

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT STRATEGIC POLICY  
COMMITTEE HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023 AT 3pm**

**Hybrid Meeting held online via Zoom and in Council Chambers, City Hall.**

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**ATTENDANCE:**

**SPC Members:**

Chair, Councillor Noeleen Reilly; Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy; Councillor Deirdre Conroy; Councillor Keith Connolly; Councillor Mannix Flynn; Councillor Jane Horgan Jones; Councillor Janet Horner; Councillor Paddy McCartan; Councillor Larry O'Toole; Councillor Michael Pidgeon.

Mr Martin Hoey, Public Participation Network; Mr Colm Ryder, Dublin Cycling Campaign; Richard Guiney Dublin Town, Mr Keith Gavin, Irish Parking

**Apologies:** Councillor Anne Feeney; Declan Gray, Dublin Chamber of Commerce; Gary Kearney, Public Participation Network

**Absent:** Councillor Daniel Céitinn

**Non-Members:**

Councillor Cieran Perry; Councillor Donna Cooney.

**Dublin City Council Staff:**

John Flanagan, Assistant Chief Executive Brendan O'Brien, A/Executive Manager (Traffic); Dermot Collins, Executive Manager (Engineering); Karen Hosie, Senior Transportation Officer; Dermot Stephenson, Parking Enforcement Officer; Mary Boyle, a/Senior Staff Officer; Hazel Tapley, Assistant Staff Officer; Oliver Esmonde, Clerical Officer, Kirsten Clerical Officer.

**Item No.**

1. Minutes of Traffic and Transport SPC Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2022
  - a) Minutes of Walking & Cycling Sub-Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2022
  - b) Minutes of Public Transport Subcommittee held on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2022
  - c) Minutes of Zebra Crossing Working Group held on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 and 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2023

**1-1c – Noted and agreed**

2. Replies received to correspondence sent on foot of Motion Agreed in November SPC regarding bus service issues.

**Replies from NTA, Dublin Bus and Go Ahead Ireland noted**

3. Letter to Road Safety Authority on foot of Motion from November SPC and Response Received

**Noted**

4. Report on RSA Strategy – Rossana Camargo

**Report Noted, agreed to further review the draft Strategy and hold workshops with Councillors**

5. Report on Zebra Crossings – Karen Hosie, Senior Transportation Officer

**It was agreed to refer the report and recommendations to City Council for approval.**

6. Report from Road Maintenance – Winter Programme – Dermot Collins, Executive Manager

**Dublin City Council will explore innovative options for the efficient treatment of priority footpaths with gritting salts during periods of severe ice. Initial discussions have taken place with the National Transport Authority on the provision of additional resources, equipment and materials.**

**Report noted**

7. Report on Coach Parking charges and update on Emissions based Parking Charges – Dermot Stephenson, Parking Enforcement Officer.

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Dublin City Council propose to commence charging for Coach Parking in the City Coaches from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023, the fee is currently set at €9 per hour. Coaches may park up to a maximum of two (2) hours in any one location. The hours of operation will be 07:00 – 19:00 Monday to Sunday.

**Noted**

8. Motion from Walking & Cycling Sub-Committee in relation to Motion 15 on Feb Agenda in the Name of Cllr. Janet Horner on behalf of Walking & Cycling Sub-Committee

*This committee requests the traffic and transport division to investigate and bring forward a proposal on how to receive, prioritise, coordinate, implement and respond to data submitted by community groups and individuals using walking and cycling auditing tools in an efficient and effective manner. Several of these tools have been developed by partner organisations of DCC e.g. the NTA, Green Schools, Dublin Cycling Campaign and Disability Federation of Ireland and it is important that the data is gathered and effectively responded to. The system provided by DCC should set a protocol for how responsibilities will be assigned within the traffic and transport section and how the*

*section will coordinate with other relevant sections within DCC or relevant external bodies.*

Reply:

The request is to investigate how we would provide a portal to allow different groups to submit information to DCC and then how the information gathered can be effectively responded to.

In the first instance we have looked at how we currently compile data and whether any of the existing systems can be utilised to provide this function.

The Traffic and transport divisions of DCC utilise a number of different systems in order to allow us to utilise data collected at junction and street level. In the first case of junction information there are two main systems in use namely the SCATS Traffic control system which provides aggregate data for each junction on the SCATS system and this is organised via a combination of its Traffic Reporter software and Scats data base. A junction is uniquely identified by its junction number and all reports regarding traffic information and layout of the junction can be accessed in this way. While it is a very good system for what it is intended to be it is not able to ingest the data being prepared by third parties and particularly non structured information.

The second system is our AFMS (Asset and Fault Management system) which is an on line real time system for automatic fault reporting across all of the traffic signal equipment that DCC use. This system does have the ability to upload data from third parties, however when this was analysed the drawback of using this system is that again it is junction based and there would be considerable work to turn this into a usable tool from its current configuration.

Another system is the rate my signals application which allows users to register issues with traffic signals and which does provide a good way of enabling the public to raise issues with DCC.

However none of the above current systems are in their current versions will provide a system which meets the requirements as set out in this motion.

Therefore we have reached out to the internal Transformation Unit and also our Smart City to determine if they can assist us in the specification and procuring of a system to meet the requirements. Initial discussions are ongoing.

Brendan O'Brien

Acting Executive Manager (Traffic)

**Noted**

**9. December North Central Area Committee Meeting under Item 4E, Area Managers' Reports Public Domain, Members requested that the following issue be referred for discussion to the Transport SPC.**

Order: Noted. Letter be sent to Transport SPC from NCAC re gritting of footpaths & NC to be used as a pilot scheme for grit to be given to residents groups (Clontarf Residents Association) to do the footpaths.

By way of background, Cllr. Cooney raised the issue on behalf of Clontarf Residents' Association & was very unhappy with the response given – the following was the response that was issued to the CRA in this regard.

Road Maintenance Services' focus is on the treatment of 300km of the City's main roads. This includes the main public transport corridors, routes to access hospitals, Dublin Port, Dublin Airport, train stations, bus stations and our depots. The full capacity of the Division's resources are dedicated to this task and other priority issues that may arise on the road network. This includes the Division's staff, lorries, plant, machinery and our salt stocks. During periods of severe ice and snow the Division seeks support from the other operational divisions in the City Council, such as Waste Management Services, to assist with the response effort. Due to the current freezing conditions Waste Management Services are today treating some footpaths at a number of priority locations. It is not feasible to make salt and salt bins available for the purpose of gritting residential roads across the City at this time. Furthermore, an additional concern that the Division has is that salt is corrosive to concrete footpaths and its use over time will lead to a deterioration in the footpath, which in turn will lead to additional trip hazards for pedestrians and of course we want to avoid this.

**This motion was taken with Item 6. Dublin City Council will explore innovative options for the efficient treatment of priority footpaths with gritting salts during periods of severe ice. Initial discussions have taken place with the National Transport Authority on the provision of additional resources, equipment and materials. Report noted**

#### **10. Motion in the name of Councillor Janet Horner**

This SPC calls for an immediate revision of the Winter Maintenance Plan to prioritise footpath gritting and salting during periods of freezing temperatures. This change in policy should reflect the hierarchy of street users, the public sector duty on equality and human rights and the priority given to walking and cycling in our broader city policies. A report should be provided back to members of this SPC identifying funding sources and strategy, including priority locations such as schools, health centres, public transport hubs for footpath gritting and salting in future incidents.

**This motion was taken with Item 6. Dublin City Council will explore innovative options for the efficient treatment of priority footpaths with gritting salts during periods of severe ice. Initial discussions have taken place with the National Transport Authority on the provision of additional resources, equipment and materials. Report noted**

#### **11. Motion in the name of Councillor Cieran Perry.**

That this SPC notes with concern the BusConnects Blanchardstown to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme was submitted to An Bord Pleanála without an opportunity for a proper public consultation on changes introduced since the final preferred route documents was published in March 2022. Given the importance and impact of the BusConnects project, at a minimum, a report should be presented to the Traffic & Transport SPC prior to progress on any of the major phases of the project.

This SPC will write to the NTA highlighting these concerns.

**Agreed**

## **12. AOB**

Report requested on funding for TAG, Neighbourhood Schemes and Safe Routes to School Programme.

Active Travel Unit to report to future meetings of Traffic and Transport SPC