

7<sup>th</sup> February, 2013

MINUTES OF ROADS & TRANSPORTATION FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN  
COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CITY HALL, CORK  
ON 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2013.

Present: An Cathaoiríeach Comhairleoir Laura McGonigle

North East: Comhairleoir Tim Brosnan

North West: Comhairleoir Joe O'Callaghan  
Comhairleoir Michael O'Connell

South-East: Comhairleoir Denis O'Flynn  
Comhairleoir Chris O'Leary  
Comhairleoir Jim Corr  
Comhairleoir Terry Shannon  
Comhairleoir Des Cahill

South Central: Comhairleoir Fiona Kerins

South-West: Comhairleoir Mary Shields  
Comhairleoir Brian Bermingham  
Comhairleoir Ger Gibbons  
Comhairleoir Michael Ahern  
Comhairleoir Henry Cremen

Comhairleoir Sean Martin  
Comhairleoir Tony Fitzgerald  
Comhairleoir Joe Kavanagh

Mr. Gerry O'Beirne, Director of Services, Roads & Transportation  
Mr. Tony O'Sullivan, Senior Engineer, Roads Asset Management &  
Maintenance  
Mr. Ger Goodwin, Senior Engineer, Roads Design  
Ms. Fiona Dinneen, Administrative Officer, Roads Asset Management &  
Maintenance

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairperson.

2. ROADWORKS PROGRAMME

Members considered Report of the Director of Services, dated 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2013, on the progress of the ongoing Roadworks Programme for the month ended January 2013.

Committee Decision

It was agreed to accept the Director of Services Report and recommend it to An Chomhairle for approval.

2.1 REPORT ON THE SECTION 38 PROCESS (PUBLIC CONSULTATION) FOR CORK CYCLE NETWORK PHASE 2 – UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK TO CORK CITY CENTRE

Members considered Report of Director of Services dated 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013 on the Section 38 process (Public Consultation) for Cork Cycle Network Phase 2 – University College Cork to Cork City Centre.

The Report stated that the growth and popularity of cycling as an alternative to private car use is evident throughout Cork City. Cycling in an urban area is fast, cheap, healthy and sustainable. As such Cork City Council in conjunction with the National Transport Authority wish to promote cycling as a safe and sustainable means of transportation throughout the city.

The last census demonstrated that cycling has grown by 33% between 2006 and 2011. In Cork City, the cycling mode share for UCC staff has grown from an overall figure of 6% in 2007 to 12% in 2011 and there is considerable scope for further growth when you consider that the combined student/staff population of UCC in 2011 exceeded 21,500. This project seeks to build on this momentum through the provision of appropriate and safe facilities between the City Centre and the University.

The project is the second phase of the Cork Cycle Network. Work on Phase 1, the Douglas Cycle Route is underway and is expected to be fully operational by the end of March 2013.

The proposed measures include: - cycle lanes, footpath renewal, public lighting, new crossing facilities, bike parking facilities, traffic calming, advance stop lines, alterations to traffic lanes, parking modifications and improved public realm measures.

Cork Cycle Network: Phase 2, - University College Cork to the City Centre.

The project will provide cycle facilities on three routes linking UCC to the City Centre,

Route One: provides continuous inbound and outbound cycle facilities between the Grand Parade/Washington Street junction and the UCC gates at the bottom of Donovan's Road.

Route Two: will connect UCC to the northern side of the City Centre via the Distillery amenity walk and cycle way, North Mall, Pops Quay and Camden Quay. A combination of measures will be applied along the route. These include widening of the Distillery entrance, traffic calming on North Mall, the provision of an eastbound cycleway on Pops Quay and Camden Quay.

Route Three: will connect UCC to the southern side of the City Centre via O'Donovan Rossa Road, Sharnan Crawford St, Proby's Quay and Sullivan's Quay. A small amount of land

acquisition will be required to facilitate this route. Discussions have taken place with representatives from the Episcopal Palace and agreement in principle has been reached.

#### **Section 38 Process**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 36 of the Roads Traffic Act, 1994, Cork City Council consulted with the Garda Commissioner/ Chief Superintendent and published a Notice in the Irish Examiner on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2012 (copy attached). An Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Screening assessment was undertaken and the proposed measures were deemed to be sub threshold in both cases.

The Notice advised the public that the proposed scheme was available for inspection in City Hall from Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2012 until Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2012 between the hours of 9:00am to 4:00pm Monday to Friday. In addition it outlined how submissions should be made and the deadline for receipt of submissions was highlighted as Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2012. A total of seven submissions were received from the following individuals and organisations:-

#### **(1) Dr. Dean Venables**

Generally welcomes and supports the proposals as they seem to strike a good balance between the needs of motorists and cyclists. A number of detailed suggestions were put forward, these include:-

- Suggests that the cycle lanes on the north side of the northern river channel should be extended.
- Additional crossings were requested.
- Welcomes the separation of cyclists from vehicles.
- Additional Traffic Calming requested
- Modifications to the footpaths and traffic lanes were suggested.
- Highlighted the need for clear directions for motorists.
- Need for further integration of Route 3.
- Buffer zone welcomed
- Concerned about rights of way for cyclists at junctions:.
- Concerned about the enforcement of parking to ensure the cycle lanes are clear.
- A number of other aspects were discussed and observations / recommendations made.

#### **(2) Cllr. John Keleher**

The submission fully supports the proposals and the Councils objective to improve cycle and pedestrian safety and facilities within the city.

#### **(3) Sgt. John O'Sullivan**

The submission raised concerns about the impact the proposals would have on congestion levels and the ability of the street to flush traffic out of the city. The submission raised concerns about the potential loss of parking, access restrictions for HGV's, PSV's and emergency vehicles. It questioned the use of contra-flow cycle lanes in general; their safety and the impact the scheme may have on the City Centre Traffic Management Plan.



#### **(4) The Cork Environmental Forum**

The submission welcomed the plans to improve cycle infrastructure in the city. It made a number of recommendations and modifications including:-

- An extension of the cycle lane along the full length of South Main St.
- Recommended modifications at Nano Nagle Bridge and Sullivan's Quay.
- Suggested that the cycle lane on North Mall was not required.
- Suggested that orange flashing filler lights be used.

#### **(5) Mr. Stephan Koch, Commuter Plan Manager UCC**

The submission stated that UCC highly welcomed the planned improvement of the city's cycling infrastructure. "The three routes will further facilitate the positive cycling trend by giving cyclists protected road space along direct links to the heart of the city". The submission made a number of suggestions and observations as follows:-

- The need for the contra-flow lane on Popes Quay was highlighted as it allows cyclists to bypass the City Centre and enables a better connection with Kent Station.
  - UCC agreed to facilitate the project by working towards the removal of the pedestrian and cyclist bottleneck at the entrance to the Distillery on the North Mall.
  - Requested an additional link on the southern bank of the northern channel to connect with the Tyndall Institute and the Mercy Hospital.
  - Welcomed the direct link between UCC and the City Centre along Washington St and the Western Road.
  - Highlighted the importance of appropriate junction design for safe movement of pedestrians and cyclists.
  - The need for a quality crossing at UCC gates was highlighted in addition to the need for a higher quality treatment of the space.
  - The partial provision of the southern route was welcomed.
  - Requested an extension of the contra-flow cycle on South Main St
- A number of other minor modifications were also suggested.

#### **(6) Mr. Mark Poland, Director of Buildings & Estates UCC**

The submission states that UCC is fully supportive of the proposed three upgraded cycle routes between the City Centre and the UCC Main Campus. The project is highly welcomed.

#### **Submission Assessment and Response**

The following outlines the modifications and actions that the Council intend to make in response:-

- (a) The Cycle lanes on the northern side of the City Centre will be extended as part of a separate project which will be advertised in 2013.
- (b) The number and type of pedestrian and cycle crossings will be re-examined as part of the detailed design process and where necessary additional crossings will be provided.

- (c) The cycle lane on South Main Street will be extended over the full length on the street as requested by a number of the submissions.
- (d) Particular attention will be given to the type and quantum of signage provided at junctions to ensure they operate safely.
- (e) Illegal parking on the cycle lanes will be dealt with by the Parking Enforcement Section.
- (f) The ability of the road network to accommodate the proposed modifications was assessed. Traffic Modelling Consultants were appointed and a full modelling exercise was carried out. Traffic counts were undertaken on all the junctions along Washington St, Western Road and Sullivan Quay and the assessment demonstrated that all junctions will operate within acceptable limits post completion of the project.
- (g) The safety of the proposed infrastructure is of paramount importance therefore an independent Consultant was appointed from an approved list of Road Safety Auditors to undertake an audit of the proposed layout. The Road Safety Audit made 18 recommendations. The recommendations covered a wide range of topics, for example:-
  - o It suggested additional signage and lining in a number of locations.
  - o It requested the cycle lanes be extended on South Main St.
  - o It suggested that the entrance at the Distillery needed to be improved.
  - o It recommended that the proposed North Mall layout be reassessed.
  - o It questioned the Parking arrangement on Popes Quay, etc.
 These recommendations will be incorporated into the final design and further Road Safety Audits will be undertaken to ensure that the finished scheme meets the safety needs for all road users.
- (h) The ease of access for the emergency services was evaluated and the Fire Department was asked to consider the issue as they use the largest emergency vehicles. In summary the Fire Dept suggest that there will be no adverse impact on emergency services as the kerb to kerb width is unchanged.
- (i) The use of contra-flow cycle lanes in principle was considered. This type of facility is provided for in The National Cycle Manual and is currently operating successfully in a number of locations throughout the country. A meeting took place between representatives from the National Transport Authority, An Garda Síochána, ARUP Consulting Engineers and Cork City Council to address this issue.
- (j) The proposed measures are fully compatible with the proposed City Centre Movement Strategy and the same Consultants are working on both projects.
- (k) The use of orange flashing lights at crossings was suggested by one of the submissions. This was discussed with personnel from the National Cycle Manual design group and the proposal was accepted. This will be further assessed as part of the detailed design work.
- (l) The need for quality crossings and a higher specification finish was requested for the area in front of UCC gates. This will be incorporated into the scheme and a higher specification finish will be constructed at the junction of Donovan's Road and Western Road to reflect the importance and level of activity in the area.
- (m) The partial completion of the southern cycle route was welcomed and the remainder of the route will be delivered when the relevant land ownership issues are resolved.

#### Conclusion and Recommendation

The issues raised by the submissions have been fully considered. Where necessary, further research and analysis was undertaken to ensure the safety of the proposed measures and also to ensure that the impact on traffic is minimised.

The project will provide safe and efficient cycle lanes along three routes linking UCC to the City Centre. Footpaths, carriageways and public lighting will be renewed along the route where required and various other related measures will be provided.

The project is fully funded by the National Transport Authority under the "Regional Cities Investment Programme" for sustainable transportation projects and the proposals have been welcomed by five out of six submissions.

The proposed development is consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area having regard to the provisions of the development plan.

Having considered the observations received and amended the scheme to reflect the issues raised I recommended that the proposed development proceed with the modifications outlined.

#### Committee Decision

It was agreed to accept the Director of Services Report and recommend it to An Chomhairle for approval. It was also proposed by Comhairleoir Mary Shields, seconded by Comhairleoir Das Cahill and agreed to recommend to Council to write to the Minister of State with special responsibility for Public and Commuter Transport and request that funds be allocated to address current road maintenance and public lighting deficiencies.

