

**An Bord Pleanála (Strategic Infrastructure Division),  
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**ABP PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION REF: ABP- 309584-21**

**12<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**RE: Application under Section 51 of the Roads Act 1993, as amended, for approval of the  
SWORDS TO CITY CENTRE CORE BUS CORRIDOR SCHEME**

**Dear Sir/Madam,**

The National Transport Authority (NTA) are submitting the enclosed Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement for the Swords to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme to An Bord Pleanála and are hereby applying for approval under section 51 of the Roads Act, 1993, as amended, for the purposes of construction and operation of the Swords to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme for the purposes of facilitating public transport.

The Swords to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme consists of construction of bus, cycle and pedestrian infrastructure and has an overall length of approximately 12 km. The Scheme will commence south of Swords at Pinnock Hill Junction and travel in a southerly direction along the R132 Swords Road past Airside Retail Park, Dublin Airport and Santry Park. The route will continue on the R132 past Santry Demesne, where the Swords Road joins the R104 at Coolock Lane. The route will continue on the R132 in a southerly direction through Santry village. It will continue along the Swords Road past Whitehall to Griffith Avenue. The route will follow Drumcondra Road Upper past the DCU St Patrick's Campus to the river Tolka. It will continue through Drumcondra, on Drumcondra Road Lower to Binns Bridge on the Royal Canal. From there it will continue on Dorset Street Lower as far as Eccles Street, from where it will continue on Dorset Street Upper to North Frederick Street and Parnell Square, all in the County of Dublin and within the Fingal County Council (FCC) and Dublin City Council (DCC) administrative areas.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been prepared and compiled in accordance with the provisions of the Roads Act, 1993, as amended and in accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 in respect of the proposed road development. A Natura Impact Statement has also been prepared in respect of the proposed road development.

I enclose:

- The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) (including all Appendices and Figures) dated May 2023 (2 x hard copies and 2 x electronic copies on enclosed USB Flash Drives) comprising;
  - Volume 1 – Non Technical Summary
  - Volume 2 – Main Chapters
  - Volume 3 – Figures
  - Volume 4 – Appendices

- The Natura Impact Statement (NIS) (including all Appendices and Figures) dated May 2023 (2 x hard copies and 2 x electronic copies on enclosed USB Flash Drives );
- The Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (including all Appendices and Figures) dated May 2023 (2 x hard copies and 2 x electronic copies on enclosed USB Flash Drives ). The associated AA Screening Determination made by the NTA is available at <https://busconnects.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Swords-scheme-determination-letter-signed-English.pdf>
- An Irish language version of the Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (2 x hard copies and 2 x electronic copies on enclosed USB Flash Drives )
- Confirmation Notice issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 confirming that the required information has been entered onto the EIA Portal, Portal ID Number 2023068 (2 x hard copies and 2 x electronic copies on enclosed USB Flash Drives).

Supplementary Information:

- Map of the location of the proposed road development (Location Maps) to a scale of not less than 1:1,000 in relation to built-up areas and 1:2,500 in relation to all other areas (2 x hard copies and 2 x electronic copies on enclosed USB Flash Drives),
- Preliminary Design Report (including Appendices) dated April 2023 (2 x hard copies and 2 x electronic copies on enclosed USB Flash Drives)
- Preferred Route Option Report (including Appendices) dated March 2023 (2 x hard copies and 2 x electronic copies on enclosed USB Flash Drives)
- Public Consultation Summary Report 2018-2022 (including Appendices) (2 x hard copies and 2 x electronic copies on enclosed USB Flash Drives)

All of the above documentation can also be accessed on the National Transport Authority's stand-alone dedicated website for the Swords to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme, at [www.swordsscheme.ie](http://www.swordsscheme.ie).

The National Transport Authority will also send to An Bord Pleanála in due course:

- Newspaper Notices to be published pursuant to section 51(3)(a) of the Roads Act 1993 (as amended) in the Dublin Gazette and the Irish Independent (one local newspapers and one national newspaper) (2 x hard copies and 2 x electronic copies), and
- All notices to be served on prescribed bodies (2 x hard copies and 2 x electronic copies).

The National Transport Authority can confirm that the application fee of €60,000 is being paid by Electronic Funds Transfer to the An Bord Pleanála and notification has been sent to [finance@pleanala.ie](mailto:finance@pleanala.ie) and wishes to advise An Bord Pleanála that a related compulsory purchase order namely 'Swords to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme Compulsory Purchase Order 2023' will be lodged in the next number of days and that the NTA will be seeking a fee waiver in relation to that CPO.

Should you have any queries in relation to the enclosed documentation, please contact:

Oliver Wynne

Project Manager BusConnects

E: [oliver.wynne@nationaltransport.ie](mailto:oliver.wynne@nationaltransport.ie)

T: +353 (0)1 902 9608 M: +353 (85) 870 0025

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aidan Gallagher'.

Aidan Gallagher

Head of Bus Connects Dublin Infrastructure  
National Transport Authority