

TRANSPORTATION, WATER & EMERGENCY SERVICES SPC
Strategic Policy Committee meeting 30th September, 2020 via zoom

Present:

Cllr. Derek Mitchell, Chair

Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald

Cllr. Joe Behan

Cllr. Vincent Blake

Colm Lavery, Director of Services, Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

Michael Flynn, Senior Engineer, Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

John Bowes, Senior Engineer, Roads

Aidan Dempsey, Chief Fire Officer

Conor Page, Executive Engineer

Deirdre Forde, Executive Engineer

Pat Dunne, Agriculture/Farming

Tim Morgan, Environment/Conservation

Tomas Peare, Development Construction

Helena Dennehy, Senior Executive Officer

Allyson Minion, Administrative Officer

Donal Murray, Business / Commercial Representative

Vicky O'Neill, Assistant Staff Officer

Margaret Coughlan, Trade Union

Non-Attendance:

Cllr. Irene Winters

Item 1: To note the minutes of 20th January, 2020

Cllr. Derek Mitchell opened the meeting. Minutes noted.

Cllr. Joe Behan wanted it noted that meetings via zoom were not preferable to meetings socially distanced.

Item 2: Update TII Projects

Updates provided in advance of meeting.

John Bowes gave a quick update on each scheme as follows:

N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme

Arup Consulting Engineers were appointed to progress the delivery of the N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme through Phases 1 to 4 of Transport

Infrastructure Ireland's (TII) Project Management Guidelines (PMGs). The Outcome of Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility (Scheme Feasibility Report dated 28th November 2019) was that a strong justification for advancement of the project to Phase 2 existed. A number of feasible transportation measures meriting more rigorous assessment were identified, including road improvement options, demand management solutions and public transport alternatives.

Currently Arup are working on Phase 2 Options Selection which when completed should identify the preferred option, the announcement of the Emerging Preferred Corridor is estimated during Q4 2020. This date has been delayed due to the restrictions of access to the study area during March/April and part of May 2020. It is envisaged that an online Public Consultation Process will be conducted for the announcement of the Emerging Preferred Corridor during Q4 2020 and into Q1 2021.

Cllr. Joe Behan requested a copy of the draft report and was advised that the draft report has not been produced yet as the route has not been finalised. As soon as same was available it would be circulated.

Current active contracts are:

Murphy Surveys :- Main Topographical Survey along the corridor options

Roadplan Consulting Ltd:- Road Safety Audits along the corridor options

GVA Donal O'Buachalla: Land and Property Valuation assessments

Mc Cann Fitzgerald:- Legal Advice relating to Environmental Planning Law.

Environmental Assessment including and topographical survey work for Phase 3 is also being progressed in tandem with the above.

M11/N11 Interim Bus Scheme

Currently Arup are investigating the feasibility of providing an increased level of bus priority between Loughlinstown Roundabout and Kilmacanoge. This is being considered only as an interim scheme in advance of the full N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme, ongoing development of the design along the N11 is progressing in line with direct consultation with both the NTA and TII.

Cllr. Derek Mitchell asked about the possibility of it being extended to Glen of the Downs. Michael Flynn advised that the NTA funded the scheme for the Bus Services on the N11 and that an extension to Glen of the Downs was not proposed but feasible. The focus currently was on getting the Kilmacanogue – Loughlinstown scheme completed first. Initial study has been received and will be circulated.

N11 Kilmacanoge Parallel Service Road

Phase 1 work in the median is nearing completion. Phase 1 involves the widening of the N11 into the central median on the southbound carriageway to provide an additional running lane. Progress has been slowed while working in the vicinity of an existing high pressure gas transmission main and other existing services.

Phase 2 will see the works switching to the verge side of the southbound carriageway, with traffic moving on to the new road surface, along with the construction of the Traffic Islands for the delineation of the Service Road. The construction of the concrete bases for the Gantries along the service road will be undertaken also during this phase.

Construction works will be complete by late 2020/early 2021.

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

The N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment project is located on the N81 south of Hollywood Cross and consists of the realignment of the N81 over a distance of 0.85km. The construction work commenced in August 2019 and the new alignment was opened to two way traffic on 24th July 2020. The overall construction work is expected to be completed during October 2020.

Colm Lavery advised that there is a Section 85 agreement with Kildare County Council to fund a study on Blessington Inner Relief Road and that the hope is to appoint consultants to progress the scheme.

Cllr. Vincent Blake requested an update on the bus stop at Hollywood. Colm Lavery explained that they had looked for funding to acquire the necessary lands and that engagement was ongoing with the TII.

Item 3 - NTA Projects

Updates provided in advance of meeting.

Bray Dart Interchange – Atkins Consulting Engineers have commenced the detailed design of the scheme. Site Investigations are currently being undertaken. The scheme has been delayed due to Covid 19 restrictions. Detailed design is expected to be completed in Q4 of 2020.

Bray Bridge Footbridges – The Options Assessment report has been completed by Barry Transportation, Consultants for the scheme and it has been circulated to stakeholders for agreement.

Bray Strand Road Cycle Scheme –

Seafront Plaza – A Contractor is to be appointed and construction is expected to start in early October 2020.

Putland Road –Detail Design of the scheme is being finalised.

Swan River Greenway (Bray Permeability Scheme - Oldcourt area) –no constraints study as yet. Covid has delayed the scheme. Full consultation will take place with local groups and counsellors in due course.

Bridge from Port Access Road to Wicklow Station – Tenders for Consultant to bring the scheme from Preliminary Design to Construction are to be advertised this week.

Arklow to Shillelagh Recreational Trail Scheme – Consultant (ROD) for the scheme progressing with the preparation of the Natura Impact Statement. They have also been engaged to undertake the Bridge Design, Flood Risk Assessment and Planning Report which is to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

Arklow Transport Study – The Scope for this scheme is being revised following discussions with NTA.

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Convent Avenue to Vevay Crescent Permeability Scheme – Scope and tender documents for Consultants to lead the scheme are being prepared.

Bray Southern Cross Road VRU Improvements – Tenders for Consultant to bring the scheme from Preliminary Design to Construction are to be advertised this week.

Bray Main Street Bus Priority & Decongestion Scheme – Preliminary scheme proposals have been drafted and submitted to NTA for agreement.

Bus Priority in Little Bray – Tender documents for Consultants to lead the scheme are being prepared.

Killarney Road/Vevay Road Cycle Scheme – Aecom Consulting Engineers are reviewing and updating the preliminary design of the scheme.

Dublin Road, Bray ITS Scheme – Scope of scheme to be agreed with Dublin City Council Traffic Management Office.

Church Road/Killarney Road Junction Safety Scheme - Scope and tender documents for Consultants to lead the scheme are to be prepared once agreement has been reached on the scope of the Bray Main Street Bus Priority & Decongestion Scheme.

Public Transport Priority & Public Realm Improvements at Bray Town Hall - Scope and tender documents for Consultants to lead the scheme are to be prepared once agreement has been reached on the scope of the Bray Main Street Bus Priority & Decongestion Scheme.

Bray Public Transport Bridge Connection Phase 2 - Scope has been sent to NTA for agreement. Tender documents for Consultants to lead the scheme are being prepared.

Permeability to Public Transport or Schools – Scheme to be reviewed in consultation with St. Kevin’s National School.

Bus Stops Mill Road – Construction works are ongoing and should be completed in October 2020.

Covid 19 Interim Mobility Measures

Works to facilitate changes to current street layouts to address social distancing and revised travel patterns

30 Schemes approved for County Wicklow - €950,000 allocated

Further funding application submitted for €755,200

Progress to Date:

9 Schemes Complete

3 Schemes under construction

2 Schemes at procurement stage

16 Schemes at design/planning stage

July 2020 Stimulus Package - Active Travel Measures

Funding of €52m for LAs in GDA, Cork, Limerick and Waterford

Projects to support Pedestrian and Cyclist movement and to enhance accessibility

Wicklow Co. Co. received funding allocation of €3.34m for 25 projects

Wicklow Projects include:

Construction of cycleways

Construction of footpaths

Installation of Pedestrian crossings

Road resurfacing

Works must be completed by 30 November 2020

Cllr. Joe Behan asked were Councillors not stakeholders and that more consultation should be carried out in advance with the public and Councillors. John Bowes advised that they had two days to put the schemes together and where as this was not ideal it was not the normal procedure.

Other GDA related Transport projects and possible consultation submission & policy inputs from this SPC

Submission paper prepared by Cllr Mitchell distributed prior to meeting and discussed in detail.

Cllr. Derek Mitchell requested that a strong objection be made to the NTA with regard to Dart west mainline services. That the current plan suggests removing diesel trains from the line and that the NTA need to do a study on the impact this will have on commuters along the east coast.

Colm Lavery advised that the NTA had advised in writing that there would be no impact on trains and that a shuttle service would be provided and would improve the service.

It was agreed by the SPC that the following wording be submitted to the full council for consideration:

"That the members of Wicklow County Council are concerned that the DART West project may have implications for DART and Mainline Rail services in Wicklow and

requests the NTA to ensure that there is no negative impact to DART and Mainline services on the Southern DART line to and from County Wicklow."

Agenda Item for Online Council meeting on 5 October
To consider proposal and submission from Transportation Water & Emergency Services SPC – DART + Maynooth Line / West Public Consultation

Item 4 – Fire Service Policy Updates

Aidan Dempsey gave update as follows:

- Following extensive research and consultation a specification for new fire kit for firefighters was developed. This was advertised on the Government's eTenders website. Tenders have been received, sample kits provided and an assessment process is underway. When the contract is awarded the introduction of the new fire kit will represent a significant increase in quality and comfort for firefighters. It is also proposed to introduce a laundry contract to enhance the health and safety of firefighters.
- A recruitment campaign took place in September to attract applicants for the current vacancies highlighted in the table below. Applicants will undergo a selection process that includes physical suitability tests, interview, medical and Garda vetting. Successful applicants will undertake an initial 3-week Recruit / Induction Course scheduled to start in Bray in November. It is hoped that the candidates who successfully complete the training will take up operational duties in Fire Stations in early 2021.

Station	Current Vacancies	Applications received	Numbers to attend November Course	Numbers to be trained in 2021
Bray	7	20	4	3
Greystones	1	9	1	1
Arklow	2	8	2	
Blessington	1	4	1	
Dunlavin	2	1	1	1
Carnew	2	6	2	

4 additional firefighters in Bray will bring numbers in station to 12. The number of 4 has been chosen as the maximum number that it is considered safe to assimilate into the organization at one time i.e. a 50% increase in staff. The remaining 3 personnel will be trained during 2021 bringing the station to full strength.

Review of Report on the provision of a Full Time Fire Service for Bray

- On the instructions of the Director of Services, the Chief Fire Officer updated his report on "the issues relating to the provision of a Full Time Fire Service in

being carried out but not being recorded in a standard manner. A protocol relating to weather events, taking the procedures from the MEP into account, is required.

7. Any other business

Cllr. Vincent Blake requested an update on the speed limit review. Michael Flynn advised that there was no progression at present. In anticipation a review of guidelines in relation to pedestrian and cycle lanes which would have an impact on speed limits, it would be premature to review speed limits.

Colm Lavery advised that a review on speed limits was a six month resource intensive project and that we currently had no resources. Once the new guidelines come in it can be looked at again.

8. Date of next meeting

The next SPC meeting will take place on Wednesday 25th November, 2020 at 9.30am. Location to be confirmed.

Note Following Meeting: Both Margaret Coughlan and Tomas Peare reported that they had experienced sound problem during the meeting and therefore were unable to contribute.

Tomas Peare reported that following the meeting earlier in the year and discussion around CIF and Irish Water, he confirmed that CIF had now been back in touch with Irish water and revised processes were now in place for connections and development. Tomas Peare will distribute the updated documents to the SPC committee.