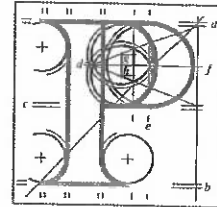


Our Case Number: ABP-314597-22



An
Bord
Pleanála

Mary and Patrick Browne
8 University Road
Galway
Co. Galway
H91 EEH0

Date: 08 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. Please also accept this letter as a receipt for the fee lodged.

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
Glaos Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 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

October 23, 2022

Mary & Patrick Browne,
8 University Road,
Galway,
H91 EEH0.

Objection / Observation :

This is an objection and observation in relation to the *BusConnects Galway: Cross-City Link (University Road to Dublin Road) Scheme*, details found at <https://www.crosscitylinkgalway.ie/>.

Objection to the construction of a bus shelter

After reading, Section 4.6.2.3 of Chapter 4 - "proposed scheme description", for the Bus Connects project in Galway City. We, a select group of residents from University Road, wish to OBJECT to construction of a bus shelter as detailed in Table 4.6 on page 38 of Chapter 4 - "proposed scheme description" (found here <https://www.crosscitylinkgalway.ie/environmental-impact-assessment-report/> under Volume 4.).

This table says that the current west bound bus stop (NUIG main gate - No. 523031) is to be retained and a "bus shelter with seating" is to be added to it. This bus stop is located at the entrance to numbers 8 and 9 university road. **We wish to object to this on the following grounds:**

1. The current bus stop is impeding access to the driveway at Numbers 7, 8 and 9 when large crowds gather and buses stop there. There are often large queues of students, or parents and children clustered at the driveway entrance to numbers 7, 8 & 9. Entering and exiting with a car is often requires stopping to allow pedestrians to move out of the way thus causing stoppages for the traffic on University road. Please see Figures 1 and 2 for an example of crowds and car exiting (best viewed in colour). Construction of a bus shelter would only serve to exacerbate the existing problem, and potentially cause a blind spot for drivers unable to see people.
2. Anti social behaviour is common at this area, in fact the stop bus that was there previous to the real time information one, had to be fully replaced as it was kicked down one night. In addition we have concerns about the erection of a bus shelter as this is only target for intoxicated people at night to kick and climb upon. This is a known problem on the street as evidenced by the many glass replacements on the old pay phone box across the road.
3. Litter and Noise. The existing bus stop is a magnet for litter in its current form due to the frequent congregation of school children before 5pm, students before 9pm and people using it as taxi pick up location in the late hours (as it is an easy landmark). Due to volumes of people waiting, these issues extend well beyond the physical location of the bus stop. Please see Figure 3 for an indication of the crowds common at this area during the day. Moreover the frequent use of this as a landmark on the street causes it to be a common source of noise, either from intoxicated shouting or loud arguments while waiting at this location. At night, also see Figure 4 it is commonly used as a taxi pick up location and loud conversations/car doors banging etc area clearly heard when trying to sleep.
4. Mission creep usage. Originally this bus stop was intended for the use of Bus Eireann buses however it is now used by both Bus Eireann and City Direct local bus services. In addition the Citylink bus en route to Cliften often stops here. Coach hire buses dropping school children to the university for open days often stop here, see Figure 5. This stop is more than a simple bus stop it has now become a default transit hub, see Figure 6, and is bringing with it all the inherent problems to the street and the residents. Expanding on its size and function can only worsen this problem and the problems cited above.

Evidence



Figure 1: Trying to drive in obstructing traffic.



Figure 2: crowds blocking driveway



Figure 3: Typical day time crowd



Figure 4: Typical night time crowd



Figure 5: Other company buses



Figure 6: Too many buses

Proposed solutions and actions

We request that as part of the welcome redevelopment of university road that:

1. The existing bus stop on the residents side of university road (NUIG main gate - No. 523031) is moved to a new location that does not interfere with residents for the reasons cited above.

Alternatively directly opposite the Main university entrance there are some properties owned by NUIG that would be less impacted by crowds and noise since they are not used as a residential properties. Of course issues around litter and anti social behaviour would need to be considered.

2. The residents are given the chance to enjoy life on the street without constant queues of people, buses, taxis. The current bus stop location is not suited for purpose and needs to be moved before considering augmenting its facilities.

Residents of University Road

We the residents agree with the above objection, and **do not wish to see a bus shelter** being erected and **wish to see the relocation of the bus stop** to a more suitable location.

Please see the following page for the names and signatures of the residents who support this letter.

House Number / Address

Name / Signature

- 15. University Road. John J. [Signature]
- 16 University Rd [Signature]
- 13 UNIVERSITY ROAD [Signature]
- 12: University Road [Signature]
- 9: Tom & Maura Egan
- 10: John Kilroy
- 7: [Signature]
- 7: Mary Duff
- 5: Brooke Sheehan University Road
- 6: Esther Faherty, 6, University Road
- 6: Peter Faherty. " " "
- Mark Murray, 4, University Road, Galway.
- 8: Mary Browne. University Rd.
- 8: Patricia Browne University Rd.