

Mayor & members

I refer to the following Notice of Motion from the Cobh Municipal District which is on the Agenda for the Council meeting on the 23rd of November:

"Given the central importance of Little Island as a residential, industrial and employment hub could Cork County Council please furnish the members with details of their general traffic management plans, emergency plans, and efforts to alleviate daily congestion on the Island so that the area can continue maintain its competitiveness and continue to attract corporate investment"

Response:

Access to/from Little Island:

It is acknowledged that, primarily as a result of its significance as an employment location, Little Island is affected by undesirable levels of traffic congestion during peak traffic periods. Both access points to Little Island, via the Tunnel Management Slip Road and the N25 Interchange suffer from this traffic congestion. Access can also be gained to Little Island by means of Little Island station on the Cork to Midleton and Cork to Cobh Rail lines.

The proposed Dunkettle Interchange Upgrade, which has Planning Permission, and which is likely to go to construction in the near future, will provide an alternative access, to replace the Tunnel Management Slip Road. It is anticipated that this new access arrangement to/from Little Island will significantly alleviate the congestion problems currently being experience with access to and egress from Little Island.

Access within Little Island:

Notwithstanding the traffic congestion on approaches to Little Island, the local road network on Little Island itself suffers from congestion and a lack of pedestrian facilities.

- Cork County Council has prepared a Traffic Management Study for Little Island, which was completed in 2009. This study recommended the upgrade of 7 local junctions. Part 8 was approved by Full Council in May 2006 for the upgrade of 6 of these junctions.

- The Ballytrasna Junction on Little Island was signalised in accordance with the Part 8 in 2013 with funding from the National Transport Authority. This upgrade gave significantly improved pedestrian crossing facilities at this heavy used junction, in addition to management of traffic flows.
- Funding was allocated by NTA for the upgrade of the Island Cross junction on Little Island in 2015. This project was dependent on land acquisition for the provision of the necessary space to facilitate the junction upgrade, and sufficient progress has not been made with the acquisition to permit this upgrade to proceed.
- The Council's priority on Little Island continues to be the acquisition of land to permit the Island Cross upgrade to proceed and to continue to seek funding for this purpose.
- Further progress with the implementation of the recommendations of the Traffic Management Study is dependent on the availability of resources and there is no funding currently available for the other junction upgrades.

Peter O'Donoghue,
Senior Engineer
Traffic and Transport
19th Nov 2015