

30th May 2006

Geraldine O'Neill
Sub-Regional Transport Plan Team
Transportation Unit
Roads Service
Department for Regional Development
Room 3 – 29 Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
Belfast BT2 8GB

Dear Geraldine

**RE: Sub Regional Transport Plan 2015 - Technical Supplement –
Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council**

Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (DRP) would like to thank the Department for Regional Development for the opportunity to respond to its consultation document on the Sub Regional Transport Plan 2015.

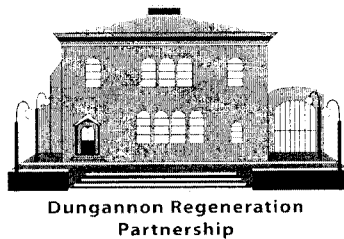
Please see attached Dungannon Regeneration Partnership's comments on the draft SRTP 2015 and in particular the Technical Supplement – Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council.

If you would like to discuss any of these comments further please contact myself on 028 87728615.

Yours sincerely

Paul McCreedy
Town Development Manager

Enc.



Comments on the proposed Sub Regional Transportation Plan 2015 Technical Supplement – Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council

1.0 Figure 1: Dungannon Age Profile

The SRTP quotes a Total Population of 10,316, which is taken from the NI Census figures 2001. This figure is in actual fact the population of Downpatrick.

The population of Dungannon according to the NI Census 2001 is 11,139. However, the true population figure is likely now to be considerably higher due to inward migration and the Council has held discussions with central government in regard to the matter.

2.0 Local Bus Network Service Details

Members felt that the 9.15am Weekday Start Time for the Dungannon Town Services is unsuitable for people who use public transport to travel into the town centre to begin work at 9.00am, and would consequently necessitate and encourage car usage.

It is also important to note that the migrant population do not have the same transport usage profile as the local population. Migrant workers are likely to have a much lower ratio of car ownership and hence tend to use proxies i.e. taxis where there is no/inadequate public transport.

3.0 Proposed Public Transport Improvements

DRP welcomes the proposals to refurbish the bus station, which are long overdue. However, Translink have recently deferred plans to carry out such work in favour of other proposals. It is essential that Roads Service makes appropriate representation to Translink on the issue of a programme of refurbishment/redevelopment of the local bus depot.

4.0 Walking Blueprint

Members felt that Roads Service need to prioritise the proposed walking routes for people who use the town to shop, work and go to leisure facilities/amenities.

It would appear that no consideration has been given to walking routes from car parks into the town centre.

Most of the Proposed Primary Walking routes will be covered in the Environmental Improvement Scheme for the town centre which is currently being designed through DRP.

DRP would question Quarry Lane as an obvious walking route due to its gradient. Members believe there is a need to have footpaths connecting to predominantly residential areas, and recommend that the following Secondary Walking Routes be included in the SRTP: -

1. Killyman Road - Town centre
2. Mullaghmore Road - Donaghmore Road - Town centre
3. Brooke Street - Short Highway - Town centre
4. Carland Road -Town centre
5. Oaks Road - Town centre
6. Manse Road - Town centre
7. John Street - Ballygawley road - Town Centre
8. Circular Road - Town Centre

DRP would urge the Department to ensure developers are responsible for the provision of footpath links from new residential development areas to the urban centre.

It is also important that adequate directional signage to leisure and sports facilities is in place.

5.0 Cycling Blueprint

DRP would seek further clarification on the abbreviations used on the maps and believe that the far side of the Black Lough should be included in the proposed cycle routes.

Members would urge the Department to investigate the feasibility of including a cycle route linking Windmill Park and Dungannon Park via the tunnel under the Moy Road.

6.0 Highways Blueprint

6.1 Highway Scheme

DRP would seek clarification on the proposed widening scheme at the Moy Road. Members are concerned that substantial investment in this scheme would abolish the likelihood of a Distributor Road/By-Pass, and consequently the town's growth and prosperity further stifled.

Members felt that the Department should be promoting the use of arterial routes from the South through improvements to Granville Road and Manse Road, which would alleviate the pressure on Moy Road.

6.2 Proposed Junction Improvements

DRP welcomes the proposed junction improvements but would recommend that the Department include the junction at Moy Road/Gortmerron Link Road/Dungannon Park entrance. In order to provide congestion relief at peak periods we would ask the Department to review the sequence of lights and the viability of introducing a roundabout.

DRP welcomes the proposed junction improvement at Railway Road/Lower Scotch Street/Beechvalley where bottlenecks are frequent. We would emphasise the importance of this junction being improved as part a wider scheme in that area to include John Street, Georges Street and William Street.

Members felt that the Department needs to review the double mini roundabout at Mullaghmore Road as part of the programme of junction improvements in the SRTP.