



**Shannon
Chamber**
Advancing business together

**REVISED DRAFT LIMERICK /SHANNON
METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORT STRATEGY
2040 (LSMATS)**

Shannon Chamber Submission

**June 2022
(Updated 19 July 2022)**

Submission / Comments

As in 2020, Shannon Chamber welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to / comment on the Revised Draft Limerick / Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS).

We particularly welcome the time taken by your executives, **David Clements, LSMATS Project Manager and Michael McAree, Head of Integrated Planning** to give a presentation on the Revised Strategy to representatives of both the Chamber board and Chamber membership. Direct interaction of this nature with the authors of such strategies is most beneficial as it enables both parties to fully comprehend the collective objectives, which greatly assists in the generation of refinements that match the needs of all stakeholders.

Shannon Chamber maintains a very interactive relationship with its members and has found their input most insightful when responding to submissions of this nature; we have also adopted this strategy when preparing our input to the Shannon Town Masterplan and the Clare County Development Plan Issues Paper – plans which also, as indicated in this revised draft, also impact on the LSMATS.

Having reviewed the Revised Draft, we are delighted to note that most of the key points raised in our Submission of October 2020 with regards to *Walking, Cycling, BusConnects, Rail, Roads & Streets, Traffic Management, Freight, Delivery and Servicing and Supporting Measures* have been taken on board and we thank your team for incorporating our recommendations into the updated strategy.

Our submission in this instance is therefore not exhaustive; it is rather a few additional comments about issues raised in our previous submission which have not been taken on board in the revised draft. I am sure there is a well substantiated reason for this; however, in the interests of our members, we would like to reiterate the following points:

08 Walking

We raised the following questions in October 2020 as to whether:

- the walkway/cycle way from Limerick to Bunratty could be extended to Shannon using existing riverside infrastructure – using existing green and landscaped areas, not roads; and
- if the walkways in Shannon could be refocused on the existing black path network that already exists and is extensively linked to the town.

09 Cycling

- Could the cycle way in Shannon be extended to take in the riverside in Shannon and on to the airport?

10 Bus

- We have one key ask in this area, which was outlined during our meeting with David Clements – that bus services to Shannon Free Zone should also include a stop(s) at Westpark – this is an expansive business park and set to be extended. It is imperative that a frequent public transport service be provided to this key employment area of the Shannon Free Zone, owned by Fine Grain Property.

11 Rail

- While we are heartened by the fact that our recommendation for an examination of a rail link to Shannon has been taken on board, we are disheartened by the fact that the timeline for the delivery of such a rail link could be multiples of decades. We would hope that the timelines presented in this Revised Strategy can be revisited enabling the delivery of a Limerick / Shannon / Sixmilebridge / Galway rail link in a much shorter timeframe.
- We welcome the fact that consideration has been given to the provision of a shuttle bus linking Sixmilebridge and Shannon and has been included in the Revised Strategy

Limerick Northern Distributor Road

In our Submission of October 2020, under the Roads & Streets (Section 10), we requested that the advancement of the Limerick Northern Distributor Road be considered. Whilst this was not referenced in the revised draft of the LSMATS presented for public consultation and to which we made a Submission in June 2022, we would reiterate the need for this vital piece of infrastructure for the Limerick / Shannon area and would request that it be included as a deliverable in the final draft of the LSMATS.

The connectivity this route would provide for the increasing numbers of Shannon-based businesses undertaking collaborative projects with the existing University of Limerick campus, for the increasing numbers of students travelling from Co. Clare to the university, and for connectivity at many other levels, is a paramount reason for its inclusion.

Ongoing Collaboration

Shannon Chamber would like to take this opportunity to thank the NTA for the comprehensive restructuring of the Strategy and for the inclusion of an Implementation Plan. The success of any such strategy will be down to how much of it will be delivered and how speedily.

Action encourages participation and it only through maintaining a focus on delivery within the timeline that people will support the initiatives planned and the goal of enabling people of all ages to travel conveniently and safely will be attained making the Limerick / Shannon Metropolitan Area a place the 'attracts people, jobs and activity from all over Ireland'.

Shannon Chamber looks forward to maintaining the linkages that we have developed with the NTA and to assisting in whatever way possible to ensure that buy into and delivery of this comprehensive Strategy is achieved.

Submitted by:

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