**Minutes of the Transport Infrastructure & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) held on Monday 15th November 2021 at 3.00p.m. in the Council Chamber, Courthouse, Cavan**

**Present:**

Cllr. Sean Smith CCC (Chairperson)

Cllr. Peter McVitty, CCC

Cllr. Sarah O’ Reilly, CCC

Cllr. Brendan Fay CCC

Apologies

Cllr. TP O’ Reilly CCC

Cllr Trevor Smith, CCC

Mr Padraig Young

Mr Eamon Mulcahy

**In attendance:**

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, DOS – CCC

Mr. John McKernan, SE – CCC

Ms. Marissa O’Keeffe, ASO – CCC

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1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting of 8th October 2020**

Proposed by Cllr. Peter McVitty and seconded by Cllr. Brendan Fay.

1. **Roads Programme 2021 update**

John McKernan (JMcK) gave an update on the 2021 Roads Programme.

It was outlined that funding was provided from 3 main sources in 2021 including €10M from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), €15.5M from Department of Transport (DOT) and €3.5M Councils Own Resources.

During the year additional funding of €734,000 was received from TII for additional maintenance works, €522,000 from DOT for Climate Change and €840,000 from the NTA for outdoor dining. There were also 2 rounds of LIS funding which totalled €1.2 M.

Additionally in 2021, Cavan was allocated €2.3M funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA) for Active travel measures across the county. It was explained that funding would be available over the next 5 years from the NTA under Active Travel funding which Government has committed €1.8 Billion to.

An update was given on a number of roads projects currently in development.

**National Roads**

**Virginia Bypass**

The 3rd Public Consultation was completed in 2021 and it was envisaged that the Preferred Option would be published in Q1 2022. The scheme would also include Active Travel measures along its route.

**Dublin Road Roundabout**

The 1st Public consultation was held earlier in the year with 2 options displayed, an upgrade of the existing roundabout or the implementation of a traffic light system. Consultants are currently reviewing the consultation feedback.

**N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon (Minor).**

Planning and CPO was confirmed in 2019. Approval was received from the TII in October 2021 to commence the tender process. It is hoped to award the contract in 2022 subject to TII approval and funding being in place.

**N3 Virginia Main Street**

The contract was awarded in August 2021 and construction is underway with a completion date of May 2022. It is hoped cables will be undergrounded and new public lights installed before Christmas.

**Safety-N3 Dublin Road Roundabout to Kilmore Roundabout**

Public Consultation completed May 2021. Plan to move to tender Q2 2022, subject to TII approval.

Cllr. P McVitty indicated that some individuals were finding it difficult to contact the relevant person regarding issues with the scheme. JMcK asked Cllr. P McVitty to pass on their details and he would ask the engineers involved to contact them.

Cllr. S. O’Reilly asked who was in charge of the roads in Kilmore Business Park and the Pullamore Business Park as they were in poor condition. Paddy Connaughton stated that they were private roads.

**Virginia Carrakeelty More (Maghera)**

Consulting Engineers appointed (RPS), hoping to go to tender in Q2 2022, subject to TII approval.

**N3 Drumsillagh Safety Scheme extended to Drumsillagh, Annagh, Drumcrow Safety Scheme**

Scheme to be tendered next year subject to TII approval

**Cashel Cross Safety Scheme**.

There was a fatality at this junction 2 years ago. Consulting engineers had been appointed to design a scheme for the junction and it was hoped to go to tender in Q3 2022 subject to TII approval.

Cllr. Brendan Fay queried what is being worked on at the moment.

JMcK replied that they were surveying at present.

**Non National Roads**

An allocation of €17.8M in total was received in 2021. In 2021, 55km of roads were overlaid with macadam materials while 128km of roads were surface dressed.

**Non National-Bridge Rehabilitation**

An allocation of €612,000 was received from the DOT with a further €231,000 provided by Cavan County Council.

**Strategic and East-West Dundalk to Cavan**

An allocation of €130,000 was provided by the department to allow for the completion of a Risk Based Analysis of the route to identify the priority sections. The report is due to completed by the end of the year and will be used as the basis for future funding applications.

**R194 Derrylea Bridge**

An allocation of €50,000 was received to appoint consultants in 2021. Malachy Walsh & Partners were appointed as consultants to progress the scheme through Planning, Design and Tender stages. A Part 8 planning application was published in Nov 2021 and it is hoped that funding will be available next year for construction.

**CIS and LIS**

An allocation of €617,000 for Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) was made in 2021 which would fund 6 schemes.

In terms of Local Improvement Schemes (LIS), 2 rounds of funding were made in 2021 an allocation in May of €280,000 and a 2nd allocation in August of €830,00. The combined funding allowed for 22 schemes to be completed this year. It was indicated that there are still approximately 200 applicants on the current waiting list.

Cllr. Sean Smith stated that the CIS contribution is 15% and asked if there are many individuals signing up. JMcK stated that the MDs manage the application process and there were sufficient applications for the next 2 years. The difficulty arose when offers are made and some applicants drop out due to the level of the local contribution.

Cllr. Sean Smith asked if a case could be made to bring the contribution back in line with LIS. Cllr. Sean Smith said that people feel aggrieved as the contribution for an LIS is much lower than a CIS.

A discussion took place in relation to LIS funding and the delivery of the schemes. It was felt that the allocations needed to be released earlier in the year to allow for them to be delivered earlier as opposed to the end of the year when it was more difficult to secure surfacing contractors.

**Cavan Railway Greenway-Castle Saunderson**

JMcK gave an update in relation to Cavan Railway Greenway. Consultants were appointed at the start of summer and had commenced working on the project. It was hoped to have the public consultation in early 2022. He indicated that from September 2021 the project would come under the remit of the TII as it was a significant project and would be following the same Project Management guidance as a Roads Projects.

1. **Public Transport**

Paddy Connaughton discussed that as part of Connecting Ireland project, the NTA are developing a strategy and holding a series of webinars. CCC had asked them to come down, but they were not in a position to do so at the moment. P. Connaughton asked if we wanted to make a submission from TI & ES SPC.

Cllr. B. Fay and Cllr. P. McVitty stated that West Cavan is well serviced with bus services. Cllr. B. Fay stated that an extension into Milltown is the only change needed.

Cllr. S. Smith asked if the SPC could write a proposal to support the local bus service operators as they are providing a great service. Paddy Connaughton stated that may not be what the NTA are looking for.

Cllr. S. O’Reilly discussed Cootehill’s poor connectivity and lack of bus services.

Paddy Connaughton proposed that he would assist on a draft submission from the SPC.

**AOB**

Cllr. S. O’Reilly queried the Clar funding that Killinkere received. JMcK indicated that Clar funding was managed through C&E. Cllr. S. O’Reilly queried whether this funding had to be used for something specific. JMcK clarified that an application for funding would contain a proposal for the works which funding was being sought.

*Cllr. S. Smith proposed that the next meeting to be held at the end of December.*

This was seconded by other members.

Meeting concluded at 16.04 pm.