

**Minutes of Meeting of Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee
held on 8th December, 2023 in Horse and Jockey Hotel (Arkle Room) Thurles**

PRESENT: Cllr. Michael O'Meara (Chair)
Cllr. Micheál Anglim
Cllr. Declan Burgess
Mr. Liam Browne, PPN
Mr. Liam Brett, Senior Engineer, Roads Operational
Mr. John Nolan, Senior Engineer, Roads Capital
Mr. Paddy Crowley, Senior Engineer, Active Travel Projects
Mr. Oliver Tierney, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads Capital
Ms. Michèle Maher, Administrative Officer, Roads
Ms. Lisa Noonan, Clerical Officer, Roads (Minutes)

APOLOGIES: Mr. Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services, Roads & Transportation
Cllr. Michael Fitzgerald
Cllr. Kevin O'Meara
Cllr. Jim Ryan
Cllr. Hughie McGrath
Mr. James Murray, Senior Engineer, Roads Operational
Mr. Gerard Shanahan PPN

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 4 September 2023 and Matters Arising

Cllr. Michael O'Meara welcomed everybody to the meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting of 4 September 2023 were proposed by Cllr. Micheál Anglim and seconded by Mr. Liam Browne, PPN.

Matters arising: Cllr. Declan Burgess referred to Public Lighting and the delays being experienced from Enerveo Ireland Ltd in lighting repairs. He requested an insight into the issues arising. Mr. Liam Brett responded that Enerveo Ireland Ltd were performing as per their contract, however the lighting contractor is reporting a shortage of electricians and this is leading to delays. Mr. Liam Browne also queried a cluster of lights gone and was informed that this was an infrastructure issue.

2. N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction/N24 Waterford to Cahir – Project update – John Nolan, SE

Mr. John Nolan gave a presentation on the N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction and the N24 Waterford to Cahir National road projects. He spoke of the background to both projects and an important issue mentioned was that the N24 is a major factor in road deaths in Tipperary.

The N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction Section is at Phase 3 which will define the land take for the project. Tipperary County Council are the lead authority for this section with Arup Consulting Engineers the project managers. There is a website in place to keep stakeholders up to date www.n24cahirlimerick.ie. Mr. Nolan spoke of the demand management proposals and active travel elements, he also provided an outlook for the project following completion of Phase 3. There will be a design review in Q1 2024 March/April. Phase 4 can then commence with a submission to An Bord Pleanála being a critical component of the scheme.

The N24 Waterford to Cahir Section is a separate scheme with Kilkenny County Council the lead authority and Tipperary County Council a major stakeholder. This section is currently at Phase 2 with announcement due in January 2024 regarding a Proposed Transport Solution. Relevant landowners will be informed and a period of public consultation will follow. Mr Nolan provided an outlook for the project following completion of Phase 2. He advised that political support will be required to ensure that funding will continue for these projects. He went on to explain that the projects are part of the National Development Plan and that there are only 1 or 2 major road projects still "alive" in the country. He reiterated that for traction, political support will be required from Councillors and Oireachtas Members.

Mr. Liam Browne commented on the time scale of the projects and the challenges that are foreseen. Cllr. Michael O'Meara said that the landowners need clarity with regards to planning, and important to establish a definite line for the road to take. Cllr. O'Meara acknowledged the work being done on both projects which are priorities for Tipperary County Council.

Mr. Nolan provided the group with dates of interest: 19th January 2024 – virtual presentation to the Councillors. The following Tuesday 23rd January 2024 – public consultation will take in place in person in various locations starting in Mooncoin.

Cllr. Michael O'Meara suggested that at the next TII meeting, lobbying for continued finance for both sections of the N24 to progress should take place.

3. Traffic Management/Guidance on Vertical Deflections – Oliver Tierney, SEE

Mr. Oliver Tierney gave a presentation on Traffic Management and Guidance on Vertical Deflections. He informed the group about the various traffic calming measures that are used in urban areas. Mr. Tierney explained that calming measures are being designed having regard to all relevant guidance. Their purpose is to enforce self-policing by road users who have to reduce speed. He added that there are pro and cons for each of the traffic calming measures.

He stated that vertical deflection measures include speed bumps, speed humps, speed tables, raised pedestrian crossings and raised intersections. Mr. Tierney also stated that there are a number of measures including widening of footpaths and planting of trees/vegetation that are used as part of traffic management/calming. He demonstrated areas in Grangemockler and Carrick-on-Suir where traffic calming works in the form of carriageway narrowing and footpath widening have taken place. Cllr. Anglim acknowledged that the traffic calming carried out in New Inn has seen traffic slowed and has received positive feedback.

Mr. Liam Brett acknowledged that a holistic approach is required. Cllr. Declan Burgess raised a query regarding traffic management in housing estates, where there are issues of speeding that vertical deflections would deal with by slowing traffic. Mr. Paddy Crowley replied that there is a separate policy regarding housing estates. He recognised that speeding is an issue in housing estates and that 30km/h speed limits were not being adhered to. Cllr. Michael O'Meara spoke of speeding in rural areas e.g. outside GAA grounds. He spoke of road safety issues for users of these facilities especially younger people.

Mr. Liam Brett welcomed the members discussions and views around the issue of traffic calming and the use of appropriate vertical deflections in urban areas. The members of the SPC agreed to recommend the Policy Principles / Guidance on Vertical Deflections, as proposed by Cllr. Micheál Anglim and seconded by Cllr. Declan Burgess. It will come before the February Plenary meeting of the Council for their consideration and approval.

4. Review of Pay Parking Charges – Michèle Maher

Ms. Michèle Maher informed the group that a review of pay parking charges will be undertaken following a request made at the annual Budget meeting. An issues paper will be developed for consideration by the members, and presented at the March 2024 SPC meeting. Cllr. Declan Burgess acknowledged that as a county-wide initiative, this proposal was welcome.

5. Age Friendly Parking – Michèle Maher

As requested by Cllr. Declan Burgess an update on Age Friendly Parking was given by Ms. Michèle Maher. She clarified that in line with guidelines, designated car parking spaces with Age Friendly signage are in place in a number of areas. Mr. Liam Brett advised that there is no enforcement regime in place in relation to the use of Age Friendly parking spaces, and that a parking charge still applies. The importance of not over-designating spaces was mentioned, as a turnover of parking is essential to maintain footfall for local businesses.

6. AOB

7. To note date of next meeting

Friday 15 March 2023 at 10.00am Venue – Committee Room 5.3, Civic Offices, Nenagh and via Zoom.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: 
Cllr. Michael O'Meara
Cathaoirleach