



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Report to the Chairperson and Members of the Traffic and Transport Strategic Policy Committee

*Report on the Public Consultation on
Dublin City Council's
Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2020 (COVID19)*

Helen Smirnova

Senior Executive Engineer

Road Safety, Policy, Strategy and Innovation

Transportation Department

September 2020

Introduction

Dublin City Council has undertaken a review of speed limits within its' administrative area and has engaged through consultation with members of the public, with particular regard to the extension of the 30km/hr speed limit into further areas of our city. This initiative was linked with other actions of DCC in relation to Covid-19 mobility actions. With promotion of cycling and walking in mind, additional cycle lanes and extension of pedestrianized areas have been introduced in many areas around the city. To facilitate safe movement of cyclists and pedestrians in particular it was proposed to extend 30 km/hr zones to the majority of streets within Dublin City Council's administrative area. With passing of the new proposed bye-laws, 30km/hr would become a default speed limit in Dublin City. Some areas, roads and streets within the DCC boundary are proposed to have special speed limit of 50, 60 and 80 km/hr.

The review of current speed limits was undertaken in accordance with the publication of the 'Guidelines for Setting & Managing Speed Limits in Ireland' (March 2015) published by the Department of Transport Tourism & Sport. The principle objective of assessing the appropriate speed limits for our roads and streets is to ensure that the set speed limits are as safe and appropriate as possible for vulnerable road users, including children.

The Road Traffic Act of 2004 (Section 9) sets out the current legislative basis for the setting of speed limits. The setting of special speed limits is a function of the Elected Members of the council. The current speed limits were last reviewed and updated in 2019. The default speed limit in Dublin City is 50km/hr with a selection of areas, roads and streets where a special speed limit of 30, 60 or 80km/hr are also in place. Please see link below for a map of the current Speed Limits in Dublin City Council area

Link: https://consultation.dublincity.ie/traffic-and-transport/consultation-proposed-special-speed-limit-020/supporting_documents/30KP%20Speed%20Limit%20Review%20201911.12.2019%20Rev%20E.dgn.pdf

This Public Consultation has a purpose to seek public acceptance for the introduction of revised Special Speed Limits Bye-Laws 2020 (Covid-19) which include additional 30km/hr zones in the Dublin City Council administrative area.

The proposed Public Consultation documentation was presented to both the Strategic Policy Committee for Transportation and the full Dublin City Council at their meetings on 3rd June and 8th

June accordingly. Approval to proceed to Public Consultation was received from the Elected Representatives at that time.

2174 responses were received with 216 respondents wishing to comment on the proposed bye-laws via email and 1 making submission in writing.

Public Consultation Details

The Public Consultation on the draft Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2020 (Covid-19) was carried out from the 2nd July until 13th August 2020 inclusive.

The Public Consultation was a statutory process carried out in accordance with the stipulations set out by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The statutory requirements of this public consultation which we complied with were set out in the document 'Guidelines to Setting & Managing Speed Limits in Ireland':

The public notice opposite was published in Irish Daily Star and Irish Independent on Wednesday 1st July 2020.

The proposed draft Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws were on display in the Dublin City Council offices and available libraries.

Submissions were accepted online at <https://consultation.dublincity.ie/traffic-and-transport/consultation-proposed-special-speed-limit-2020/>

And via email Speed Review speedreview@dublincity.ie



The graphic is a public notice for Dublin City Council. It features the council's logo (three crowns) and the name 'Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath Dublin City Council'. To the right, a silhouette of a person holds a sign that says 'PUBLIC NOTICE'. The text below the logo reads: 'Public Consultation on proposed special speed Limit Bye-Laws 2020 (Covid-19). Dublin City Council is expanding the 30 km/hr speed limits in its administrative area in accordance with the "Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland". These Guidelines were issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in March 2015. The proposed measures set out in the Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws (Covid-19) primarily include Phase 5 of the 30 km/hr speed limit zones in areas within our administrative area. The proposals can be viewed on Dublin City Council's website (www.dublincity.ie/speedreview). Details and drawings are also available for inspection from 2nd July 2020 to 13th August 2020 at: • The public counter in the Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8; • Dublin City Council libraries; • Dublin City Council Area Offices. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, please contact your nearest library or Area Office for more instructions before visiting the premises. Please make yourself familiar with these proposals and let us know your views. Representations in relation to these proposals may be made in writing to: The Senior Engineer, Dublin City Council, Environment and Transportation Department, Block 2, Floor 7, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8 or via email: speedreview@dublincity.ie dublincity.ie

Submissions could have been made online, on or before 5pm on Thursday 13th August 2020.

Submissions could have also been made in writing marked "Speed Limit Review" to the Senior Engineer, Transport Operations, Environment & Transportation Department, Dublin City Council, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, D08 RF3F, or via email to speedreview@dublincity.ie.

A hardcopy of the proposed Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2020 (Covid-19) was available for inspection at all opened Dublin City Council Libraries, Civic Offices and Local Area Offices for the duration of the Public Consultation.

Submissions from the Public Consultation

Dublin City Council received submissions from the public via channels below:

1. Emails to the speedreview@dublincity.ie
2. Submissions in writing to the Senior Engineer, Transport Operations, Environment & Transportation Department, Dublin City Council, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, D08 RF3F
3. Comments via the online survey at www.dublincity.ie/speedreview

216 emails were received

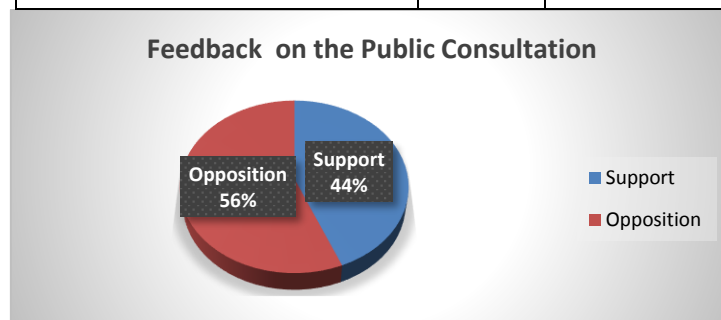
1 submission was received in writing

1957 comments were received via the online survey

Total number of submissions received 2174

Feedback on the Public Consultation

Sources	Support	Opposition
• Emails	88	128
• Submissions in writing	0	1
• Consultation Hub	1429	1819
Total number	1517	1948



Item	Comments Conveyed The Following General Observations
1.	<p>Road Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This measure would provide a safer environment for children. Overall speed reduction measures would provide a safe environment for all road users. The 30km/h default speed is a large step towards safer streets for pedestrians, cyclists, children, and the mobility impaired.
2.	<p>What cyclists are saying?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would make Dublin a better place to walk and cycle. During the lockdown, cycling was easy and safe. As a cyclist, lower speed limits will make a big difference this would make my journeys around the city much safer and more comfortable.
3.	<p>What Pedestrians are saying?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no doubt a need to change the default speed limit on many main and busy roads, particularly now with more pedestrians and cyclists and the fact that many people are stepping out onto the road (since Covid 19 lockdown) where pavements are narrow. The medical evidence of surviving being hit by a vehicle at lower speeds speaks for itself.
4.	<p>Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be much easier if it is all 30K.
5.	<p>What drivers are saying?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer journey times for motorists and additional delays in driving through City cause a lot of frustration, stress and pressure for motorists. Watching speedometer would take concentration off the road. Cyclists overtaking cars. Lower speed would be bad for the car engine. Lower income to taxi drivers due to less travels affecting their business model. The petrol and particularly Diesel engine is at its least efficient at those speeds. They use more fuel and emit far more pollutants than they do at 50 km/h
5.	<p>Footfall Reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This appears to be a measure aimed at reducing the quality of life for Dubliners, by discouraging travel within the city and could potentially reduce the footfall in local business at a time, when they are already struggling with a difficult economic It would reduce the number of customer site visits, and services/repairs performed on a daily basis. Our public transport is not sufficiently funded, or spread to provide alternative modes of transportation.

Overall suggestions from the public on this consultation

A. Suggestion from the public on adding extra roads as a 30 km/h.

The following roads were requested from the public to add them on this proposal of reduction

- Amiens street
- Cork Street
- Drimnagh Road
- Crumlin Road
- Dolphins Barn
- Lucan road
- Martins row
- Sean Moore Road - East Wall Road should be 30kph
- The whole length of the North Circular Road, Drumcondra Road and Ballymun Road

B. Time table speed or lower to 40 km/h

- Support but speed limits should be variable and not applicable to night (1 AM to 5 AM) for example
- Only between 7.00 and 10.00 and 16.00 – 19.00.
- I feel that a 40 km/h here would bring about better compliance
- All 30 speed limits shouldn't apply at night time because when driving at 30 you have rickshaws and people on electric scooters going past you makes no sense

C. Enforcement and the needs for mobility education

- We need automated, blanket enforcement, penalties, as well as structural interventions on wider streets to make this speed limit change effective.
- Greater enforcement of the limits using the Gardaí and driver education.
- More education should be provided to all road users and more safety campaigns.
- Enforcement would be much easier if it is all 30K.
- I feel that a 40 km/h here would bring about better compliance
- The existing speed limits are more than sufficient if they are enforced. The current enforcement is totally inadequate.

D. Traffic calming and signage

- More signage and traffic calming will need to be put in place
 - I hope Dublin City Council will secure funding for implementation of traffic-calming measures that will encourage adherence to the 30 km/h limits.
 - More segregated cycle lanes, improved signage and better behaviour from drivers needed
-

Questionnaire Responses:

Included in the online public consultation were a number of questions on the expansion of the 30Km/hr zones and driver behaviour & attitudes towards the introduction. Looking at the responses submitted we have more opposition than support with 56% against and 44% in favour. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this consultation.

Project Costs

The capital cost to implement this phase requires the installation of road signs and poles at each point around the city where a speed limit changes as a result of this proposal being implemented.

In preparing the cost estimate, we have endeavoured to ensure existing signage poles are utilised.

If this change in speed limits is passed the costs involved in erection of sign, poles and other activities will be funded via the Government Stimulus package with funding approved via the NTA

Conclusion:

The making of speed limit bye-laws is a reserved function of the Elected Members of Local Authorities the power to make bye-laws for the purpose of applying Special Speed Limits which was established in 1994, is retained in the Road Traffic Act 2004 and introduced fundamental changes to the process of making bye-laws and the range of powers available to Local Authorities.

As originally set out in the Road Traffic Act 1994, bye-laws should generally be made in respect of a Local Authority area as a whole. Dealing with proposals for specific areas or roads on an independent basis should be avoided unless it is deemed necessary or appropriate to do so, particularly on the grounds of safety. Should these new bye-laws be adopted, the intention of Dublin City Council's Transportation Department is to roll out all the changes required across the city area as one project.

The overriding principle that must inform any decision to change a default speed limit should be Road Safety, in particular, the reduction of fatal and serious road collisions. From our examination of international experiences and from an assessment of the existing 30km/h speed limit areas in Dublin City, all have recorded only positive outcomes in terms of this road safety objective. Other environmental benefits have also been recorded, such as positive feedback from residents who live within a designated 30km/h area, and their continued support for 30km/h speed limits post introduction.

In the period of the public consultation, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) requested changes to be made at some of the descriptions for Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws June 2020 (COVID19). These changes were suggested at The Dublin Port Tunnel and the Northbound off-ramp (from the Santry By-

pass to the Coolock Lane Interchange. These changes have been put in place. For more information, please review the bye - laws attached.

During the consultation, we also received numerous requests from the public to add additional streets for Speed Limit reductions and these can all be assessed next year if the speed limit bye-laws as set out already are approved by the elected members.

Recommendation:

The original 2019 30km/h rollout had been progressing but concerns had been raised by the public and elected members that many arterial roads passing through the urban villages were still staying at the higher speed of 50km/h even though these roads had residents, shops and schools. We had committed to reviewing these areas and determining if the speed limits in these areas should be lowered.

The Covid pandemic has served to emphasise the value of these urban villages and highlighted to need to reduce speed limits and the increase in people walking and cycling in their local area during lockdown was also notable. The lowering of speed limits and the lowering of the speed differential between the active modes and motorised traffic all will contribute to enhanced safety throughout the city.

Therefore it is still the recommendation of the Executive in the Environment & Transportation department that the speed limit bye-laws as set out during the consultation be approved by the elected members. The concerns regarding increased journey times and difficulties in keeping to the reduced speed limits have to be set against the clear desire of so many residents who want to improve their areas and wish to see reduced speeds in their local areas. The clear intent of these speed limit bye-laws is to have the 30km/h as the default speed limit and that drivers should assume this is the speed limit across the city unless there are specific speed limit signs advising of higher speed limits.

If the elected members do not approve these speed limit bye-laws then we will not be able to lower the speed limits within the urban villages but more importantly the default speed limit in the city will stay at 50km/h.

Appendix A

PR Campaign for Public Consultation

During the public consultation, to make public aware of the process, Dublin City Council carried out a substantial PR Campaign using the media below:

1. Radio message on the followings stations:

- 98 FM
- Spin 103.8
- FM 104
- Q102
- Nova
- Nova Bonus
- Sunshine 106.8
- Sunshine 106.8 Bonus

2. Dublin Bus Vehicles



We promoted campaign for the duration of 2 weeks on the rear of 200 Dublin Buses with the Road Safety 30 km/h images/logos.

3. Dublin City Council Solar Bins.



Road Safety logos were placed on 150 Solar Bins around City for a period of 6 weeks.

4. Dublin City Council Parking Meters



Road Safety logos were also placed on our 1200 Parking Meters.

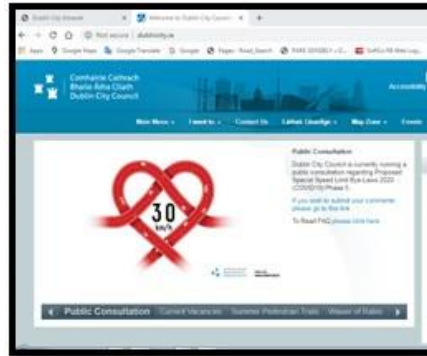
5. Social media

- Facebook/Twitter/Instagram

Please see video link

<https://www.facebook.com/162299714624/videos/599318414087544>

6. Dublin City Council Website



7. Here are the Road Safety Section branding images/logos we intend to use to build our community to promote Road Safety campaigns.



The Road Safety Section is planning to continue promotion of the 30 km/h campaign during implementation phase (until December 2020) and beyond.