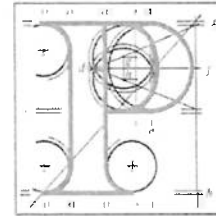


Our Case Number: ABP-316272-23



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Ivana Bacik TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Date: 24 April 2024

Re: Bus Connects Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme
Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above-mentioned proposed road development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

Please note that the proposed road development shall not be carried out unless the Board has approved it or approved it with modifications.

If you have any queries in the mean time, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board at laps@pleanala.ie

Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Eimear Reilly
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737184

HA02

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

Kevin McGettigan

From: Eimear Reilly
Sent: Friday 5 April 2024 13:12
To: Kevin McGettigan
Subject: FW: Templeogue/Rathfarnam to City Centre Busconnects ABP - 316272-23
Attachments: Bacik.TempleogueBusConnects.Submission3.March2024.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 2:51 PM
To: Eimear Reilly <e.reilly@pleanala.ie>
Subject: FW: Templeogue/Rathfarnam to City Centre Busconnects ABP - 316272-23

From: Ivana Bacik <Ivana.Bacik@oireachtas.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 2:03 PM
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: Re: Templeogue/Rathfarnam to City Centre Busconnects ABP - 316272-23

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Apologies but I sent the wrong document for submission. Would it be possible to replace my submission with the attached document?

Best wishes,

Ivana.

From: Ivana Bacik <Ivana.Bacik@oireachtas.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 27 March 2024 09:52
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: Templeogue/Rathfarnam to City Centre Busconnects ABP - 316272-23

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please see attached my submission to the response by the NTA to my observation on the application ABP - 316272-23.

Best wishes,

Ivana Bacik TD.



IVANA BACIK TD
Dublin Bay South

Labour

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Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre Bus Corridor Scheme – ABP - 316272-23

Submission on Response by NTA to Observation dated 15/08/23 – Ivana Bacik TD, Cllr Fiona Connelly, and Cllr Dermot Lacey

26th March 2024

Dáil Éireann, Leinster House, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 – 6183136. Email: ivana.bacik@oireachtas.ie

As a public representative for the Dublin Bay South constituency and a local resident in Dublin Bay South, and having appraised the documentation supplied by Bus Connects, I wish to provide the following submission on the NTA response to my observation dated 25/08/23 on the Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme.

First, I would like to thank the NTA for their response to my initial observation and for providing clarity on the issues raised. However, I would like to raise a number of further concerns which have been expressed to me by constituents, along with reiterating my overall support for the scheme. I would ask that these views and concerns be taken into account.

I thank all the many constituents, residents, and groups in and adjacent to my constituency who have engaged with me on this scheme.

Support for the Proposed Scheme

First, I wish to express my support for the scheme, which represents a key step towards improving public transport and cycling infrastructure along this busy route. As a regular cyclist myself, and noting the support of the Dublin Cycling Campaign for the scheme, I am strongly supportive of plans for improved bus services, the increased provision of safe cycle lanes and active travel infrastructure. It is of great benefit generally to see plans for the development of a cleaner, quieter, more sustainable environment for everyone living and working in the area covered by this scheme.

Indeed, as we move to a more sustainable city, it is essential that greater provision is made to facilitate active travel and improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. It is also essential that increased levels of public transport options are provided, and in particular that buses are given enhanced space on our roads.

Increased frequency of buses, and reduced journey times on public transport, will encourage and enable more people to take public transport, which in turn will lead to reduced levels of congestion in our urban villages. Reducing traffic congestion will result in substantial benefits for local communities in reducing carbon emissions, improving air quality and enhancing pedestrian and cyclist safety.

I am also strongly supportive of the move towards metro and light rail transit for Dublin, and will keep pressing, along with local residents and constituents, for the introduction of a fair, forward-looking and sustainable transport solution for our area and the entire city – in particular, the urgent development of the long-awaited Metro Link.

We need to ensure the provision of convenient, well-planned and affordable public transport with accessible links between buses, light rail and metro, so as to bring about significant and necessary reductions in car usage.

In the short to medium term, it is unarguable that buses remain the most accessible and effective public transport option available for supporting Dublin's growing population.

Therefore, the implementation of improved and enhanced bus corridors and bus lanes will enable this mode of public transport to serve local communities in a more efficient, accessible and timely manner.

Ranelagh

I wish to notify Busconnects about the real frustration expressed to me by many constituents at the misleading title for the scheme. Many of those residents in areas like Ranelagh who are directly impacted by the scheme were unaware of its impact until recently, due to the title of the scheme which refers to other specific areas. This is a real problem with the names for all the different Busconnects schemes that in fact impact upon many areas and communities in addition to those named in the titles.

While I fully support the expansion of public transport and bicycle infrastructure and indeed made this very clear in my own submission last August to the public consultation on Busconnects for the Templeogue/Rathfarnham route, I wish to notify Busconnects about the concerns expressed to me from many residents in local communities and from local residents.

A number of constituents have raised concerns with me regarding the plan to implement a right-hand turn ban onto the Ranelagh/ Sandford Road at Merton Drive, Ashfield Road and Charleston Road and left-hand turn ban at Sallymount Avenue and Chelmsford Road. Constituents are concerned that this may restrict local access to neighbouring amenities. These residents have signed a petition objecting to the turn restrictions.

I have committed to bringing views of constituents to your attention in the consultation processes and would ask that these be taken into account, and I would ask that the NTA engage with these residents regarding these concerns.

Rathmines

Rathmines is a vibrant and dynamic urban village and residential community with many amenities and extensive pedestrian footfall. Recent changes to road layout through expansion of pavement areas and new seating facilities outside the Swan Centre have certainly improved the infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists.

However, Rathmines remains far too unsafe for pedestrians, especially children and those with disabilities or impaired mobility, due to the historic prioritisation of cars and the continued dominance of the car throughout much of Rathmines town centre. In particular, the narrow junction at Castlewood Avenue and Rathmines Road remains too dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists, and this must be addressed adequately in the scheme. In addition, the current layout along Rathmines Road, despite the existing cycle lane, remains dangerous for cyclists due to high levels of traffic and the ongoing prevalence of illegal parking in bus and cycle lanes. The easy passage of buses along the route can also be impeded due to considerable amounts of car traffic.

On these grounds, I welcome the implementation of a bus corridor on Rathmines Road for the benefit of all. In particular, the implementation of segregated cycle lanes along the route will lead

to a significant improvement to cyclist safety, and should encourage more people to use bicycles on a regular basis.

Any changes to routes along Rathmines must also ensure continued safe access for those with impaired mobility to all the amenities and public buildings along this busy route, like medical services, shops and restaurants, cinemas and leisure amenities, Swan Leisure, the Swan Centre, Rathmines church and other venues. I am particularly grateful to those constituents who have raised their concerns about this with me.

Terenure

Like Rathmines, Terenure is a dynamic and vibrant community with an excellent mix of residential homes, commercial enterprises and leisure facilities located around the village centre. Plans to enhance pedestrian safety in the village, particularly at the main crossroads, are very welcome as this crossing remains highly unsafe. This is a crossing that is extensively used by parents and children going to and from the many local schools and pre-school facilities, and as with Rathmines, cars continue to be given undue priority over pedestrians and cyclists in the road layout.

Again I am grateful to the many constituents who have contacted me to seek the installation of appropriate pedestrian crossings and lights in this area, and on whose behalf I have made representations seeking the necessary improvements.

Some constituents in the Fortfield Road, Terenure Road West and adjoining roads have expressed concerns to me about the impact upon their communities of new turning restrictions, and have proposed that the provision of 'local access' arrangements would be very helpful to address this issue. I would submit that in all Bus Connects schemes, urban village community concerns on this issue in particular should be taken into account. Constituents have also raised their concerns with me more generally regarding the impact of the Bus Connects proposals on residents of Greenlea Road, and the Terenure Road West area.

While improvements in public transport are widely welcomed by local residents, they are concerned that Terenure Road West is already a dangerous and busy road, particularly for cyclists during rush hour; and they wish to be reassured that the Bus Connects proposals will lead to reductions in traffic volumes, and to increased levels of service for busy bus routes.

Impact of Construction on Local Communities

As stated above, I strongly support proposals to increase bus connectivity, support active travel and reduce congestion in the area covered by this scheme. I would ask that during construction every effort is made to ensure that there is minimal disruption to local communities. Where possible, construction should take place in daytime hours so as to keep noise pollution to a minimum at night.

When construction begins, I would ask that there is sufficient communication with residents and businesses regarding the times and dates of construction; this will allow residents to make the necessary arrangements and prevent any loss of business.

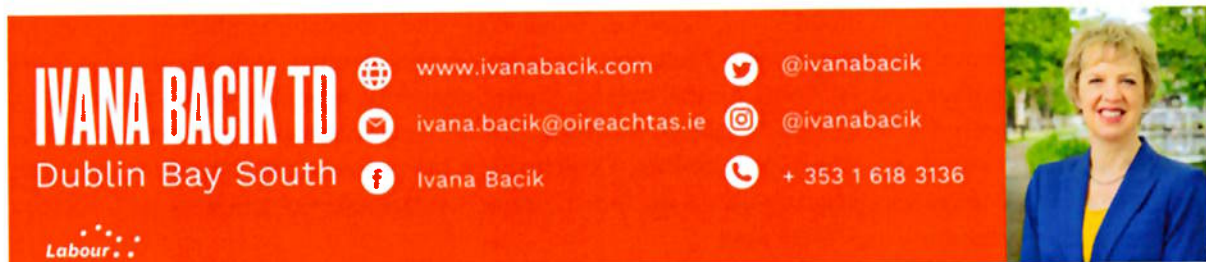
I would submit that once plans are finalised, Bus Connects should consult with Dublin City Council and inform local public representatives and residents' groups so as to ensure a coordinated approach to roadworks along the routes. Ideally, if there is any other maintenance work to be done along these routes, it should be done in conjunction with Bus Connects construction, so as to minimise possible disruption for residents and businesses.

In addition, it is vital that individual local residents and households who will be directly affected by construction works in implementing this scheme and other Bus Connects schemes should receive timely and regular communication about the works due to be carried out, the relevant timeframes and impact upon their homes, e.g. with temporary loss of utilities during construction; it is very important that those directly affected should receive such information on a timely basis.

Protection of Biodiversity

I would request that, when finalising the routes, consideration should be given to the negative environmental impacts of construction and that plans should be developed to have as little long-term impact on biodiversity as possible. In particular, it is vital that, as far as possible, existing tree coverage should be preserved along the route.

In this context, while Rathfarnham is outside my own constituency, the Rathfarnham Wood Residents' Association have expressed their concern to me about the potential effect of aspects of the scheme upon biodiversity in the Woodland area of Rathfarnham Castle Park. They seek reassurance that the impact of construction work upon animals, birds, habitats and wildlife in this wonderful amenity will be minimised; their concerns have also been addressed by their local representative, my colleague Labour Councillor Pamela Kearns, in her own submission.




IVANA BACIK TD
Dublin Bay South

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Kevin McGettigan

From: Eimear Reilly
Sent: Thursday 4 April 2024 13:09
To: Kevin McGettigan
Subject: FW: Templeogue/Rathfarnam to City Centre Busconnects ABP - 316272-23
Attachments: Bacik.TempleogueBusConnects.Submission2.March2024.docx

From: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 10:12 AM
To: Eimear Reilly <e.reilly@pleanala.ie>
Subject: FW: Templeogue/Rathfarnam to City Centre Busconnects ABP - 316272-23

From: Ivana Bacik <Ivana.Bacik@oireachtas.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:53 AM
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: Templeogue/Rathfarnam to City Centre Busconnects ABP - 316272-23

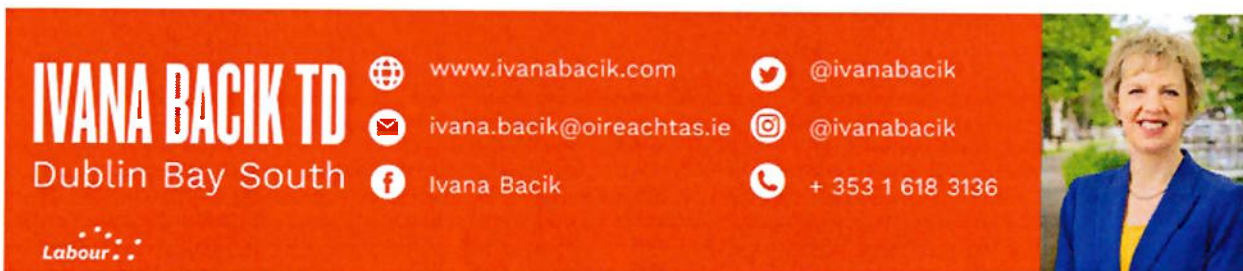
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Best wishes,

Ivana Bacik TD.



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Dublin Bay South
Labour

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Ivana Bacik

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Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre Bus Corridor Scheme – No. 316272

Submission on Response by NTA to Observation dated 15/08/23 – Ivana Bacik TD

26th March 2024

Dáil Éireann, Leinster House, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 – 6183136. Email: ivana.bacik@oireachtas.ie

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