Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Transportation Policy / Mobility Management and Infrastructure held on 5th Friday December 2025

Present:	**Cllr. Michael Delaney** (Chairperson). **Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Joe Sheridan, Cllr. Maurice Shortall, Mr. Michael Duggan, Ms. Mary Brennan, Mr Brendan Hickey.**
In Attendance:	**Mr Philippe Beubry – A/Senior Roads Engineer, Mr Declan Murphy – Senior Executive Engineer Thomastown/Callan MD, Mr Paul Byrne – Executive Engineer Road Design, Ms Claire Buckley – Administrative Officer Roads & Mr Hugh O'Brien – Assistant Staff Officer Roads.**
Apologies:	**Mr Seamus Kavanagh A/Director of Services, Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, Ms Eileen Ryan.**

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Chairperson Cllr. Michael Delaney opened the meeting by welcoming all and noted the apologies.

The minutes of the SPC2 meeting held on Friday, 5th September 2025 were adopted, proposed by Cllr. Maurice Shortall and seconded by Mary Brennan.

2. Winter Maintenance Update

Mr. Declan Murphy gave an update on the Winter Maintenance Programme. He explained the Priority 1, 2 and 3 routes and who looks after these routes with what machines. Declan Murphy advised of a new brine mixture treatment that the Council have been using recently. Data was collected from previous seasons to explain the reasons why a wet mix was used instead of dry salt. Brendan Hickey asked what the difference between wet and dry mix is to which Declan explained. Cllr. Joe Sheridan asked about the price difference between using the two mixes is, Declan Murphy advised of the cost and that the wet mix is cheaper to use. Both Declan Murphy and Philippe Beubry explained that some nights require two runs of salting to be carried out. Declan concluded his presentation.

Cllr. Michael Delaney spoke about the relationship between the IFA and the Council during extreme weather events. Brendan Hickey commented that the farmers are ready and available to go if called upon, but mentioned the importance of insurance

saying that they need clarity. Cllr. Maurice Shortall congratulated and thanked the winter maintenance crew.

3. Roads Update

Mr. Philippe Beubry spoke about the annual roads programme and updated the group on its details.

Ms. Mary Brennan asked about the North Link Road and what impacts it will have on the environment. Both Philippe and Declan advised, because it crosses a SAC (Special Area of Conservation) that all necessary steps will be taken during the review process.

Cllr. Joe Sheridan spoke about the LIS and CIS that they are struggling and under funded with Cllr. Pat Dunphy saying the wait times are long and that this issue needs to be brought up again.

4. Speed Limits

Mr. Paul Byrne gave a review of the speed limit changes mentioning that it will be implemented in three stages, Rural Speed Limits, Urban Speed Limits and National Secondary Road. He noted we are now at Stage 2 – Urban Speed Limits.

Cllr. Pat Dunphy commented that an extraordinary amount of people have been issued with speeding tickets in relation to the N25 to Glenmore, saying that nobody was taking notice and that notification was too close perhaps.

Mr. Michael Duggan spoke about the works at the Bennettsbridge roundabout and at the new CBS school, saying both have had huge impacts on traffic on the city. In particular, the Ring Road is supposed to take traffic out of the city but with the Bennettsbridge roundabout issues, this has not been the case. Both Declan Murphy and Philippe Beubry advised that the solution to the traffic at the CBS school will be the new North Link Road. Mary Brennan said that cars shouldn't be allowed near schools, that a drop off point should be made available. Declan Murphy spoke about some schools having Active Travel Plans in place but added that these cost money.

Cllr. Joe Sheridan added that the new layout at the Bennettsbridge roundabout needed relooking at urgently. He asked how much of a say does Kilkenny County Council have in the design process of this and fears that with more houses to be built in the works, that traffic will only increase in and around the city.

Brendan Hickey asked about the speed limit review, are all counties due to change the limit? If not, it could be dangerous crossing boarders with different speed limits. Paul Byrne said that it is a National Policy and yes, all counties are changing.

Ms. Mary Brennan asked for consideration of the following topics for the next agenda. Parking in the city and vehicles in city lanes, either to limit size or quantity.

Chairperson Cllr. Delaney noted that there are no submissions for AOB and thanked all in attendance.

This concluded the meeting.