counties, especially at week-ends.

5. Proposed Dublin City Council Appointed Stands, Street Service Vehicles (Taxi), Bye-Laws 2015 – report on statutory public consultation ((i) **report and (ii) Draft Bye-Laws attached**)

Mr D. Brennan, Assistant Engineer, said that, in summary, following the review, there is an effective increase of 30 taxi ranks and an increase of 195 taxi spaces in the proposed Bye-Laws.

It was agreed to refer the Draft Dublin City Council Appointed Stands, Street Service Vehicles (Taxi), Bye-Laws 2015 to the City Council for adoption.

6. Dublin City Centre Transport Study: Summary of responses – Non-Statutory Consultation Document September 2015 (**copy attached**)

Mr B. O'Brien, Head of Technical Services, reported that there were over 7,700 submissions. The report sets out a summary of the major items that arose during the consultation. At present, the City Council is engaged in assessing the submissions, extracting the main issues and having meetings with the key stakeholders to understand their points of view. Mr O'Brien responded in detail to Members queries. He said that the City Council will try to address as many of the concerns raised, start to look at what can be implemented and start to put a timeframe on when those measures could be implemented.

It was agreed to list this matter as a standing item on the Agenda every 3 months and to seek information from the NTA on a breakdown/analysis of car traffic in the city centre. The Chairperson said that it is necessary to carry out a further review of bus routes to spread the network in the city, which might take some pressure off College Green.

7. Luas Cross City works/College Green (**verbal update**)

Mr B. O'Brien gave an update on the Luas cross city works.

In relation to College Green, Mr D. Wallace, Executive Manager, said that the existing lanes need to be re-aligned to limit the amount of traffic movement into that junction to facilitate Luas and bus movements. There will probably be a Part 8 planning process before Christmas for the re-alignment, which will be for the physical works, and will not relate to the exclusion of any particular vehicle type. When that work is completed, it is intended there will be a public ideas competition in relation to the proposed public plaza.

Report noted.

8. Liffey Cycle Route **(verbal report)**

Mr B. O'Brien noted that since the June SPC meeting, there were two opportunities for Members to walk the route. The City Council is starting to work through the 4 options to look at what is achievable, and develop a preferred emerging option to revert to the Committee with. A detailed discussion took place on the matter and Mr B. O'Brien replied to Members questions. Local community opposition to the possible moving of buses onto Benburb Street was noted.

It was agreed to circulate more accurate figures on the number of Buses and Luas trams using Smithfield. It is expected that a further report on the Liffey Cycle Route will be brought back to the next SPC meeting.

9. Motorbike parking **(report attached)**

Report noted.

10. European Mobility Week **(verbal)**

Mr B. O'Brien said that there isn't a formal set of events for European Mobility Week this year. It is intended that the proposed Cycling and Walking Officer will have future responsibility for European Mobility Week and it is hoped to have a list of events for next year. Members expressed concern about sandwich boards on pavements obstructing the visually and mobility impaired, and Ms F. Kelty asked for stiffer penalties for this. In relation to an accessibility network throughout the city, the Chairperson said that the City Council needs to focus on the challenges faced by disabled persons.

It was agreed to have a presentation by a disability group to a future meeting of the SPC, as proposed by Mr D. Brennan. It was agreed to invite the Public Realm Officer to give a presentation to the SPC on the work being done in the public realm, and to raise the issue of the removal of sandwich boards with her.

11. Discussion on Christmas traffic flows including parking/public transport promotions **(verbal)**

Mr K. Meade gave details of previous parking promotions and asked Members for any suggestions for this year's promotion.

Noted.

12. Liffey Bridges: structural condition and future river crossings **(report attached)**

Mr R. O'Dea, Senior Engineer, Roads Construction and Design, outlined details of the report, and responded to Members queries. The Chairperson suggested that the name of the East Link bridge be reconsidered.

Report noted

13. East Link: future proposals **(verbal update)**

Mr B. O'Brien reported that the East Link Bridge comes back to the full ownership of the City Council from 1st January, 2016. The City Council is working through the transfer arrangements with the current owners and it is anticipated that at 1st January the bridge will continue to function as is, with the total revenue accruing to the City Council. The Council is looking at options on how to improve pedestrian and cycling facilities, and a separate parallel bridge may be required. Mr O'Brien responded to Members questions. Cllr P. McCartan said that he wanted it put on record that the bridge is extremely dangerous for pedestrians because of the narrowness, particularly on a windy day.

It was agreed that a presentation will be made to the South East Area Committee on the East Link Bridge before the end of the year.

14. Development Plan – Transportation projects – rationale and costings **(report attached)**

Ms Edel Kelly, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads and Traffic Planning, summarised the report.

The Chairperson requested a further report on timelines, prioritisation and funding regarding the projects listed in the report.

15. Staffing resources **(verbal)**

Mr D. Wallace outlined the process for the filling of staff vacancies. The Chairperson said that it is crucial to have senior posts filled and it is needed to communicate to the Chief Executive to have important and crucial positions filled.

Noted.

16. Minutes of Cycling and Walking Sub-Committee meeting held on 27th May, 2015 **(copy attached)**

Minutes noted

Motions

17. Motion in the name of Councillor Paddy Smyth:

“This committee requests that the price of parking in the city centre be increased to a level that ensures approximately 85% occupancy during peak times. This level of occupancy has been shown, in other metropolitan areas, to significantly reduce the amount of traffic circulating in urban areas attempting to locate cheap on-street parking.”

Cllr P. Smyth said that he has amended his Motion by substituting “altered” for “increased” i.e. “..... that the price of parking in the city centre be altered to a level.....”

Following discussion of the Motion, it was agreed to defer the Motion pending the submission of a detailed report to the Committee on parking and pricing in the city.

18. A.O.B.

Cllr M. Flynn raised the issue of cash-in-transit vans parking on pavements. It was agreed to write to the Security Industry and An Garda Síochána regarding illegality and enforcement.

Councillor Ciarán Cuffe

Chairperson,

16th September, 2015