The Galway City Council Mobility Team (GCCMT) held two meetings again this week. Progress for the week ending 2\textsuperscript{nd} July 2020 is summarised below.

**Phase 1 Implementation Plan**

Temporary COVID-19 related interventions continue to progress across the city in consultation with the National Transport Authority as more businesses and workplaces resume operations following the acceleration of the Government Roadmap for recovery this week.

**Core City Centre**

- The operation of automated bollards will commence in the core city centre streets from Monday 6\textsuperscript{th} July. Please see map below which gives details of the eight locations where the bollards are situated. The statutory signage to reflect this is currently being erected. The revised delivery times will be from 6.00am to 9.00am but during the initial period of operation, deliveries will be facilitated up to 10.00am until businesses and suppliers have had an opportunity to adjust to the changes.

![Automated Bollard System - Locations](image)

- The pedestrianisation of Cross St. will also commence from Monday 6th July with the same operating times as the automated bollards system above.
- Restrictions to private cars entering Eglinton Street and Francis St. will be implemented in the coming days, once the necessary statutory signage has been erected. Only buses, taxis and cyclists will be permitted to turn right at the Court House when approaching from the Salmon Weir Bridge.
• The Transport section continues to progress a design for a temporary cycleway along the promenade in Salthill. The on-going safety audit is nearing completion and positive feedback has been received following consultation with An Garda Síochána. The Transport Department will continue to work with the Gardaí in relation to tackling illegal parking in the Salthill area.

• Senior staff from the Implementation Team hosted a virtual meeting with Elected Members to outline the above proposals in more detail on Tuesday 30th June 2020. Due to time constraints it was not possible to address questions during the briefing so it was agreed a written response would issue to Elected Members by close of business on Friday 3rd July, 2020. It was agreed that a further briefing would take place as soon as possible.

Please note all interventions due to their temporary nature will be under constant review and adjustments or changes may be required at short notice when required.

Mobility Dashboard

The recently developed Galway City Mobility Dashboard which brings together a range of interesting mobility data in an easy to access format, available to the public, went live this week and will be made available as Gaeilge shortly.

The dashboard illustrates transport trends, and highlights the impact Covid-19 has had on footfall and traffic counts in Galway City on a week on week or year on year basis, depending on the source. The dashboard is an informative portal, which will be developed and expanded further in the coming months to add further interesting data.

The dashboard can be viewed at: https://mytrafficcounts.com/dashboard-galway-public

Please note, this site is best viewed in the Chrome browser.
**St. Nicholas’ Market**

The St Nicolas Market will operate this weekend on both Saturday and Sunday, with the measures from the previous weekends remaining in place. Consultation is still on-going to try and accommodate the return of remaining traders.

**Re-opening of amenity areas**

All public amenities are now open.

**Phase 2 Proposed Implementations**

**City Centre Pedestrianisation**

Locations for potential Phase 2 interventions are now under consideration, including Middle Street, the Westend, and the Latin Quarter.

**Headford Road / Dyke Road / St. Brendan’s Avenue Junction**

It is proposed to remove the Dyke Road approach to the Headford Road/ Dyke Road/ St. Brendan’s Avenue Junction. This approach will be restricted using temporary bollards and signage. All southbound traffic on the Dyke Road will be prohibited from travelling straight towards the Headford Road/ Dyke Road/ St. Brendan’s Avenue Junction and will have to turn left at the Dyke Road car park towards the Headford Road/ St. Bridget’s Place junction.

The proposed intervention which can be seen in the picture below, will result in the removal of a signal stage at the Headford Road/ Dyke Road/ St. Brendan’s Avenue Junction and corresponding reduction in the cycle time at the junction. This will provide shorter a wait time at the junction for pedestrians and increased capacity for vehicles and support the impact of changes being implemented at Eglinton Street and Francis Street outlined above.
Speed Limit Review

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 are being finalised.

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 prioritised.

30 km/hr Speed Limit Slow Zones are currently implemented in 120 no. housing estates in the City. 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 Q3 2020 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. An update to Elected Members will be given at the July Monthly Meeting.

‘Parklets’

‘Parklets’ are currently being considered in a number of city centre locations which will provide additional temporary outdoor seating as well as encompassing cycle parking. A ‘Parklet’ is a public seating platform that converts curbside parking spaces into vibrant community spaces through offering curbside seating. Parklets will be developed by the City Council in partnership with local business and residents associations.

Parklets generally have a distinctive design that incorporates seating, greenery, and cycle parking and have the potential to accommodate unmet demand for public space particularly in retail and commercial areas. They also have the added benefit of supporting local businesses through providing a public, shared, area for their customers to use – this will be of interest in particular in locations where footpath widths may not facilitate tables and chairs licences.
Marketing and Promotion of City

Applications will open shortly for the Marketing and Promotion fund to help increase footfall in the city, and provide additional incentives for consumers to ‘shop local’ and visit Galway this summer.

The Dine in Galway initiative has launched this week, and competitions are currently running on Galway Bay Radio and iRadio. Filming has been taking place all week across the city and new content should be online by the end of this week that will encourage people to Dine in Galway this summer.

Submissions

Online and email submissions continue to be reviewed, with over 1,400 submissions received to date, 1,300 of which were received through the online submission form. Phase 1 interventions were informed by the many positive suggestions received.

Responses to submissions received online continue to be published to the publicly-available, online map, see https://arcg.is/0nSTzn for current updates. It will take some time to work through this large volume and consider and respond to the remaining submissions.

As the Government’s Roadmap for re-opening society and business has moved ahead of the original schedule, Galway City Council has now re-opened City Hall and the majority of its facilities and services in line with this accelerated programme. As a result of this and the additional demands on the staff involved in the City Mobility Team through a resumption of all essential services, no further submissions can be accepted for consideration at this point in time. Customers with queries should now revert to the usual communication channels through the dedicated Customer Liaison contact in the relevant section – Transport, Environment, Recreation and Amenity etc.

Engaging with Businesses

Submissions have been received from a number of business representative groups in the city, and are under review as part of Phase 2 interventions. Whilst normal consultation processes are not possible during the COVID-19 pandemic, engagement with businesses and relevant stakeholders on specific interventions will continue through the various Implementation Teams on the ground, which vary from project to project.

Keep up to date with the work of the City Mobility Team through the website at:
https://www.galwaycity.ie/mobilityteam

Ends