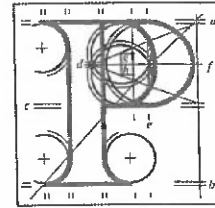


Our Case Number: ABP-317121-23



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Brittney Bennett
14 Richmond Road
Drumcondra
D03 DH36

Date: 21 September 2023

Re: BusConnects Swords to City Centre Bus Corridor Scheme
Swords to Dublin City Centre

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission (including your fee of €50) in relation to the above-mentioned proposed road development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

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

If you have any queries in the mean time, 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,



Sarah Caulfield
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737287

HA02

Tel
Glao Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel
LoCall
Fax
Website
Email

(01) 858 8100
1800 275 175
(01) 872 2684
www.pleanala.ie
bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

BRITTNEY BENNETT

14 Richmond Road, Drumcondra, D03DH36

12th September, 2023

Dublin City Council and the NTA
Case Reference: HA06D.317121
Bus Connects Swords to City Centre

Dear Dublin City Council and the NTA,

As a proud resident of Richmond Road who is raising my young family there, I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of most importance concerning our beloved street, especially in light of the upcoming BusConnects Swords to City Centre Scheme. I am a firm supporter of the BusConnects Scheme overall and believe it holds great promise for our city. However, I wish to express my observations and earnestly request DCC in conjunction with the NTA implementation of filtered permeability on Richmond Road to address ongoing traffic issues, or at the bare minimum engage with residents on drafting a liveable street design.

Richmond Road, originally designed as a narrow rural road, has been grappling with a host of traffic issues for decades that not only affect the quality of life for its residents but also pose significant safety risks for vulnerable road users. These issues include, but are not limited to:

1. **Cars Mounting the Footpath:** Due to the road's narrow width, cars continue to mount the footpath when traffic is backed up, despite a parking scheme being implemented in June 2023 to try and address this very problem. [Please refer to this video as reference.](#) Protests were held by residents and although there has been an improvement, the reality is significant safety risks remain and it is completely unacceptable that any mounting of the path should occur at all.
2. **HGVs and Unlawful Shortcuts:** Large trucks, including auto transporters (carrying multiple vehicles), unlawfully use Richmond Road as a shortcut to Dublin Port, causing congestion, road damage, and posing safety risks.
3. **Speeding:** Speeding is a prevalent issue on Richmond Road, even more so after the introduction of the parking scheme, ironically enough. Vehicles race to catch the

green light at the Drumcondra end, but also weave in and out of parked cars at high speeds.

4. **Noise Pollution:** Richmond Road is a quintessential rat run and traffic is only increasing on it. The constant traffic, including idling cars and aggressive driving, generates noise pollution that disrupts what could be a tranquil urban residential area. The houses on Richmond Road are not set very far back from the road itself, and anytime the light turns green at the Drumcondra end, cars aggressively honk, causing stress and anxiety for those whose bedrooms/living rooms front onto that section of road.
5. **Emissions and Air Quality:** The excessive traffic contributes to poor air quality and increased emissions, harming the environment and public health.

Despite these challenges, Richmond Road, with its charming red brick houses, historic roots, and iconic sports venue Tolka Park, remains a vital part of Drumcondra village. It is a place that residents are proud to call home. With the right measures in place, Richmond Road could fulfill its potential as a thriving, safe, and pleasant space for both residents and visitors.

I kindly request that Dublin City Council prioritise the implementation of filtered permeability on Richmond Road, even starting with a six-month trial, as a fundamental part of the BusConnects Swords to City Centre Scheme. This measure will help alleviate the host of traffic issue that plague the road currently, but also ensure that the road does not become increasingly overrun by private vehicles. It would also preserve the historical and residential charm of the area while making it a more accessible and enjoyable place for everyone. Residents, pedestrians, and cyclists should be placed at the top of the hierarchy when it comes to any further traffic calming measures on Richmond Road, because at the moment, the car noticeably reigns supreme.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter! I wholeheartedly welcome the BusConnects Scheme and look forward to the prospect of making Richmond Road a safer, more vibrant, and community-friendly space while contributing to the broader goals of enhancing Dublin's public transportation system.

Sincerely,

Brittney Bennett