

29th August 2022.

**AN BORD PLEANALA**

LDG- 056789-22

ABP- \_\_\_\_\_

30 AUG 2022

Fee: € 50 Type: Card

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ By: Harv

Ref No. ABP 313892 Blanchardstown to City Core Bus Corridor.

I enclose our fee €50.00. Please acknowledge receipt.

Dear Sir/Madam,

My submission to An Bord Pleanala (ABP) is to highlight my objections to many aspects of the planning application submitted by the National Transport Authority (NTA) for the Core Bus Corridor (CBC) along the Navan Road. Whilst the introduction of the Core Bus Corridor Projects CBC would seem to be a positive idea, I have many concerns with the possible negative impacts of this project on our community and in particular on our street- Blackhorse Avenue. This CBC favours those who do not live in the area but use it as a route to access the city. It will have a huge and long-lasting impact on the existing residents' health and wellbeing, making it difficult to drive within the area to shops, health centres, to work and the new proposed parking restrictions will specifically hinder visitors to our area.

The issues are

- The lack of any meaningful consultation and information provided to local residents. Many were unaware of any details, as the entire 'public' consultation process took place on line. This omits and is grossly unfair to people who do not have access to or who choose not to use the internet. Holding the statutory stage to the Board during summer months when many of the residents and our elected public reps are on holiday is also very non-accommodating and further prohibits good public consultation.
- The plans are difficult to follow and poorly explained. I cannot decide if our road –Blackhorse Ave is to become a one-way system eventually. This would greatly affect us, as it would direct us into awful traffic congestion adding great time and distance to daily journeys.
- The fact that there is a hefty financial cost of 50.00 Euro to making an observation or submission prohibits participation in the process and seems to be grossly unfair to those who cannot afford the fee or/and to those who are unable to put their opinions in writing. I am particularly interested to know where the monies collected go?
- In the long-term due consideration has not been afforded to local resident's health and wellbeing who will be disproportionately affected by these road changes. The consequences of the CBC and of the proposed road traffic restrictions will create new issues on many of the other narrow streets in our area in particular Blackhorse Avenue, Nephin Road, Baggott Road and Skreen Road. This along with the driving restrictions already in place in the Phoenix Park and the creation of the one-way traffic systems will cause our roads to become main arteries into the city for those living outside the area.

Limited parking in the Phoenix Park has already effected our neighbourhood, as people tend to use our roads to abandon their cars on and commute onwards. Residents cannot be expected to rid themselves of their cars. Public transport does not facilitate those of us who are required to use our personal cars to carry out our work. Where will Nurses and carers who make several daily home visits to patients park when visiting those who cannot provide a space? They often are required to transport heavy equipment. This will have a real impact on the already stretched staff and services.

- In the short-term residents will be greatly affected by the noise and upheaval from the necessary roadworks, which tend to go on for far longer than estimated project time. The

impact of recent road works and upgrades on Blackhorse Ave caused huge upset to residents for over 18 months as the project ran way overtime. Has consideration been given to other pipe laying and utility lines due be upgraded in the area at the same time to prevent ongoing upheaval in the future?

- There are already a disproportionately large number of high-rise, high-density apartments under construction in the area particularly on the Rathoath Road, and in Cabra West. These new builds, in addition to the huge developments in Rathbone village will cause further traffic chaos, which will negatively affect us existing residents. Parking spaces have been granted to these apartments, which means many more cars on the local roads. Where was the planning here?
- The increased risk to flooding in the area owing to green spaces being removed for this new CBC and increased building is a real issue.
- Safety of our residents owing to the further congestion—disabled, older persons, pedestrians and cyclists will be in further danger as they navigate narrow and busier roads owing to the redirection of traffic.
- The health and wellbeing of our citizens will suffer with the proposed removal of hundreds of trees by the National Transport Authority (NTA) to facilitate this project. This is very evident from the drawings. Information on replacement trees is very limited in the proposals. Already poor planting where street trees failed to thrive in restricted sites have affected the area. Replanting of the removed street trees needs to be carried out in a constructive way in challenging locations—one that will still accommodate public transport, cycle and car lanes as has been done successfully in other countries such as the UK, Denmark and Germany.

There is no suggestion in the plans that affordable Park and Ride facilities are to be provided at suitable locations, which may actually encourage people to leave their cars outside the city and use the new CBC. This is a big failure with the project if it is to achieve its desired outcome. No attempt is evident from the documentation provided to make our community one that has the well-being of people and their economic lives at its core.

- Bus accessibility for our residents—already the area is impacted by the increased population and lack of services. These proposed CBC bus routes will undoubtedly be beneficial to those living beyond the Navan Road and will speed up their journeys. However, by the time buses will make it to our area at peak times, they often are too overcrowded to take more passengers and we are left stranded in the middle of all this 'improvement' How will this issue be rectified to facilitate those of us who are to be so affected by all this change? It appears that the health and well-being of our neighbourhood citizens is being sacrificed to facilitate traffic and citizens from outside the area to access the city centre in a more timely fashion.

By way of offering alternative solutions perhaps, it would be best to increase the frequency of the bus routes particularly at peak times to accommodate the growing population and to facilitate the local residents.

To widen the footpaths where possible and to provide cycle/scooter lanes.

To monitor and police cyclists and scooter users who do not use the lanes provided and to encourage them to abide by the traffic laws.

To provide park and ride facilities that are affordable for citizens.

Yours sincerely

Miriam O'Dwyer—339 Blackhorse Ave, Dublin 7.

