



Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes

Transportation Strategic Policy Committee 28th September 2023, Plunkett Room, Buvinda House, Dublin Rd, Navan at 2.30 pm

Attendees – (Councillors): Cllrs Golden (Chair), A. Smith, P. Meade, P. Mc Cabe, N. French, M. Gallagher.

Cllr S. Tolan and Cllr G. O'Connor Via Teams,

Attendees – (Sectoral Representatives): G. Clarke, D. Murphy Via Teams

Apologies: D Ward. N Wyatt Senior Engineer, K Foyle Senior Executive Officer, Alan Watson

(Officials): M Murray, Director Of Service (MM) (via Teams), C Corrigan, Senior Engineer (CC), John McGrath Senior Engineer B Murphy, Administrative Officer (BM), P Phelan Senior Executive Engineer.

Item	Discussion / Action
1.0	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th June 2023 were approved. Proposed by Cllr P Meade and seconded by Cllr A Smith.</p>
	<p>Cllr Golden asked all present to take a moment and observe a minute's silence to reflect on the passing of recent deceased Colleague Cllr. Damien O'Reilly.</p>
2.0	<p><u>Matters Arising from Minutes</u></p> <p>No matters arising.</p>
3.0	<p><u>Winter Gritting Programme 2023/24</u></p> <p>C Corrigan S.E. gave the SPC meeting as detailed presentation on the forthcoming Winter Gritting Programme. She commended the work of Fiona Beers Senior Executive Engineer and her team in organising the schedules.</p> <p>Cllr P Meade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wants to have more road including on the gritting route, he highlighted roads in his area where other counties grit the same road to the border (these included Carrick, to Drumconrath, Tullyallen L5604, Collon to Kells Road, Donore Road Drogheda) and looked for these to be included in particular. • He stated he knows of Business looking to pay for roads to be gritted that are not on the Programme. • He also stated he knows of a company that is willing to Tender to operate routes. • He stated he had raised a number of these issued last year too. <p>C Corrigan S.E. stated that plans are too advanced for this year's programme given the resources</p>



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available and the that the plan presented is the best fit to ensure the routes that have the most volumes of traffic are dealt with which includes all regional roads.

Cllr Golden – agreed that there are issues with some road’s no being included but he would not like to see any of the roads that are on the programme currently being removed. He requested that Cllr Meade to formally submit his issues so a comprehensive and formal response could issue to address same.

Cllr French- stated he was happy with the plan as it covers most of the traversed route in the county in his opinion.

Cllr Gallagher- would like the roads mentioned by Cllr Meades to be included particularly the Drumconrath to Carrickmacross road.

Cllr O’Connor –

- Would like to see if we could get any extra capacity on some of the Local Roads
- He asked if we under spend do we lose it?
- He queried what pre wet was?

Cllr Mc Cabe –

- Is aware on occasion that MD Engineers assist on gritting other non-primary routes and enquired is there a list and if so could the committee have sight of same.
- He enquired would routes be added to as Bus Eireann’s rural transport plan is rolled out
- He raised a question do we as a committee agree with the programme as we a re not content and it appears as a “Fait Complet”.
- He noticed motorways were mention and queried what role MCC had in this s he assumed this was done by private contract and are they included in the 750KM of roadway in the presentation.

C Corrigan S.E. responded to items raised as follows;

- TII will fund transition to pre-wet for national roads only, 5 year objective to transition.
- Key routes on the plan are the National Primary, Secondary and Tertiary routes a this had theses have the most traffic flows and to leave any of them out would have a significant impact.
- In relation to bordering roads we do liaise with adjoining counties when formulating the plan.
- It’s currently not possible to add any additional roads without taking one out as we are at capacity with resources available in those terms.
- Gave and explanation of “pre-wet” and stated we are currently liaising with Westmeath Co Co on the use of same as they have a “Pre-Wet Plan” in situ.

M Murray D.O.S thanked members for their contributions

- He stated if they want to grit more roads then this would have a direct impact on day to day services, he also re-iterated that we are at current capacity vis a vis available resources and if an additional road is to come on board and existing road would have to come out.
- The issue with Private contractor present IR/Union and National issues.
- It is not as simple as purchasing another truck, there are training and personnel issues to be

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	<p>addressed and the impact on day-to-day services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The current programmes is efficient and does not imping on other services within the current available resources.• As rural Bus routes are rolled out there may be a requirement to look at adjustments at that point in time.• In terms of Budget constraint – if an overspend occurs in a harsh winter TII/NTA generally fund same, if it is a mild winter any savings can be ringfenced to cover replacement equipment for example.• The Programme as presented takes the best balance approach across the county. <p>Cllr Golden – stated we have a duty of care to act responsible and approved what has been presented to us , he as Chair proposed that the committee adopt the programme this was seconded by Cllr French (with a caveat of a review at the Spring SPC)</p> <p>Cllr Meade – state the discussion is similar to last year and he is proposing not to accept the programme as presented, Cllr Gallagher seconded this proposal.</p> <p>Cllr McCabe – asked if a Database of additional gritted roads exists and if any extension tot eh programme is going to happen these are the roads that need to be looked at. He put forward that a sub-committee be created to liaise with the executive to review the programme.</p> <p>A vote took place as follows; <u>In favour</u> Cllrs Golden, Smith, French, Tolan, O’Connor, G Clarke, D Murphy <u>Against</u> Cllrs Mc Cabe, Mead, Gallagher.</p> <p>The Winter Gritting Programme for 2023/24 was deemed to be adopted.</p> <p>M Murray D.O.S. – Stated he as happy to take on board Cllr McCabe’s suggestion for formulating a sub-committee.</p>
4.0	<p><u>Noise Action Plan</u></p> <p>C Corrigan S.E. gave an update on the noise action plan and where it is currently. She indicated that it was a niche area and effectively looks at measuring noise along main transport routes</p> <p>M Murray D.O.S. stated that in essence the plan may impact on land use in certain area with mitigating measures required to be put in place to deal with noise.</p>



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5.0

Update on Countywide Speed Limit Review

P Phelan S.E.E. outlined the basis for the Speed Limit Review. He stated current guidelines issued in March 2015. He had expected to come to the October Municipal District Meetings with updates and progress on the current review process. Unfortunately, the Dept have commenced a current review of the Guidelines that are in situ which could have an effect on the process that has been undertaken. He indicated a letter has issued from Martin Murray D.O.S. to the Dept. seeking clarification on whether to continue with the process. So effectively we are in a situation where the current review is paused pending a response from the Dept.

Cllr Meade – stated there is little or no enforcement on speed limits on certain roads and he is not sure any reduction from 80- 60KPh would make any difference without proper enforcement

Cllr French – agreed with Cllr Meade on the enforcement issue. He stated 60 kph is too slow for some roads and too much of a limit for other roads. He was unsure about pausing given the number of submissions received on the current review

Cllr Tolan – stated there is an issue with speeding throughout the country, she commented that resources are limited for AN GARDÁ SÍOCHANA. She asked would introducing lower limits make it easier for traffic calming measures. She also asked would educating certain roads below 80KPH have any implication on planning for example?

She would support a pausing as it makes no sense to introduce new signage etc and then have to revisit again in a couple of months.

Cllr O'Connor – In favour of pausing pending Departmental outcome particularly for rural roads but highlighted Driver Behaviour as being the major issue to be tackled.

Cllr Gallagher – agreed with Cllr O'Connor and stated some people have no regard for the current limits set.

Cllr Golden – stated that his understanding is we must have regard to the regulations and would prefer to await outcome of departmental review.

P Phelan S.E.E. clarified that existing legislation states we must have regard to the guidelines and any current proposals should follow suit. He stated if there is a proposed default of a 60 Kph on rural roads then this has a knock-on effect to other areas such as planning etc. Changing to 60 KPH would have significant impact on junctions and replacement signage.

M Murray D.O.S re-iterated that he has written to the head of the Department seeking clarity on whether we should stop our current work. He stated it would be wise to pause the work we are



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	<p>doing pending any new National Guidelines that may issue.</p> <p>It was Agreed by All to Pause the current process.</p>
6.0	<p>A.O.B.</p> <p>Cllr Smith- commended the staff involved in the introduction of ramps in her area.</p> <p>Cllr Meade- enquired about Hedge notices and stated those who do not adhere to same need to be prosecuted. He stated the closure of the Obelisk bridge was causing traffic havoc and he was leading a campaign for the cessation/suspension of the Tolls on the M1 interchange at Donore Road for the duration of the works.</p> <p>Cllr McCabe – asked how often are roads under CIS scheme surveyed?</p> <p>Cllr Gallagher – asked can overhanging trees be dealt with similar to hedges and what is the process?</p> <p>J McGrath S.E. stated we would revert in the CIS matter at next meeting and that in relation to overhanging trees a similar notice can be served once the Area Engineer is made aware of same.</p> <p>Cllr Golden - As chair I would like to see a rolling item on the agenda around the NAVAN RAIL LINE UPDATE even if there is no progress between meetings. It was agreed by all present include same going forward.</p>