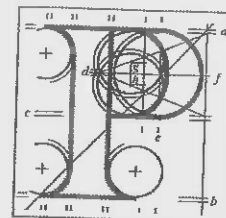


**Our Case Number:** ABP-316272-23

**Planning Authority Reference Number:**



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Nigel Clerkin  
168 Rathgar Road  
Dublin 6  
D06 RW72

**Date:** 16 August 2023

**Re:** Bus Connects Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme  
Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre

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 accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

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 at [laps@pleanala.ie](mailto:laps@pleanala.ie)

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

Yours faithfully,

Eimear Reilly  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737184

HA02A

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaio Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
Ríomhphost	Email	<a href="mailto:bord@pleanala.ie">bord@pleanala.ie</a>

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

**Case Number: 316272**  
**Bus Connects Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre**

I wish to object to this application and have the following observations, as described in further detail below:

- Excessive approach
  - Excessive restrictions to local access on Rathgar Road
  - Removal of bus stops
  - Removal of off-peak parking
  - Frankfort Avenue will become a "rat run"
  - Excessive restrictions on Rathmines through-traffic
  - Rathmines Road Upper is unsuitable as an arterial outbound route
- 
- **Excessive approach:** the aims of Bus Connects could be achieved with much less disruption to the lives and rights of local residents through the use of alternative tried and trusted measures. These include greater use of peak hour bus gates instead of new 24/7 bus lanes, the introduction of contactless payment systems instead of removal of bus stops, congestion charges to discourage general vehicle journeys into the city centre, and so on. Why are local residents being asked to make so many sacrifices before these measures are tried first?
- 
- **Excessive restrictions to local access on Rathgar Road:** It is proposed to convert Rathgar Road to one-way inbound for general traffic, replacing the existing outbound general traffic lane with a full-time outbound bus lane. This will force residents of this street to make lengthy detours to get to our homes when travelling outbound from the city centre. This is excessive, and I would request that the outbound bus lane only operate during peak weekday evening rush hours, with all general traffic permitted to continue to travel outbound along Rathgar Road at other times. Failing this, I request that residents of Rathgar Road be permitted to use the outbound bus lane along Rathgar Road (ie local access to our homes should continue to be permitted), preferably at all times but at a minimum during non-peak hours.
- 
- **Removal of bus stops:** the purported aim of Bus Connects is to improve the bus service in Dublin. This proposal reduces the number of bus stops along the route, making it less rather than more convenient. On the stretch of Rathgar Road where I live (between Rathmines and Frankfort Avenue), it is proposed to reduce the number of bus stops from two to one in each direction. There are currently two outward bound bus stops (Rathmines Garda Station and Rathmines Place, and two inbound (Grosvenor Road and Rathmines Park). It is proposed to eliminate two of these four stops. I request that these bus stops be retained.

- **Removal of off-peak parking:** currently street parking is permitted along both sides of Rathgar Road in the evenings and at weekends. This facilitates visiting by friends and family. It is proposed to eliminate this existing right. I request that this be retained.
- **Frankfort Avenue will become a "rat run":** It is proposed to retain the inbound right-turn onto Frankfort Avenue. Given the proposal to prohibit inbound general traffic from travelling through Rathmines, Frankfort Avenue will become a "rat run" with commuters turning right to avoid inbound traffic jams on Charleston Road. I request that this right-turn be prohibited.
- **Excessive restrictions on Rathmines through traffic:** It is proposed to prohibit all general traffic through Rathmines to the city centre, both inbound and outbound. This is excessive, and a significant reduction in amenity for local residents. I request that the proposed bus gate in Rathmines village only apply during weekday rush hours, with general traffic permitted outside these times.
- **Rathmines Road Upper is unsuitable as an arterial outbound route:** As outbound traffic will no longer be permitted through Rathmines village, it will instead be routed through Ranelagh and from there to Charleston Road and Castlewood Avenue. As outbound traffic will also be prohibited from Rathgar Road, it is proposed to redirect it to Rathmines Road Upper instead. This street is unsuitable to be a main arterial outbound route from the city, as it is very narrow between Cowper Road and Highfield Road. This will lead to lengthy delays and traffic jams during peak hours as inbound traffic jostles for opportunities to progress against a greatly increased volume of outbound traffic. I request a more workable alternative would be to redirect outbound traffic along Palmerston Road instead.

Nigel Clerkin  
168 Rathgar Road  
Dublin D06 RW72

