The Galway City Council Mobility Team (GCCMT) held two meetings again this week. Progress for the week ending 12th June 2020 is summarised below.

**Public Submissions**

Over 930 submissions have been received through the online public submission form. New requests are currently being reviewed, in order to publish them on the publicly available interactive map at [https://arcg.is/0nSTzn](https://arcg.is/0nSTzn)

The online form will close on Friday 12th June 2020, to allow the GCCMT to review all submissions, and update their status on the online map. Once updates on this Phase of submissions are complete, the online form will reopen. The new submission form will advise those making submissions to check the map and if the submission has already been made, not to resubmit, in order to reduce repetitions.

**Implementation Plan**

In order to address social distancing issues on narrow footpaths with a high footfall, in the week commencing 15th June 2020, Galway City Council will provide temporary traffic management measures to provide additional space for pedestrians on Forster Street, Eyre Square and Eglinton Street. These measures will result in the temporary loss of parking and loading areas.

Note that measures introduced as part of the implementation plan are temporary and dynamic, and will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, in conjunction with An Garda Síochána and relevant stakeholders.

![Map showing proposed changes](image)

**Phase 1 of the Implementation Plan** will see the installation of temporary finger bollards at 2 locations, namely Foster St and Eglinton St. This is to prevent parking/loading at these locations and to facilitate social distancing.

On Foster Street, the footpath between the Jungle Café and signalised pedestrian crossing at Eyre Square will be widened, utilising the existing loading bay and the bus lane. The loading bay will relocate to the existing parking bays to the east of St Patrick’s Church entrance. Single lane operation towards Eyre Square will be in place for buses and general traffic. The widening will be done using pencil bollards, some signage and line markings.
On Eglinton Street, the footpath on the opposite side to the Post Office will be widened between Williamsgate and Mary Street, utilising the existing loading bays and some of the existing carriageway. The loading bay near the Mary Street junction will be reduced. The loading bay on Williamsgate will be used for Eglinton Street deliveries. Eglinton Street will remain a two-way street.

In order to discourage non-essential traffic from the city centre, and facilitate movement of pedestrians, cyclists, and buses, Galway City Council will introduce turning restrictions at the Courthouse Junction and at Eyre Square/Bohernmore Junction.

Under the Road Traffic Act and Regulations, and in consultation with An Garda Síochána, Galway City Council will designate Cross Street as a pedestrianised street. The area will be controlled with statutory signage and temporary bollards.

In consultation with An Garda Síochána and the City Centre businesses, Galway City Council will amend the times for loading/unloading/deliveries to the city centre pedestrian area. The revised times will be from 4.00am to 9.00am. See right the 8 locations of automated bollards.

**Speed Limit Review**

With regard to a 30km per hour speed limit in the city centre - this is a reserved function of the Elected Members. Following public consultation, a proposal will be for the consideration of the Elected Members in Q3 2020.

**Salthill Cycle Way**

The Transport section is currently progressing a temporary design for a cycle way along the promenade in Salthill. On the 3rd June 2020 a street survey was carried out with the aim of identifying measures which will improve permeability for an increasing number of cyclists and pedestrians. The route ranged between Wolfe Tone Bridge and Blackrock Diving Tower.
Phase 1 of the proposed works mainly concentrates on improving cycle routes, bicycle parking facilities, creating additional safe crossing points for pedestrians, and reducing vehicular speeds. Due to the number of pedestrians that utilise the Prom, combined footway and cycleway sections were not considered a viable option. Reduced speed limits to 30kph along Claddagh Quay and Grattan Rd will apply.

A shared surface on-road cycleway is to be marked and signed along Claddagh Quay. Pedestrian passing bays or 1 way footways are to be considered to relieve pedestrian congestion on footpaths adjacent to the canal and river.

Cycle track is to be maintained on both sides of carriageway from the signalised crossing south of Grattan Road to the roundabout at Seapoint where feasible. This track will be lined and divided from traffic with pencil bollards providing a minimum width of 1.5m in accordance with the National Cycle Manual and DMURS (see detail below). However where width permits this will be widened to 2m.

There are two options being reviewed from Seapoint through to Blackrock - providing a cycle lane on both sides of the road, or a basic two way Cycle track (2.5mts) on the southern side only.

Right turn lanes are to be removed to facilitate extended disabled parking and allow for the cycle track to be provided on the outside of these spaces.

Temporary pedestrian crossing/ courtesy crossings are being considered at the busiest desire lines along the route. The most obvious locations for these are:

- Between the East parapet of Wolfe Tone Bridge and the pier of Eglinton Basin
- At the Junction of the Westend and Claddagh Quay
- At the Junction of the Claddagh Place and Claddagh Quay
- Between Ground & Co / the Atlantaquaria to Galways Giant Chess Board/ Prom
- At the Junction of Rockbarton Rd/ Leisureland and the Prom
- At the Junction of the Salthill Hotel and the Prom
- Between the Kicking Wall and the North footpath

Substantial additional bicycle parking facilities are to be provided in a number of locations along the route, the exact locations to be agreed.

Proposed works will also include widening of the footpath outside the Creamery between the existing bus stop and signalised pedestrian crossing. On street parking will need to be removed to allow for this.

GCCMT are also working with The Village Salthill, in regard to proposals in Salthill Village to support the local businesses.

Further updates will be provided in regard to this initiative.

**Future Measures**

Street audits continue to be carried out on the ground in the agreed prioritised areas, with future measures to be implemented being assessed.

Engagement with businesses on these proposals has been generally positive. Traffic levels continue to be at significantly lower levels than usual for this period - therefore the changes will have less impact on traffic than they might during business as usual.

Meanwhile it is anticipated that footfall and cycling will continue to increase in the city, as Galway moves through phases of reopening. Daily visitors recorded by footfall monitors showed 108,207 people in the city centre. This is a slight reduction on the previous week, likely attributed to the good weather attracting people to Salthill and other coastal amenities. With the reopening of businesses this week, it is anticipated that this figure will increase.
Guidelines for Queuing for Retailers

The GCCMT has this week drafted and agreed guidelines for queuing for retailers, which will be issued by the end of the week. These guidelines will assist retailers and businesses to plan for managing queues as they resume operations.

St. Nicholas’ Market

The St. Nicholas Market will operate again this weekend, on both Saturday and Sunday, with the same measures being implemented as last weekend.

Recently Galway City Council has sourced additional space in St. Patrick’s National School carpark and again secured some additional space in the Car Park area of St Nicholas Church. It is anticipated that this will enable the market run smoothly again this weekend in terms of social distancing. It has also allowed for the return of additional traders this week, specialising in Plants and Garden Products. All food and nursery traders will operate in the traditional market area on Sunday.

Separately the Mobility Team are assessing additional sites which have been put forward for use to accommodate the further return of the remaining Craft traders very shortly.

Social Distancing at Galway City Council Amenities

Further to ongoing consultation with An Garda Síochána in respect of Phase 2 re-opening, Galway City Council ‘Local Roadmap for Reopening Society & Business’ and the ‘Temporary City Mobility Framework Plan’, please note the following measures to enhance social distancing at Galway City amenities:

- **Silverstrand**: The road access to Silverstrand is to remain closed for the upcoming weekend. Emergency Services access is available by removing the crowd control barrier section.
- **Rusheen Bay**: The road access and carpark to Rusheen Bay is to be opened for the upcoming weekend.
- **Blackrock Tower**: Blackrock Tower to be opened up to facilitate lifeguard remit and the walkway to rear of golf course also opened.
- **Salthill**: The cones/ barriers temporarily removing parking along the Prom are to remain in place. Toft carpark and Salthill beach car park have now re-opened.
- **Spanish Arch/ Claddagh Basin**: The Spanish Arch and Claddagh basin are to remain closed off for the upcoming weekend.
- **Ballyloughane**: Ballyloughane is to remain closed for the upcoming weekend.

Discussions between GCCMT and the relevant stakeholders will take place early next week, with a review of all above mentioned temporary measures.

Public Toilet Facilities

As footfall in the city continues to increase, Galway City Council has started to open Automated Public Conveniences as follows:

- Eyre Square and Ladies beach toilets are open to the public.
- Blackrock toilets open to the public by end of this week.
- Millennium Park and Earls Island (Cathedral Car Park), as well as changing rooms and showers, will be opened on a phased basis.

As with all re-opening procedures it is required to prioritise certain areas in the first instance.

Engaging with Businesses

In the last week the Economic Development staff have received proposals from the Woodquay Business Association and the Westend Traders association, and are engaging with both groupings.
If other businesses make contact with Elected Members with regard to contacting the GCCMT, please ask them to get in touch with the Economic Development team in Galway City Council.

Businesses in the city were also engaged with in relation proposed changes to the operating hours of the barrier system on the pedestrian streets in Galway City. The businesses have been informed that access will be limited for deliveries between the hours of 4.00am and 9.00am. Additionally information was also passed to businesses on the guidelines for queueing on the public footpaths.

Contact is continuing with the Eyre Square Association and the GCBA/ Galway Chamber about proposals for measures to support social distancing on Forster Street and Eglinton Street.

On Tuesday, Galway City Council will be attending the next stage of the Business Recovery Forum in partnership with Galway Chamber. The chamber will be facilitating a call with the business community to discuss these measures and develop plans to support businesses at this time.

Ends