

# LyonsKelly

The Secretary

An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

*2nd July 2021*

**Re.** BusConnects Belfield/Blackrock to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme

**ABP Reference:** HA29N.313509

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make the following observations regarding the proposed Belfield / Blackrock to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme.

## **Upper Baggot Street**

The proposals will have a severely detrimental affect on the Upper Baggot Street commercial area. Currently Upper Baggot Street serves as the local commercial centre. The street contains numerous small independent businesses including bars, restaurants, pharmacy, hardware shop, wine shop, news agents, clothes shops, supermarkets and numerous small office spaces. It is a thriving town centre and acts as the main street and focus for the local neighbourhood. The proposals as set out will make it extremely difficult for the local catchment area to access Baggot Street with no vehicle access from Pembroke Road, St Marys Road or Mespil Road. Access will be limited to Waterloo Road and Haddington Road and egress to Waterloo Road and Mespil Road. This is the equivalent of cutting access to the main street of any country town and is fundamentally misconceived.

## **Trees**

The loss of so many trees will have a hugely negative impact on the character of this part of the city and on the biodiversity of the area. It appears that a lot of these trees could be retained with relatively minor tweaks to the design. In the section of Merrion Road from Strand Road / Merrion Gates to Lansdowne Road / Northumberland Road (sheets 10 to 17) it is proposed to remove 30 trees classed as Grade A and 35 as Grade B, this is being done to facilitate non-contiguous sections of bus lane and to provide three and four lanes of traffic.

ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN

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## General Comments

The Bus Connects proposal is a road engineer's solution to a problem. It appears from the proposals that the only issues considered were the speedy movement of busses from the suburbs to the city centre. The quality of life of the people who actually live in the centre is not even considered. While other European cities such as Barcelona and Paris are undertaking major plans to green their cities and improve the quality of life of its residents Dublin continues to prioritise the suburbs over the city. The priority should be on the greening of the city, enhancing local neighbourhoods and encouraging people to return to live in the core. These proposals are more akin to city planning found in North America than a modern European City.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Kelly', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

John Kelly MRIAI