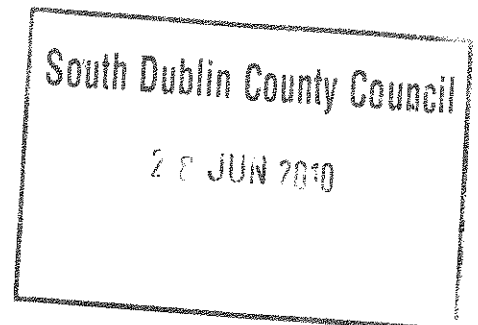


Ms. Mary Maguire  
Corporate Affairs Department  
South Dublin County Council  
County Hall  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24

24<sup>th</sup> June 2010



Dear Ms. Murphy

I write further to your letter of 16<sup>th</sup> June, requesting an update and briefing for the elected members of South Dublin County Council on the strategy development work currently being undertaken by the NTA in relation to the Greater Dublin Area road network.

The transport strategy that is being prepared will encompass not only roads but also rail, policy measures, and general integration across all modes. As part of the NTA Greater Dublin Area strategy development work, proposals for new or upgraded roads, or improvement traffic management arrangements, are being considered alongside various other transport proposals and policies. These proposals have been developed following extensive consultation with stakeholders and officers in transport agencies and Greater Dublin Area local authorities including South Dublin County Council.

A key determinant of whether or not proposals should be included in the draft strategy will be the contribution that they make, in combination with other proposals, to meeting agreed strategy objectives and supporting policies.

At this point, three themed options are currently being appraised against the transport strategy objectives and other criteria, based on the Department of Transport's Common Appraisal Framework. The themed options have been developed to explore different transport strategies for the Greater Dublin Area.

The options are as follows:

1. Economy theme – with an emphasis on measures that improve journey times, travel reliability particularly for business travel and the movement of goods. The types of measures in this package include major road and rail improvements, and travel demand management policies designed to free up roadspace for economically essential travel.

2. Society theme – with an emphasis on measures that improve connections for communities to each other and to the activities they need to access. The types of measures in this package include improved road and public transport links between residential areas and activity centres such as local town centres and the city centre.
3. Environment theme – with an emphasis on measures that improve the natural and built environment and reduce transport related emissions. The types of measure included in this package include public transport improvements, and travel demand management measures targeted at reducing distances travelled by car. Major road improvements are not included in this option.

Many measures, such as better walking and cycling facilities, improved travel information, integrated ticketing and fares, school and workplace travel plans and better integration of new development with public transport meet all strategy objectives and are included in all options.

Once modelling and appraisal of the options is completed (expected later this summer), the best performing measures from each package will be identified, and packaged into the preliminary draft strategy, which will in turn be modelled and appraised and subjected to a formal cost benefit analysis.

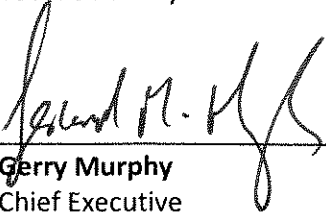
Following this, a stakeholder and public consultation on the preliminary draft strategy will take place (this is expected to commence in the Autumn of 2010). The duration of the consultation will be six weeks .

Once consultation is complete a draft strategy will be submitted to the Minister of Transport (or the proposed Dublin Mayor, depending on timings) for his approval, and a copy will also be submitted to the Dublin and Mid East Regional Authorities. They in turn will issue a notice to the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government stating whether in their view the draft strategy is consistent or not with the regional planning guidelines for the GDA.

The Minister of Transport (or the proposed Dublin Mayor) will then decide whether to approve the draft strategy.

I trust that this provides the information your members require at this stage. We look forward to continuing to engage with South Dublin County Council as a key stakeholder, in the lead up to, and during, consultation on the draft Strategy.

Yours sincerely



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**Gerry Murphy**  
Chief Executive