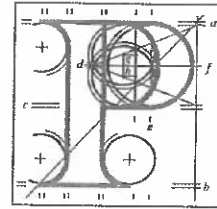


Our Case Number: ABP-317121-23

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

MPM Residents Association
c/o Cillian O'Neill
16 Mountjoy Middle Street

D07 N2R3

Date: 20 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,

Eimear Reilly
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737184

HA02

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
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64 Sráid Maolbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

Submission on BusConnects Swords to City Centre Bus Corridor Scheme
Bord Pleanála Case reference: HA06D.317121

I am a resident of Mountjoy Street Middle, and the Chair of the MPM Residents Association, which encompasses Mountjoy Street Middle, Palmerston Place, Mountjoy Street, Upper Dominick Street and Temple Cottages.

While I and other MPM Residents welcome Bus Connects in general, and the Swords scheme in particular, there will be some significant impacts on our area that we believe can, and should, be dealt with relatively easily with a few additions to the project.

Eccles Street no right turn from Dorset St inbound:

This change is welcome, but will have some knock-on effects in the MPM Area, and Eccles Street itself:

- As Dorset St is a main route for people entering the city in cars to visit the Mater / Mater Private Hospitals, the extinguishing of this right turn will require clear and appropriate signage showing the alternative route (i.e. A route using a left turn off Dorset St then up Temple St) to ensure people know where to go. The signage should indicate the parking for different elements of the Mater Complex
- The management of illegal parking on Eccles St need to be improved, particularly if these new arrangements are put in place. Cars pulling in and out of double-yellow and chevroned areas is a safety risk for pedestrians, cyclists and other motorists.
- The drop-off area at the front of the Mater Private needs to be managed carefully to stop queues blocking traffic and ambulances. There need to be other safe, managed, drop off points along Eccles Street
- If Eccles Street is being accessed from Berkeley Road by more people, which the diversion will cause, there needs to be a proper traffic management system installed at this junction to separate cars, bikes and pedestrians
- Inbound traffic along Dorset St trying to access Berkeley Road and Western Way will now be diverted further down Dorset St to the right turns onto Wellington St and Dominick St. The first of these is very narrow and may not be suitable for a lot of right turns, and the Dominick St junction is very dangerous, with Luas, pedestrian crossings and bicycles using the junction a lot. Improved signalling and traffic calming will be needed. Google Maps also diverts people down Dominick Street Upper and suggests an illegal right turn onto Bolton Street. This should be fixed by Google.

Direct effects on MPM area:

- The diversions on Dorset St will increase the amount of traffic on Mountjoy Street, and the bottom of Western Way (at the Black Church).
- Mountjoy Street will need traffic calming measures to deal with this additional traffic. In line with the Development Plan, these should also include greening and planting. The MPM Area currently sits between three areas with Greening Strategies, and desperately needs one of its own
- There is currently no pedestrian crossing on Western Way across from the Black Church. With increased bus traffic along Western Way and diverted traffic along Mountjoy Street, a safe crossing will be even more needed

- There are currently no public bins in this area, and Mountjoy Street already has a littering problem, which increased bus passengers will increase with the installation of bins
- Additional public amenities are needed around the Black Church with the new bus and car traffic. More benches, greening, and pedestrianised areas will make it a more pleasant place for residents and commuters. The Dublin 7 Alliance's suggestion of pedestrianising one side of the Black Church is also an excellent idea, which I and other MPM Residents support
- As we are getting improved cycle routes, residents in our area will need more safe parking for bicycles, so bike bunkers or similar would be very welcome

Parnell Square / Granby Row:

- This junction is very wide, and difficult to cross for pedestrians. Cars often do not see the red light at the pedestrian crossing and go straight through. The road markings at the top also confuse motorists and there is a lot of lane switching at the last minute, creating other risks.
- The footpaths in this area (and half of the way down Parnell Square are very narrow, and should be improved. I am aware that this will likely happen with the Colaiste Mhuire development but temporary buildouts are needed in the interim, like the very successful ones further down the square

Dorset Street:

- As MPM Residents, we have an interest in Dorset Street becoming a more welcoming city village, and fully support the plan outlined by the Dublin 7 Alliance in their submission on this scheme

Cillian O'Neill,
16 Mountjoy Street Middle, Dublin D07N2R3
Chair of MPM Residents Association