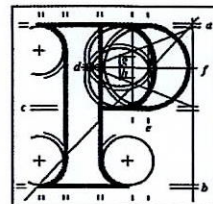


Our Case Number: ABP-317121-23



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Stephen Hall
24 Hardiman Road
Drumcondra
Dublin 9

Date: 22 June 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 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,

Sarah Caulfield
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737287

HA02A

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Dublin 1
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24 Hardiman Road
Drumcondra,
Dublin 9

20th June 2023

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
20 JUN 2023	
LTR DATED _____	FROM _____
LDG- _____	
ABP- 317121-23	

Subject: Swords to City Centre Bus Connects Plan: Strategic Infrastructure Development Application

Dear An Bord Pleanála,

I am writing to express my support for the Swords to City Centre Bus Connects plan while highlighting several crucial points that will contribute to the overall success and sustainability of the project. I am a daily walker and commute to my work in city centre via either bike or bus.

I believe that by considering these aspects, we can create a well-connected transportation system that not only meets the needs of commuters but also enhances the quality of life for residents and promotes environmental well-being.

- 1. Protection of Existing Trees and Green Spaces on Drumcondra Road:** It is essential to prioritise the preservation of the existing trees and green spaces along Drumcondra Road. These natural elements provide numerous benefits such as improving air quality, reducing noise pollution, and creating a pleasant environment for pedestrians and cyclists. By incorporating measures to protect these valuable assets, we can ensure the project's development is in harmony with the existing natural landscape. I would highlight the existing embankment and mature trees between Alphonsus Road/Hollybank Road and opposite side at Archbishop's House and area opposite Fagan's pub 'Our Lady's Park' proposed to be temporarily CPOed. Please ensure that both trees and adjoining green space/park benches be kept as much as possible.
- 2. Planting New Trees and Greening on Dorset St and Corner of Richmond Road and Drumcondra Road:** To further enhance the environmental aspects of the plan, I strongly recommend the inclusion of new tree planting and greening initiatives. By strategically planting trees along Dorset Street and the corner of Richmond Road and Drumcondra Road, we can improve air quality, mitigate the urban heat island effect, and provide much-needed shade for cyclists and pedestrians. These green elements will contribute to a healthier and more sustainable urban environment. The footpath area on corner of Richmond Road/Drumcondra Road is wide enough to incorporate tree planting. It will have a cooling effect for pedestrians and cyclists in increasingly hot summers and will 'future proof' for impact of climate change.

Additionally, I propose the consideration of **tree planting at bus stops**. Not only will this green infrastructure improve air quality and contribute to a cooler microclimate during increasingly warmer summers, but it will also create more welcoming and comfortable spaces for public transport users.
- 3. Discreet Design of New Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge in Drumcondra:** While acknowledging the need for a new pedestrian/cycle bridge in Drumcondra, I would like to emphasize the importance of its design. It is crucial to ensure that the bridge seamlessly integrates with the existing streetscape. The use of materials that match the surrounding environment will help maintain the area's aesthetic appeal. For instance, avoiding a metal bridge like the one linking North Strand and Sheriff St, which is susceptible to graffiti, will contribute to a cleaner and more visually pleasing urban landscape. It can have a stone/granite finish to match existing bridge.
- 4. Expediting Process and Delivery:** Given the importance of an efficient transportation system, I urge the relevant authorities to streamline the process and expedite the delivery of the Swords to City Centre Bus Connects plan. By minimising bureaucratic delays and employing effective project management strategies, we can ensure that the benefits of the plan are realized in a timely manner, providing residents and commuters with improved connectivity and mobility options.
- 5. Enhancing Public Realm and Optimal Material Selection:** As the plan progresses, I encourage collaboration with Dublin City Council to enhance the public realm throughout the area. This entails carefully selecting materials for footpaths and other public spaces that prioritize aesthetic appeal, durability, and sustainability. Avoiding excessive use of concrete and opting for alternatives that harmonize with the surroundings will contribute to a more inviting and visually appealing urban environment.

6. **Dorset Street / Parnell Square:** As currently stands this plan will terminate in Parnell Square. This area is already very dangerous for cyclists/pedestrians. Please give consideration to making this as safe as possible and enhancing public realm as this is the gateway into city centre.

In addition Dorset Steet had an extensive plan done with city council to try and improve it (it is a kip), and this has gone nowhere. Why can't the city council / NTA / ABP work together to try to incorporate some of this plan to improve area if we are going to trouble of ripping up street anyway?

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my support for the Swords to City Centre Bus Connects plan.

By taking into account the preservation of green spaces, integrating tree planting initiatives, ensuring design in keeping with existing area, expediting project delivery, and enhancing the public realm, we can create a sustainable and vibrant urban environment that benefits both residents and visitors.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.


Stephen Hall