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THIRD SUBMISSION ON CORK CITY CENTRE MOVEMENT STRATEGY.

Monday 18th February 2013.

Re: The Cork City Centre Movement Strategy.

To: Mr. Tony Lynch,
ARUP,
Oliver Plunkett Street,
Cork.

Dear Tony,

We would like to put on record the support of the Cork Business Association for the current comprehensive review of the existing traffic management system in the Cork City centre and the promise that a positive plan will evolve in time that will benefit growth and support in extra footfall and consumer spend in our city.

Having examined the current proposal and mapping in further detail we wish to propose that the following items be included and would welcome the opportunity to discuss these once again at your convenience.

1. PARK & RIDE. Commitment has previously being given to the business sector that four park & rides would be placed in strategic locations to benefit commuter traffic to the city centre and we suggest that these be included in the current proposal, and built before any new programme commences. Funding should be re-directed, to complete this programme first before embarking on other traffic proposals. These would certainly ease any future traffic congestion and combined with public transport would be welcomed by employees, visitors/shoppers, especially if private traffic is being excluded from Patrick's street for at certain times. They would be a major incentive to private traffic commuters and acceptable alternative mode of transport into the city centre. We must not loose sight of the fact, that it is the commercial well being of the city centre long term we are planning for now, along with ease of access to all commuters. We will get one chance to get the right plan in place to regenerate the city centre, otherwise the reverberation for businesses could have catastrophic results for years.

2. The CBA Orbital Bus Proposal. We want further discussion on this proposal. We feel that it would be a popular addition to the current proposals and get the support from the public and also from retail/hospitality. It would also satisfy a requirement to include North Main Street in the public transport plan, a very important retail street, currently without a public bus service to the street. This would be welcomed support for the disabled visitor currently excluded in the proposals.

3. PARKING OFFER. We propose that the public owned Paul Street and North Main street multi-story car parks offer “ free parking “ at certain parts of the day, to coincide with the pedestrian street closure times, to encourage the private vehicle owners to use the multi-story car parking. This would compete on a level playing pitch so to speak, with the “ Free parking offer” currently in the four excellent suburban shopping centres, which are the main competitors for the shopper/visitor to the city on a daily basis. Another suggestion is to offer a special price for two/ three hour stay or other options such as the first two hours free parking in the multi-story car parks. These are options which could be monitored and changed over a period.

4. LOADING BAYS/SHORT STAY. We feel that more loading bays and short stay stops are vital to the success of any traffic plans for the city.

5. SOUTH MALL. Change to one hour to two hour parking in the Mall to encourage more short stay commuting for business and pleasure.

We wish to have the above included in the proposal.

We understand that the current proposal is for strategy only and implementation “ on the ground” will be done in phases, when change will be subject to a “part 8” process and include full public consultation element, to quote Noel Tummon in correspondence with our President Ernest Cantillon recently. We welcome this and the consultation with the ratepayer in a positive way.

At previous briefings, it was stated that funding is not available at present to develop a second park & ride due to shortfall in available funds. The completion of the park & ride programme is vital to the success of these current proposals.

We look forward to working together with our city council in achieving a more vibrant economical and pleasant city, which will be a more attractive place to visit, shop, and do business and work in.

We look forward to discussing these issues at your convenience and look forward to meeting up.

Yours faithfully,

On behalf of Cork Business Association.
Donal Healy. CEO.

CC. Gerry O’Beirne. Director of services Cork City Council.
Noel Tummon Senior Engineer, Cork City Council.