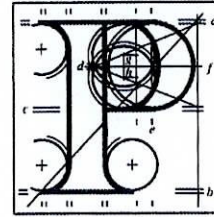


Our Case Number: ABP-316272-23



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

Mari O'Leary  
35 Rathgar Road  
Dublin 6  
D06 X6P8

**Date:** 07 July 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.

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

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Mari O'Leary  
35 Rathgar Road,  
Dublin 6  
D06X6P8

[REDACTED] m [REDACTED]

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find my submission against the National Transport Authority (NTA) BusConnects Plans for Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre.

The NTA has applied to An Board Pleanála for approval for a proposed road development consisting of the BusConnects Corridor for Templeogue, Rathfarham to the city centre. This bus corridor travels through Rathgar and will have significant implications for Terenure Village, Rathgar Village and Rathmines town centre along with all the surrounding roads.

I have been a resident on Rathgar Road since 1999 and having commuted into the city centre up until Covid in 2020, I am very familiar with the traffic flows in the area. The plans that the NTA are proposing for the bus corridor are extreme and will cause severe disruption and damage to communities along the. Very importantly the NTA's plans are outdated as a result of the changing in working patterns since 2020 with the noticeable reduction of commuting traffic and increase in cyclists since the introduction of Hire Bike stations.

The following outlines a number of other points I would like you to consider.

1. A Transport Strategy review and full audit of the effects of Covid on future transport requirements is required before an application to An Bord Pleanála can be considered.
2. This plan does not enhance the communities in Terenure, Rathgar or Rathmines or public realm. Instead, the loss of trees and road widening and the CPO of curtilage/historic features of listed buildings on Terenure Road East will have a detrimental impact.
3. Access issues will be caused by one-way restrictions: school runs, our elderly, weekly shopping runs with St Mary's School and Mary Immaculate Refuge of Sinners Church in Rathmines will be isolated because of the proposed Busgate. This Bus gate and access issues to Rathmines and the city centre impeded.
4. All inbound traffic on a one-way system northbound down Rathgar Road is not necessary and a dramatic proposal. Coupled with the traffic being diverted away from Rathmines via the narrow Castlewood Avenue to Ranelagh. This road is not suitable and does not have the capacity for this. Outbound traffic via Harold's Cross is fine however Ranelagh is not suitable for this proposed traffic flow.
5. Unascertained traffic implications for all side streets and roads. The traffic analysis carried out, and the associated information provided, particularly at the local level, is insufficient to accurately quantify the traffic impacts of the proposed development and the magnitude of those impacts.

6. The removal of the current Rathfarnham Quality Bus Corridor from Harold's Cross Road will have significantly negative impacts for bus transport, in the light of the scale of re-routing of buses proposed, the critical importance of bus transport to the city, and its future role in facilitating modal shift from public car usage, in line with national policy.

7. Reduced pedestrian space that is in conflict with DEMURS for urban streets. The failure to demonstrate that massively reducing the existing footpaths on both sides of Rathgar Road/Terenure Road East will not be unsafe and that these proposed 2 metres wide footpaths will have the capacity to accommodate the increased numbers of pedestrians due to the promotion of a modal shift to walking in national transport planning policy.

8. The merging cycle paths, and bus lanes together has resulted in the ultimately unsafe cycle paths and the doubling up of two major transport systems running along the same routes-bus and cycle paths. Also flawed proposed bus stop relocations in Rathgar Village, Terenure Road East and Rathgar Road: safety, accessibility, interconnectivity issues will arise. The proposed 24 hr/7 day bus lanes are not required and will impact on parking and accessibility.

9. As far as I am aware no Environmental Impact Assessment was performed for the original route selection process, the flawed route selection process was based on outdated data (2011 and 2016 census data). A new assessment needs to be performed.

10. There is no cogent evidence that BusConnects will save bus commuters time that could not be easily saved by the introduction of non-invasive infrastructural changes like bus signal lights, true cashless payment on buses, park and ride facilities and congestion charges. Why are the NTA delaying the introduction of cashless payments on buses? Instead, the proposed permanent infrastructure changes have a disproportionate cost in terms of trees, conservation and community disruption.

I request that you please consider these points contained in my submission.

Your sincerely

Mari O'Leary

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