Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Transportation Policy / Mobility Management and Infrastructure held on Friday 5th of June 2026

Present:	**Cllr. Michael Delaney** (Acting Chairperson). **Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Joe Sheridan, Ms. Mary Brennan**
In Attendance:	**Mr Seamus Kavanagh – Senior Engineer Roads, Ms Elise O'Hara – Staff Officer Roads, Ms Karen Haverty – Assistant Staff Officer Roads, Mr Stan Cullen – Senior Executive Engineer, Ms Caitriona Corr – Senior Staff Officer Active Travel, Mr Declan Murphy - Senior Executive Engineer**

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Acting Chairperson Cllr. Michael Delaney opened the meeting by welcoming all.

The minutes of the SPC2 meeting held on Friday, 6th of March 2026 were adopted, proposed by Cllr. Michael Delaney and seconded by Mr. Joe Sheridan.

2. Sustainable Mobility

Stan Cullen spoke on the SUMP (Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan) plan and the benefits proposed. Improving quality of life, it proposes to reduce car dependency within the city, reduce emissions, cleaner air quality & increase economic activity. The idea is not to replace the car but to reduce the need for it.

Jacob's consultants prepared a report based on the 2016 census. In 2025 ARUP were engaged. Idea is not to remove the car from the city. The 2022 census shows where the people who work in Kilkenny come from. Working population of 15.5k, 9k of this come from outside the city.

Parking strategy is an important component of the plan, how to avoid the city centre but still have the city centre accessible. Plans for park & ride, park & stride. Possible addition of another bus route paying attention to the Callan Road side of the city.

Cllr. Michael Delaney added that the park & ride, park & stride would be very beneficial and keep traffic out of the city.

Cllr. Pat Dunphy added that this is a good bit down the road, have to be careful how this is done. Older generation will need direct access to city centre.

Mary Brennan added that these measures seems positive & welcome. The timescale will be very long. Cars are being accommodated too much. Ideally remove all cars from the city centre, access for buses, taxis and accessible vehicles. Narrow streets are for movement only, not for vehicles. Government funding would be a concern. TII funding also not increased. More park & stride options need to be made available, particularly for the health benefits. On street parking in the city centre should be completely removed. Some footpaths in very poor condition particularly from the train station to the city centre. Improve walking & cycling facilities.

Cllr. Joe Sheridan added it was a very good presentation. To get people to use the urban transportation the rural transportation station will need to also be updated. More buses need to be made available in rural areas. Alter the bus routes to allow more stops to encourage people to use them, particularly on the outskirts of the city ie. Abbott. What happens in rural areas will affect the urban areas. Bus stops poorly designed (Piltown route) Springhill, Kieran's College next stop not until MacDonagh Junction, should go via Loughboy, Presentation Secondary School.

Stan Cullen: takes account of the more work to do to engage with rural transport services. Bus providers need to know they can operate a certain route within a specific time. In touch with NTA & Bus Eireann re their role to play. Scheme will rely heavily on public transport from rural areas. Mobility hubs will play a very important role. Plans are inter-related and all requires careful consideration.
Possibility of shared surfaces – one way for vehicles with contra flow for cyclists will be looked at under the traffic management plan.
Restrict using the city to get through the city.
Mindful of elderly/disabled drivers will require access to the city, aide age friendly drivers.
Constant need to business to receive deliveries – universal access for same.

Mary Brennan: requests route consideration for rush hour traffic

Stan Cullen: we can identify routes with NTA & TII, particularly areas of heavy school traffic, areas of low vehicle ownership, under served areas. Ultimately the decision does not lie with KCC.

3. Declan Murphy – Climate Action

Declan Murphy presented on climate action – specifically the transport side of climate action. Goal 2.5 & 2.7, to modify management plan in Callan/Thomastown. The relocation of urban space, cross roads in Callan, nobody knew who had priority on the junction, no pedestrian access. Funding from active travel allowed for the changes, now has pedestrianised access and proper flow of traffic.

Bridge Street now operational one-way giving space back to pedestrians. The implementation of safe routes for schools. (Caitriona Corr & Stan Cullen involved in the funding for same)
Ballyhale school zones have been marked in yellow & red
Graiguenamanagh 3 schools now have links for kids to get off the bus or for walking to school (boys, girls & secondary school)

Section 2.16 & 2.17 – Feasibility for new lower carbon materials to be used. Using nature-based solutions to improve drainage.

Typically used on road was hot mix macadam which is maintained at a temp of 170-180 degrees. Now using warm mix macadam which holds at 120-130 degrees. Less energy to produce. Has been used up to 50% so far this year. Expect to be running at 100% warm mix over the next two years. Cuts the cost of fuel, reduces emissions, less energy to produce. Key at the moment is it durable?

Also using hydro texturing instead of surface dressing with chips. High pressure water to remove excess binder from the road.

Thermal road repairs in operation. Heat the tar in smaller amounts, add 10% virgin material roll and fix the road. Removed the need to dig out the road to fix items and zero waste. Working really well. 97% reduction on CO2 emissions, less disruption.

Nature Based Solutions: Rain water garden, excavate 600ml into the ground, using engineered top soil, remove gully's from the roads that will allow drainage off the roads into the rain water garden. Plant sustainable hydrocarbons.

Aesthetically pleasing to look at. €80k was funded from LAWPRO to implement into projects.
Junction tightening in Graiguenamanagh & rain water gardens on plan.
Two new bus stops in Bennettsbridge

Cllr. Michael Delaney: great report & great job done in Callan.

Cllr. Pat Dunphy: what is the price on the hot v's the warm tar?

Declan Murphy: same price on hot v's warm. More cost effective on warm to produce

Cllr. Pat Dunphy: over the past year or so there is a section of the N24 about a metre in width and 1 inch deep that is constantly lifting. Was the warm tar used to fix it?

Seamus Kavanagh: Yes, hot macadam not used on national roads.

Cllr. Joe Sheridan: road markings at schools are fantastic. When are the applications open for schools to apply for these safety measures to be implemented through the safe route to school's programme?

Caitriona Corr: possibly re-open in 2028. 25 schools originally applied, currently 8/9 schools on the list to be completed. Applications will not open until these schools are completed.

Declan Murphy: Overlay being completed in Kells, will look at demarcation as work is done. We won't completely rely on the SRTS programme to get some things done.

Mary Brennan: needed at every school but they are visually ugly. Water gardens are really welcomed. Have you found plants that can tolerate all varieties of Irish weather?

Declan Murphy: 2nd year running for the plants and they are really well established. Plants are specific for engineered top soil. Mainly drought plants as the water runs through them.

A.O.B.

Stan Cullen: Working on funding for SUMP & bus stop enhancement

Mary Brennan: Would you be optimistic to meet all 100 steps planned in 10 years.

Stan Cullen: Ambitious but have to be, work to the plan.

Cllr. Joe Sheridan: Active travel within the ring road eg: Kells road, Everygreen FC, Village HC etc. Road from the Kells road out is shocking. Within the MD of Kilkenny, any plans to improve the route? Every Saturday morning there would be roughly 1200 vehicles using the road.

Stan Cullen: Aware that it is not just this location. Plan would aim to better facilitate these routes. Aware that it is a challenge to calm the traffic on a rural road. For example the national road to Dunmore isn't sustainable for active travel. It would for this route make more sense to utilise the Bleech road for access to Dunmore.

Cllr. Michael Delaney – Thanks all and have a good summer.

This concluded the meeting.