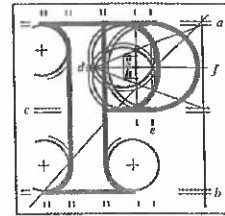


Our Case Number: ABP-316272-23

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Pat and Theresa McCaffrey
46 Rathgar Road
Rathgar
Dublin 6

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.

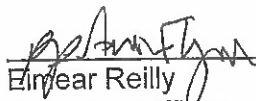
Please note that the proposed road development shall not be carried out unless the Board has approved it or approved it with modifications.

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

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

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

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

Rathgar

Dublin 6

LETTERBOX

An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902
BY HAND

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	065788-23
ABP-	
15 AUG 2023	
Fee: €	50
Type:	CHQ
Time:	
By:	Post

14 August 2023

**Re: Bus Connects Bus Corridor - Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre
Strategic Infrastructure Development Application Number
316272**

Dear Sirs

We have been residents of Rathgar Road for over forty five years and wish to register our grave concerns in relation to the proposed bus corridor planned for Rathgar Road and surrounding areas and the hugely adverse, unacceptable impact which this development would have on local residents, our community and our heritage if allowed to proceed.

This plan is not fit for purpose.

Creation of a Bus "Superhighway"

The residents of Rathgar Road have always facilitated very significant volumes of public transport on our roads and through our villages – however, the proposal to turn Rathgar Road into bus "superhighway" is absolutely unacceptable and causing the residents very significant concerns, distress and anxiety. We will become prisoners in our own homes to facilitate this bus "superhighway" which is completely unnecessary.

Data Out of Date – New, Up-to-date Data Required

First and foremost, the proposal for this bus corridor is based on plans that are clearly out of date – the seismic impact of Covid on commuter patterns has not been factored into this plan.

There is a bus stop at our front gate, so we have a front row seat to the

current / live data! We would suggest that you sit for a day on our front steps and see for yourself the nonsense of this proposal. We consistently watch as **dozens of near empty buses** whizz past our house creating untold environmental damage and reducing the air quality for residents.

Please, please request that independent, up-to-date data be provided in terms of commuter numbers.

The fundamental shift in commuter patterns triggered by Covid / working from home is clear for all to see – there is really no such thing as rush hour on Rathgar Road now; buses move at high speed – whizzing up and down the road; queues of commuters waiting for buses is a thing of the past – this is not a real issue today. It is highly unusual to see a build up of traffic on Rathgar Road – inward bound – at traditional rush hour time, or any other time for that matter. There are mornings where we stand on Rathgar Road and find it deserted!

It beggars' belief that a proposal with such serious potential ramifications for residents would be allowed to proceed based on out-of-date information and data – this is negligent.

We are absolutely in favour of "greener" transport solutions – this proposal is not it. Taxpayers' money should not be wasted on this nonsense – the residents of Dublin deserve a proper solution in the form of an underground transport system.

Decimation of Villages

The proposal to turn Rathgar Road into a one-way in-bound traffic system is completely bananas. Our local villages and businesses will be decimated by this, and the bus "superhighway" created as a result of this proposal - we will lose our communities. This is an unacceptable price to pay for a proposal that will only reduce bus journeys over the course of the route by a maximum of **3 minutes** – this is an affront to all residents impacted by this proposal. This reduction in journey times will in part be delivered by a reduction in the number of bus stops – how is this an improvement in transport?

It will be impossible for elderly residents, such as us, to remain mobile and connected with our community – please consider the impact on the elderly and our quality of life.

The creation of the various one-way systems proposed will increase journey lengths substantially, creating traffic "rat runs" on residential side roads that are not built to cater for such traffic and creating additional pollution for all. We are at a loss to understand the mindset of the "geniuses" behind this "masterplan" – the lack of common sense is astounding. They clearly have not considered the impact of the re-routing of traffic – this will undoubtedly cause congestion the like of which has never been seen in the area before.

How are we going to get back to our homes? We are extremely concerned and stressed about how we will manage simple daily tasks such as shopping for groceries or attending a doctor's appointment.

Removal of Trees

The proposals for road widening associated with this project which will lead to the culling of mature trees will also impact our community – the loss of mature trees and the associated adverse environmental impact – all to facilitate an unnecessary bus "superhighway". Surely, we all know better than this!

Extinguishment of Private Right of Way / Public Right of Way

The creation of a one-way system on Rathgar Road would extinguish the rights of way / access which we have had to pass and re-pass Rathgar Road in order to gain access to our home – these are rights which we have exercised for over 45 years.

This proposal will lead to the destruction of our villages, our communities and our quality of life.

PLEASE HEED OUR VALID CONCERNS.

Yours sincerely


Pat & Theresa McCaffrey