



Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes

Transportation Strategic Policy Committee 25th January 2021, at 12.30 pm (by Zoom)

**Attendees –
(Councillors):** Cllrs T Golden, P Meade, G O’Connor, N French, D Gilroy

**Attendees –
(Sectoral
Representatives):** A Watson

Apologies:

(Officials): D Foley, N Whyatt, D McGowan, J McGrath, M Farrell, D Monahan, J Young

| Item | Discussion / Action |
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| 1.0 | <p><u>Navan Railway Line Assessment Study.</u></p> <p>D Foley outlined the background for this meeting.</p> <p>There is a process in place where the National Transport Authority (NTA) is reviewing the rail line to Navan.</p> <p>A meeting with the NTA and its consultants will take place on Thursday 28th January. To prepare for that meeting, meetings of all four SPC’s are taking place to obtain the views of the Committee members. The Chairpersons of the SPC’s and the Cathaoirleach will meet with the NTA and the NTA consultants.</p> <p>The NTA’s consultants will also attend the full Council meeting on Monday 1st February.</p> <p>The Council has appointed its own consultants to advise on the process. Roughan O’Donovan has been appointed on Transport issues, WSP on Environmental and climate change issues. The Council will also be drawing on planning consultants engaged by Planning Department in respect of planning issues, and consultants on economic issues.</p> <p>The Council will be part of the committee that deliberates on the final report. There will be two representatives from Meath County Council on that committee.</p> <p>N Whyatt presented a map of a of the rail line west of Dunshaughlin to the meeting and outlined that the objective of the NTA was to decide if that line was a representation of the optimum route. Four stations are planned one at Dunshaughlin and one at Kilmessan and two in Navan. The NTA will also look at an option to the east of Dunshaughlin to determine if it is the optimum route.</p> <p>D McGowan outlined that the objectives of the NTA study are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to determine the optimum route, - cost of the project commencing in 2026, |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to look at employment generation, - the economic and social benefit, - to carry out a cost benefit analysis. |
| | <p>The members raised the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in population should be taken into account. - It is good that Fingal County Council is part of the process for reviewing the rail line. - Some businesses in Fingal area may have to relocate due to potential change of use decisions regarding current industrial estates. - Will facilitate people from Dublin working in Meath. - Should consider looking at an alternative route on east side of Dunshaughlin to take account of the population in Ratoath. - Catchment area of 10km is quite small. - When the public consultation was held in 2011 the business case for the rail line was dictated by budget allocation rather than determining what was required. - Environmental benefit as less cars on road. - Requirement for adequate parking and access at proposed stations, particularly North Navan - Economic development projections would be important. - Commuters may drive from Trim to Navan or Dunshaughlin to access the trains. - Timetable has to suit commuters. - Huge benefit to community and wellbeing. - Important that the rail line ends in Connolly Station to facilitate commuters. - Possibly commuters from Cavan may avail of the rail line. <p>Are we looking at too much to go back to east side of Dunshaughlin.</p> |
| | <p>The officials responded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to update population projections for the next 30 years. - Irish Rail put forward the option to the west of Dunshaughlin but also plan to look at scenario to the east of Dunshaughlin. - In the County Development Plan there is a spur link from the west side to the east side. - Would prefer a wider catchment area than 10 km. - The report will contain an economic appraisal for 30 years from 2026. - If Trim was included in the catchment area it could add an extra 2,000 commuters. |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A number of commuter studies have been done.- Community benefits will be a large feature.- The Covid -19 effect on people working from home is unknown.- Important for Tourism.- Should not make too much argument on location of the rail line at the moment. |
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