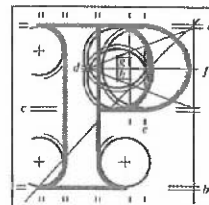


Our Case Number: ABP-314597-22



An
Bord
Pleanála

Conor Dowd
36 Belmont
Dublin Road
Galway City
Co. Galway
H91AKX1

Date: 29 November 2022

Re: BusConnects Galway Cross-City Link Scheme.
University Road to Dublin Road, Galway City.

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. A receipt for the fee lodged is enclosed.

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

The Board has also received an application for confirmation of a compulsory purchase order which relates to this proposed road development. The Board has absolute discretion to hold an oral hearing in respect of any application before it, in accordance with section 218 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Accordingly, the Board will inform you in due course on this matter. The Board shall also make a decision on both applications at the same time.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

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

Yours faithfully,

Niamh Thornton
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737247

HA02A

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaic Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

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

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Conor Dowd
36 Belmont,
Dublin Road
Galway City
H91 AKX1
16/11/2022

To whom it may concern,

While it is clear that improvements to Galway City's public transport system are urgently needed, this plan appears to take a disintegrated approach with regard to balancing the needs of different road users, as well as residents of the city.

It is proposed that several houses are compulsory purchased and demolished to make way for the upgrades, and in some instances this is to allow for more car parking spaces and this at a time when housing shortages and homelessness are wreaking havoc on the very fabric of the city.

There are also very few additional cycle lanes proposed in the plan. The stretch of new cycle lane on the Dublin Road from Galway Hospice to the Huntsman is welcome, but it is unlikely to encourage modal shift to any significant degree, as the road will continue to be treacherous for cyclists travelling past Galway Hospice towards Renmore.

The traffic problem in Galway City would be more efficiently addressed with an east-west orbital bus route from Knocnacarra to Parkmore over the Quincentennial Bridge. This would reduce the need in the shorter term for so many bus lanes going through the city centre and allow for more cycling and pedestrian infrastructure.

I am therefore recommending:

- that no homes are compulsory purchased and demolished.
- an orbital east-west bus route over the Quincentennial bridge is installed to reduce traffic congestion in the short term.
- more walking and cycling infrastructure is included in the plan, particularly in the city centre, and on the Dublin Road and east side of the city generally.
- that other longer term solutions such as a very light rail system are explored.

These recommendations are made with a view to reaching the aims of the Galway Transport Strategy to reduce congestion, and the emissions reduction targets as required by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2021.

Sincerely,

Conor Dowd
Phone number: 