

Minutes of the Walking & Cycling Sub-Committee (Sub-Committee of the Traffic & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee)

Meeting Details:

Date: Monday 3rd July 2023

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: Hybrid Meeting - in-person in the Richard O'Carroll Room, City Hall and online via MS TEAMS

Attendees: Cllr. Janet Horner, Martin Hoey, Cllr. Mannix Flynn, Colm Ryder, Cllr. Michael Pidgeon, Gary Kearney

Apologies: Oliver Dalton, Cllr. Caroline Conroy, Inspector Peter Woods, Declan Gray, Naomi Oldenburg, Ciara Norton, Cllr. Larry O'Toole, Cllr. Keith Connolly, Will Andrews

DCC Officials: William McLean, Susan Fitzsimons, Rónán Costello, Kristina Moody, Michelle Murphy, Deirdre Kelly.

Minutes by: Deirdre Kelly

1. Minutes of previous meeting

- Minutes agreed

2. Members information sharing

Colm Ryder, Dublin Cycling Campaign:

- Dublin Cycling Campaign are working on submissions for many different active travel schemes.
- Media work on bike bunkers, helmet wearing, licensing and registration of bikes as well as interviews with NEAR FM on cycling issues.
- Engaging with the Active Travel coalition with health bodies including the Irish Heart Foundation, Doctors for the Environment
- Presenting at Healthy Ireland national conference on 7th July.
- Meetings with RSA, Garda, Department of Transport, NTA – happy to share any particular info from these meetings.
- More details available in report circulated to the group by Colm.

Questions / Comments:

- Gary Kearney: is the Active Travel coalition going the UNCRPD?
 - Colm Ryder: Will check with the main contact for the group on this.

3. Active Travel Programme Update

- William McLean, Assistant Engineer, Active Travel Programme Office, gave an update to on the work of the Active Travel Programme Office and Kristina Moody, Walking & Cycling Officer, Active Travel Programme Office gave an update on the Follow project.

Questions / Comments:

- Gary Kearney shared concerns about shared space and flagged a presentation he sent to the group. These concerns include bus stop islands and their safety for pedestrians. He flagged that universal design doesn't include shared space, and asked how is Dublin going to be different to other places where this has been trialled?
 - William McLean: Request to forward on the presentation mentioned as it wasn't attached in the email. DCC is trying to segregate pedestrians and cyclists in the city where possible and trying to reduce conflicts through behaviour change campaigns.
- Cllr. Michael Pidgeon: When will plans be published for the Thomas Street to Kilmainham scheme? Are we moving away from interim schemes?
 - William McLean: plans would have been on website. No date yet for final scheme as it's still at design. Interim schemes include bollards and are temporary in nature. Rapid build includes extruded kerbs and are more permanent.
- Cllr. Mannix Flynn: Request for interim audit on the safety of walking and cycling schemes. This could help to give confidence to future schemes. Request for the environmental documents for these projects, such as the environmental impact assessment, rather than scoping exercises – particularly on Dodder Greenway and Anglesea Road.
 - Michelle Murphy: DCC is meeting all the requirements. The screening report was received last week from Dodder Greenway and will be made public as soon as possible. Looking at implementing this development through a Section 38. Looking at design issues that need to be ironed out. Public consultation completed last night – documents being assessed and then will be shared. The Dodder Greenway project is being delivered in phases – working with other local authorities on this.
 - Cllr. Janet Horner: The road safety working group could potentially look at the interim H&S report.
 - Cllr. Mannix Flynn: assessment still required for this project.
 - Rónán Costello: a road safety audit would be done on the majority of projects – these can be shared.
 - Cllr. Mannix Flynn: obligation on DCC to share documents on website.
- Colm Ryder: Dublin Cycling Campaign also want to see less shared space. Need protection at junctions on Grand Canal route to ensure safety for cyclists. Flagged concerns raised online in relation to the Follow project. A road safety working together group is being set up – important role in pulling together info on incidents across the city. It will be an ongoing issue – to show that we are making the city safer.
- Martin Hoey: canal road closed on Withworth Road – not suitable for greater numbers of pedestrians using it, especially on bin day. Flagged concerns around the road being unsafe for cyclists, and that there have been near misses in that area, as it's too narrow to accommodate everyone.
- Cllr. Janet Horner: flagged that C2CC increased traffic on Summerhill which has caused issues. Suggestion to focus on safety as well as reducing public inconvenience. Requested details for the behaviour change campaign. Request for more details on the NTA rapid build – how do they interact with each other? Pedestrian crossing at Summerhill was started in February but still not finished – concerns about the pace of this project. How can we increase the pace? Phase 3 of Royal Canal – has an Ecology Officer been appointed? Comparison between DCC & DLR and flagged that the quality and pace seems higher in DLR.

- William McLean: eliminating share space where possible. Behaviour change campaign acknowledges it's not always possible. Grand Canal: can investigate this route more.
- Cllr. Michael Pidgeon: lane markings haven't gone in because SIAC went out of business.
- William McLean: Need to show how we are reducing incidents. The behaviour change campaign is in early stages– looking to include as many stakeholders as possible. Traffic are looking after pedestrian crossing at Summerhill – Deirdre to follow up.
- Michelle Murphy: more info to be shared on what's happening in city. Royal Canal Phase 3 – ecologists on the consultant's team – they have shared reports which will be shared. DLR & DCC have different processes. DLR ahead in some instances – learning from each other. Crossing schemes across local authority borders should all be seamless.
- Cllr Mannix Flynn: DCC had plenty of time to plan this in relation to catering for larger volume of traffic. Not reducing car numbers. Scoping exercises aren't the same as statutory documents. Flagged concern about scoping exercises. Need to look at schemes in holistic way.
- Gary Kearney: WT3 regulations need to be applied. Gary will contact disability tech for disability technology. Concerns about safety on Withworth Road. Flagged that 300 year old trees were cut down.
 - Michelle Murphy: more new trees to be planted than the number cut down.

4. Data from Bike Share Schemes

Moby Bikes

- Aadarsh Das, Moby Bikes, gave a presentation on the data that Moby Bikes collects.

Questions / Comments:

- Colm Ryder: Request to share US tool mentioned. Are wooden bikes still in use?
 - Aadarsh Das: Wooden bike pilot is closed now. Will send on link for US tool.
- Martin Hoey: Have you had many anti-social issues? Are there issues with parking violations and how do you deal with them? Has there been progress on bringing cargo bikes in Dublin City? Are there plans to bring in accessible bikes to the fleet?
 - Aadarsh Das: there have been some anti-social activities but mostly the bikes are safe against this. No accessible bikes yet – not sure of use of them in a sharing scheme. Looking into cargo bike with DCC. Parking violations: must take photo of bike to end rental – if this isn't done user will be fined. After 3rd offence, the user is fined. If it keeps happening account is de-activated.
- Michelle Murphy: do you have many new people joining or mostly repeated users? Use for route planning would be helpful.
 - Aadarsh Das: Partner with organisation to look at safe cycling routes – based on users' cumulative feedback.
- Cllr. Janet Horner: this data could be helpful for route planning – are there areas that people avoid, for example? What's the profile of people using the bikes and purpose of journey? Are e-bikes back in the fleet again? Enforcement of parking at poles etc.
 - Aadarsh Das: don't collect data on gender, age, journey purpose. Anyone over 16 can use them. Looking to integrate more ebikes back into fleet.
- Gary Kearney: Need numbers on e-bikes to report problems. Challenge of safety and injury with e-bikes. Batteries – are they included in environmental data?

- For first-time users – easier to ride an e-bike. Limited to 25KPH. In compliance with all EU regulations. Recycling of batteries: partner with company in Netherlands on this and recycle tyres and tubes as well. Bikes aren't hackable as follow all GDPR and cyber security rules.

NOWDublinBikes

- Tony Flanagan, JC Decaux / NOWDublin Bikes gave a presentation on the data in relation to their scheme.

Questions / Comments:

- Gary Kearney: stations on footpaths are a problem – people cycle on footpath. Flagged concerns about illegal parking of the bikes. Suggestion that promotion should follow RSA cycling safety. Make Way Day in September – NOWdublinbikes could support. Suggestion to put rules of the road and instructions at stations.
 - Tony Flanagan: not aware of parking on footpaths as a major problem. Most people park bike at station. Safe cycling messages run with 98fm and Spin fm and refer to rules of the road on website and app and flag these with people when then sign up.
- Colm Ryder: any info for 2022 or 2023 daily usage patterns? Drop in number journeys – understanding of why / how?
 - Tony Flanagan: can send on 2022 info on daily usage. Drop in numbers is related to Covid and working from home. Similar trend to canal cordon counts. Numbers are increasing again but this is slow. Scooters also provide other options for people that weren't available previously.
- Martin Hoey: are there any anti-social problems with bikes? 9% older people using them – bikes not suitable for people who can't cycle well. Could trikes be included in fleet? JC Decaux advertising on outskirts are low on footpaths and it's easy to hit them – is there not a minimum height?
 - Tony Flanagan: Slightly more anti-social behaviour than before but don't have stats on this. Some stations were targets – it's now been resolved. We'd have to look into the possibility for accessible cycles in the fleet and how they'd fit into station stands etc. Advertising boards – all fully planned.
- William McLean: open data – what's the best way to get additional data?
 - Tony Flanagan: Open data – link available. Share requests through Deirdre for any additional data requests.
- Cllr. Janet Horner: level of engagement with DCC on this data – we can learn a lot from it. Not current plans to expand the bike scheme but would be great to see. Concern about electric bikes – putting people off using them – non e-bikes users don't want to use bike as it's heavier. Engagement with Gardaí – are certain stations being targeted for theft?
 - Tony Flanagan: Would like to see expansion of stations. E-dublinbike is heavier – that's why they have 7 gears instead of 3. Haven't had feedback about them being awkward to cycle.

5. Walking & Cycling Promotions Update

- Deirdre Kelly, Cycling & Walking Officer, Traffic Department was due to give an update from Bike Week. However the microphones stopped working so the meeting ended early.
- The Bike Week report was sent as an attachment by email. If members have questions or would like further information on the report please email Deirdre, Deirdre.kelly@dublincity.ie

6. Next Meeting date

- The next meeting takes place from 10am – 12pm on Monday 25th September.