



National Transport Authority,  
Dún Scéine,  
Harcourt Lane,  
Dublin 2,  
D02 WT20.  
[limerickshannonstrategy@nationaltransport.ie](mailto:limerickshannonstrategy@nationaltransport.ie)

Date: 30th October 2020

**LSMATS submission - PPN Transport & Travel Linkage Group**

Dear Ms. Graham,

We wish to make the following submission on behalf of the Travel & Transport Linkage Group of the **Limerick Public Participation Network**

Re: Public Consultation on the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Transport Strategy

Minister Ryan stated that the 2021 Transport budget would:

*“Ensure that our transport network continues to grow sustainably into the future, providing our citizens with viable and affordable transport alternatives, while also working to meet our climate and environmental objectives”*

Where does LSMATS address our climate and environmental objectives in its strategic vision? Where does LSMATS identify and integrate or mainstream our sustainable developments goals objectives in its draft? This is relevant to any future plans, targets and evaluations. We wish to draw your attention to the Sustainable Development Goals National Plan 2018--2020, where it is stated under

1.Introduction:

*“..Goals do not belong solely to governments.They belong to everyone,i n every community, in every country across the world.To achieve the SDGs, governments,*

*businesses, communities and individuals will all have to work together.”*

Most notably in relation to the function of Public Participation Networks, it states the following under, Local Government:

*“Public Participation Networks (PPNs) can also play an important role in this process through their engagement with all aspects of local government. They can also raise the awareness of the general public and community groups to the SDG process and how it can improve their quality of life and wider environment.”*

The LSMATS has been open for public consultation since 2nd September 2020, closing on the October 30th. In this time, the PPN as the primary connector of civic society in Limerick, has not been approached by the NTA to offer an opportunity to discuss this complex and far-reaching plan. We are not aware of the NTA or indeed the local authority, through the Secretariat, arranging an accessible consultation process for the PPN. This is not in line with the Consultation Principles set out by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, 2016 and more recently the Consultation Principles & Guidance published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, 2019.

In our preliminary discussions within the PPN, members of the Linkage Group have identified a number of high-level issues with the Strategy. These include its incompatibility with climate commitments and Sustainable Development Goals, its incompatibility with the Programme for Government, and its lack of vision, monitoring, and an implementation plan for Limerick.

The Linkage Group requests that a further period of meaningful public consultation be held once the submissions from this round of consultation are reviewed. We would like to request that there is more regular consultation with our members as we think a 6 year consultation period is too long for evaluation to be effective.

**Patrick Fitzgerald, Facilitator of the [Limerick PPN Travel and Transportation Linkage Group](#).**