The Galway City Council Mobility Team (GCCMT) held two meetings again this week.

Progress to date includes:

**Public submissions:** The response to the call for submissions for public input via the online request form continues to be significant in volume.

As of Tuesday 2nd May, 683 suggestions have been received and will take some time to assess and analyse. These requests continue to be populated on the publicly available interactive map [https://arcg.is/0nSTzn](https://arcg.is/0nSTzn) allowing all stakeholders the opportunity to view what has been submitted to date.

The categories and number of requests in each are as follows:

![Diagram showing the distribution of requests.]

The cycling request category has seen the highest volume of submissions, with a significant proportion relating to the Salthill area and the Prom in particular.

The types of requests across the other categories include the widening of footpaths, reducing speed limits, installation of pedestrian crossings, removal of kissing gates and other traffic calming measures.

Businesses have also used the online form request increased space for customers, including ground markings for queues as well as pedestrianisation of certain areas.

These requests will feed into considerations by Galway City Council staff out on the ground carrying out street audits.

A number of other requests submitted are more medium to long-term in nature, such as the building of greenways and pedestrian bridges, which are already included in other documents and strategies. Others relate to general city wide interventions rather than specific locations and are therefore outside the scope of the team.

**Street Audits and Implementation Plan:** Local authority staff were on the ground this week to conduct Street Audits in the identified priority areas. The wide range of information they capture will help inform appropriate solutions and interventions to be undertaken and will form the basis of an implementation plan to be developed by the Mobility Team.
The Street Audits are being carried out taking into consideration the potential effects of the future stages of Covid-19 relaxations of restrictions, including increased footfall and cycling demand due to reopening of premises and work places. It has also considered the online submissions received by GCC through online platform [https://www.galwaycity.ie/mobilityteam](https://www.galwaycity.ie/mobilityteam). The proposed works have taken consideration of Cross City Link plans developed for Galway City by Arup. The Audits will feed into a Phase 1 implementation plan with programme. An example of work undertaken in the Street Audits and Phase 1 Implementation is given below.

City Centre Survey Location

- Location J – loading bay Williamgate St. Use for Eglinton St deliveries also. Agree delivery window outside peak hours and close off the bay using removable or collapsible bollards outside delivery hours. This will widen pedestrian area in front of retail unit and a café and allow for queuing outside the premises. Approx length of this area is 25m. See Figure 5 below.

Figure 1 City Centre Survey Locations

- Location K – Eglinton Street. Incorporate existing loading bays and narrow existing carriageway for footpath widening (approx. 110m length). Provide uncontrolled pedestrian crossings to the north and south. Maintain vehicular access to the back of Supermacs. See Figure 5 above. Road centre line might need to be adjusted. Loading bay sign will need to be revised.

Figure 2 Extraction from Street Audit with Intervention Plan
**Beaches/Spanish Arch/Claddagh Basin Social Distancing Enhancement Measures:** Members of the Mobility Team continue to hold regular discussions with An Garda Síochána to identify issues arising with implementation of physical distancing across the city. Galway City Council in conjunction with An Garda initiated a number of key measures prior to the public holiday weekend at Silverstrand, Rusheen Bay, Spanish Arch, Claddagh Basin and other public amenities. This included the installation of fencing, barriers, social distancing signage and significant media campaigns to assist in maintaining social distancing throughout the city and were broadly welcomed by the city’s residents. These measures will remain in place for the upcoming weekend. The situation will be reviewed with the Gardaí once Phase 2 of the Government roadmap commences on June 8th.

**St Nicholas Market:** The recommendations in regard to St Nicholas Market which were implemented by Galway City Mobility Team, in conjunction with the Environment Department, worked extremely well last weekend and feedback was very positive.

St. Nicholas Market will operate again this weekend, on both Saturday and Sunday. The Council has secured some additional space in the Car Park area of St Patricks National School for Saturday which will enable the market run smoothly once again in terms of social distancing. All Food traders will operate in the traditional market area on Sunday.

The one-way system from the Shop Street area will also continue. The entrance to the Market will be signposted at the shop street end. A 1 metre area in front of all stalls has been marked out for queueing with an additional one-way through route for movement through the market. The corners of each stall has also been marked out for the benefit of traders and all hot food traders have been moved into the school area and all cold food traders remain in the normal area. Seating has been removed, social distancing signs have been installed and areas have been coned off for parking. Traders have been requested to assist as follows:

1. Stalls to be maintained within their allocated space
2. Queues to each stall to be managed very tightly by the stall holder in the queuing space available which is limited
3. Hand Sanitizer to be provided at each stall
4. No illegal parking in the area. Parking Tickets will be issued
5. Giving Guidance to Customers on the one way system and keeping the walkway clear.
6. No blocking traffic to facilitate early exit from the market. This will be enforced also.

**Review of City Speed Limits:** A review of Speed Limits in the city is currently being undertaken in accordance with the ‘Guidelines for Setting & Managing Speed Limits in Ireland’ (March 2015) published by the Department of Transport Tourism & Sport. The Road Traffic Act of 2004 (Section 9) sets out the current legislative basis for the setting of speed limits.

Draft Galway City Council Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2020 Schedule and Maps have been prepared.

The draft proposed changes include for a 30km/hr Speed Limit zone in the Inner City and as such the Speed Limit bye-laws are being prioritise.

The next stages to be progressed include the following:

- Issue notice under Section 9(3) of the Road Traffic Act 2004 to the Garda Commissioner and consider any representations received in writing
- Proceed with a statutory 30 day public consultation process in accordance with Section 9(4) of the Road Traffic Act 2004 and consider objections and submissions received
The draft bye-laws will then be brought to council for the adoption of the Galway City Council Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2020, which is a reserved function of the Elected Members.

Engaging with Businesses: The Economic Development department has been in discussions with all business groups in the city including the Galway Chamber. We are liaising directly with the Galway Chamber about new policies and changes to be introduced around areas such as queuing, deliveries, parking, footfall etc. The Galway Chamber has been liaising with the businesses and we are hoping to reach an agreement in the next week.

We have engaged with Magnet Networks and we are introducing an additional feature to the footfall counters in the city centre. The footfall counters will now have a live monitoring system that will send an alert for excessive build ups of people in different areas of the city.

All businesses have been invited to submit a proposal to the mobility team. The department have been meeting regularly with the different business groupings. The Salthill Village group submitted the first proposal to include a number of changes to parking, additional cycling infrastructure and coach parking among a series of proposals. Engineers from the transport team have visited the area for an audit of the proposals and measures should be agreed early next week in partnership with the Salthill Village Committee.

Both the Latin Quarter and the Westend Traders Association are finalising proposals that are likely to be submitted early next week. We have engaged in discussions with both areas about their ideas and we hope to be able to work together on a series of measures to support businesses in each location.

We invited all other business groupings to engage with us and we hope to work across Galway City to support businesses reopen and help restart the Galway economy. We are working on a number of additional supports for marketing and promoting Galway that will assist in drawing people to the city centre and begin attracting visitors back to Galway over the coming months.