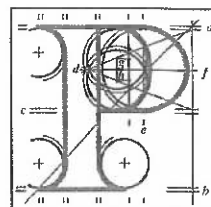


Our Case Number: ABP-314597-22



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

Shane Cosgrove  
Moyola Park  
Newcastle  
Co. Galway

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

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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
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D01 V902	D01 V902

Moyola Park,  
Newcastle,  
Galway.

10<sup>th</sup> November 2022

An Bord Pleanála.

RE: Planning Application REF: HA61.314597– University Road to Dublin Road, Galway City

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am making this observation in relation to the request for planning permission for the proposed cross-city link scheme by Galway City Council (Ref: HA61.314597).

I support the proposed scheme and believe that with some minor alterations it will improve the transport network in Galway city.

Unfortunately, the design has not taken account of the feedback provided to the project team during public consultation. I wish to object to some specific elements of the proposed scheme.

As a general point, the scheme does not include adequate provision of safe segregated cycling infrastructure which would support cycling by vulnerable cyclists. It is understood the proposed bus lanes will be used by both taxis and buses in all locations, with regular traffic sharing the lanes in some stretches. Sharing a lane with buses and taxis undermines a move to active travel. Although the design report refers to the national cycle manual, in relation to design of cycling provision it focuses solely on the “hierarchy of provision” decision process rather than the “quality of service” consideration. Section 1.7.3 of National Cycle Manual guidance includes a number of questions that designers should ask themselves when preparing provision for cycling. Question 3 states “*Is the target Quality of Service achievable without segregation?*” The design report for the project does not demonstrate that this question was adequately considered because it does not outline what the target quality of service for cycling provision was, nor what quality of service is achieved on each section.

Furthermore, it is not apparent that the design has adequately addressed or considered the feedback from the public consultation. The public consultation document states “*The designs presented as part of the non-statutory public consultation are preliminary in nature and will require additional work to bring them to a point where Galway City Council is prepared to submit the overall proposal for planning consent*” and commits that “*The various issues raised in this consultation process will also feed into the designs*”. The public consultation report also states that “*Vulnerable Road User safety will be assessed through:*

- *a Road User Audit,*
- *Road Safety Audit and*
- *Disability Audit of the scheme.”*

The planning application includes a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit at Appendix D. It is not clear whether the other assessments have been conducted and incorporated in the design, but they are not presented for the public to review as part of the application.

#### **1) University Road and University Access**

Section 3.2.2.1 of the design report makes clear that University Road will remain open to vehicular traffic *“Localised vehicular access is to be retained along University Road as far as the entrance to NUIG at Fisheries Field.”* The assessment of impact on cycling infrastructure for University Road as set out in Section 3.2.1.4 of the design report is the same as for those road sections where vehicular traffic is restricted to buses *“Virtual bus priority on University Road will enable safer and more efficient cycling in the inbound and outbound travel lanes, due to traffic reduction effect”*. This appears to be an error in analysis because the conclusion seems to be at odds with the fact that local vehicular traffic on this section can continue as far as Fisheries Field and towards Nun’s Island via Goal Road. The report has not set out analysis which demonstrates the degree to which traffic on this section will be reduced which supports a decision not to include a segregated cycle lane. Indeed, it may be that vehicular traffic will increase in this section at certain times due to this being the only way for people to drive to Galway Cathedral.

In this stretch of the scheme the design has prioritised parking and wider footpaths over safe segregated cycling. Given the proximity of the hospital and university it would be very beneficial if a safe cycling connection to the city centre was included.

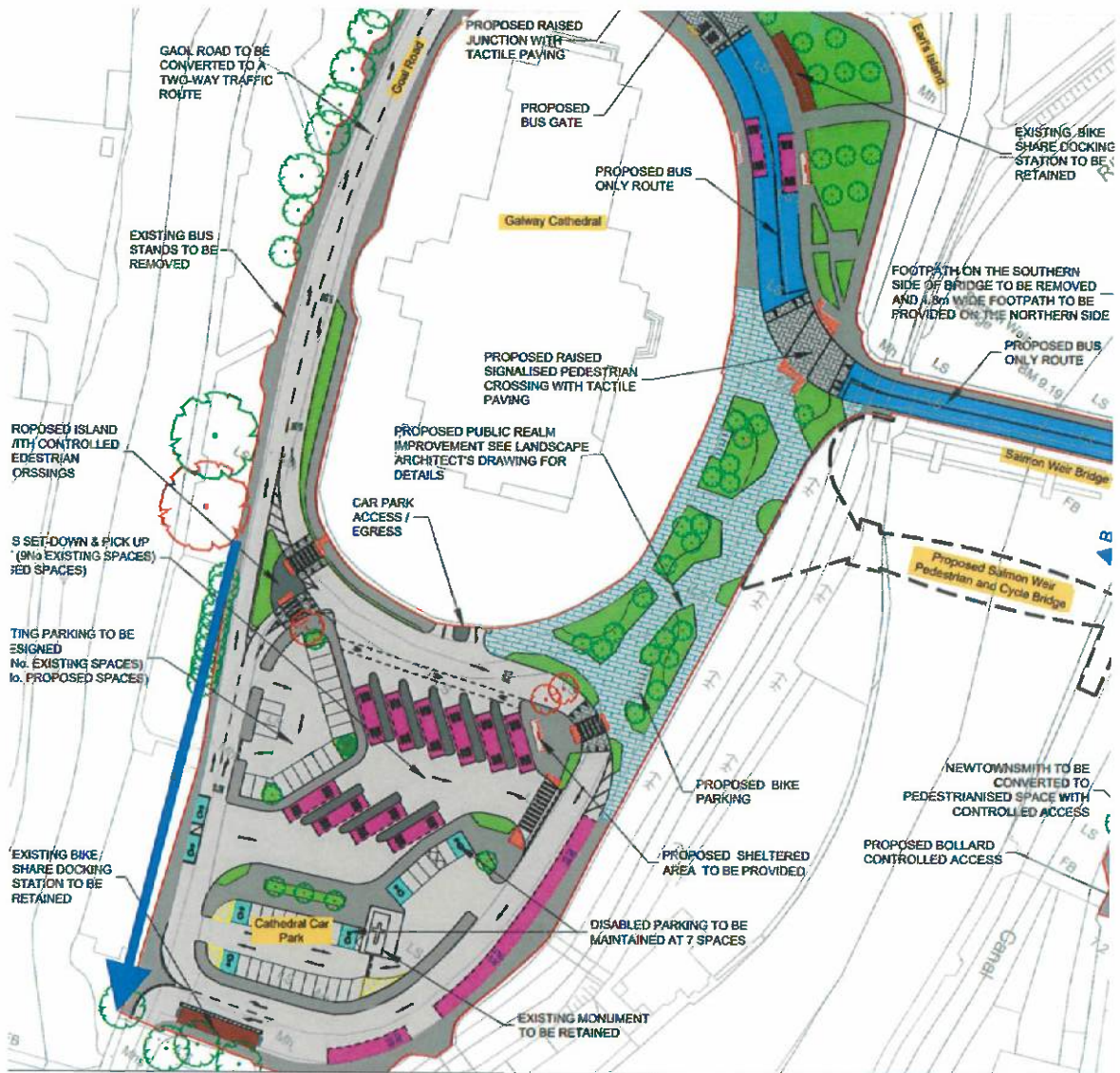
Section 4.6.5 of the public consultation report summarises the concerns and responses in relation to cyclist safety which included location-specific concerns at the University. The response from Galway City Council was that these concerns would be addressed in the planning documents including the road safety audit. I have reviewed the road safety audit but it does not seem to include any specific assessment of the concerns raised regarding University Road and access into the University for cyclists.

Those cycling from the city centre wishing to turn right into the University are not provided with specific means to do so. This stretch of road will be shared with public traffic, buses and taxis.

Request: that provision of segregated cycling provision along University Road with a safe connection to the University be included.

## **2) Goal Road**

Drawing No. BCG-GA-00-02 General Arrangement sheet 2 of 13 shows the proposed revised traffic layout at the Galway Cathedral. This proposal includes a revision to the traffic flow on Goal Road. Cyclists wishing to cycle in the direction of Nun’s Island do not have a direct route.



Request: that a contra-flow or segregated cycle path to connect Goal Road to Nun's Island as indicated by the blue arrow be included.

Yours Sincerely,

Shane Cosgrove