

# Report to the Chairperson and Members of the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee

### Velo-City 2019

Dublin City Council's Environment and Transportation Department is delighted to announce that Dublin has been awarded the honour of hosting Velo-City on June 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> in 2019. The conference is likely to attract over 2000 international delegates and as such will be a hugely beneficial event for the city and the country.

The Velo-City conference series is the European Cyclists' Federation (ECF) annual global cycling summit, organized by the ECF and selected host cities. Velo-City conferences are widely considered as the premier international cycling conference series and serve as a global communications and information platform and target to influence decision makers, and improve the policies, planning and provision of infrastructure for cycling and the daily use of the bicycle in an urban environment. The conferences traditionally involve experts, representatives of associations, institutions, policy-makers and social agents, universities and companies.

In August 2016 Dublin City Council made a formal submission to bid for Velo-City to take place in Dublin 2019. Dublin, along with Helsinki, were shortlisted as potential host cities for Velo-City 2019 in September 2016.

The European Cycle Federation conducted a site visit of both Helsinki and Dublin over the week of the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2016. Over 3 days Dublin City Council showcased cycling in the city with a range of stakeholders, alongside visits to both complete and proposed cycle routes. The team held meetings with Chief Executive Owen Keegan, the Lord Mayor's office, Councillor Ciarán Cuffe as Chairperson of the Transportation SPC and the Cycling and Walking Sub-Committee, and Minister Shane Ross in Dáil Éireann. The NTA presented to the team and they also met with the Dublin Cycling Campaign and Cycling Ireland. The team took part in a cycling tour of the Grand Canal Route and parts of the Royal Canal Route as well as an extensive site visit of the Clontarf section of the S25. In early December we heard the news that we had been successful in our bid to host Velo-City in 2019.

Dublin previously hosted Velo-City in 2005. We are the first city in the world to be awarded the conference twice. Hosting Velo-City in 2005 proved a catalyst for cycling growth in the city - the number of cyclists in the city increased by 147% since 2005, but also the conference showed that cycling was a real and viable mode of transport for Dublin despite its decline over the previous years. The experience that the delegates shared with Dublin and their insights really changed attitudes at a number of levels to cycling and showed that there was a need for strong policy decisions, ambitious targets and an integrated approach to encouraging sustainable travel.

Dublin's theme for Velo-City 2019 is *Cycling for the Ages*. We aim to encourage cycling by people of all ages, young and old, male and female, and to promote the health, environmental, social and economic benefits of cycling. We also want to show the evolution of cycling in Dublin through the ages and into the future. We look forward to welcoming delegates from all over the world to our city to share our experiences, successes and challenges in promoting and developing cycling during Velo-City Dublin, 2019 and anticipate that, just as in 2005, hosting Velo City will be a game changer for cycling in Dublin.

An official press release and signing of the Velo-City contract is scheduled to take place in the Mansion House on the 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2017, with the board of the ECF, the Lord Mayor and Chief Executive.

Abbey Conferences have been appointed as the Professional Conference Organiser (PCO) to work alongside Dublin City Council's team in Environment and Transportation to deliver a world class cycling conference. The Dublin Convention Centre has been chosen as the venue for the 4 day event to coincide with an evening social programme. In preparation for the conference Dublin is required to create an Executive Committee – consisting of Dublin City Council and the ECF, a Managing Committee, a Communications Committee and a Programme Committee with all due representation and a Programme Director to develop a professional programme for the conference. The Environment and Transportation Department is currently assessing additional resource requirements for the Velo-City project. There will be a number of onsite visits by the ECF throughout 2017 and 2018 and in the lead up to Velo-City 2019. Abbey Conferences estimate that Velo-City 2019 will give a €3.8 million boost to the economy based on 2000 delegates attending the conference.

Velo-City 2017 will take place in the Dutch cities of Arnhem and Nijmegen between June 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Both Lord Mayor Brendan Carr and Chief Executive Owen Keegan will attend in an official capacity for the Mayor's Session at the Global Cycling Summit taking place during the conference.

Velo-City 2018 will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Dublin will have to attend and make a presentation at Velo-City 2018 in order to announce the conference. Dublin will also be required to prepare a booth in the exhibition area of Velo-City 2018.

Hosting Velo City in Dublin in 2019 will accelerate the efforts by Dublin City Council and our partner agencies to further the development of Dublin as a world class cycling city.

Brendan O'Brien  
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10<sup>th</sup> February, 2017