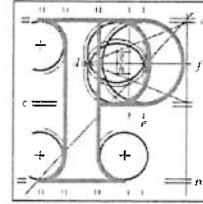


Our Case Number: ABP-317742-23



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Gavin Doherty
49 Woodbank
Shankill
Dublin 18
D18 EF22

Date: 13 October 2023

Re: BusConnects Bray to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme
Bray 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 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,



Sarah Caulfield
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737287

HA02A

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

Mr Gavin Doherty
49 Woodbank, Shankill, Dublin 18, D18EF22

An Bord Pleanála
Strategic Infrastructure Division
64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1
DO1 V902

Subject: Objection to the Order & Bus Connects Plans for Bray to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme

10th October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my profound objections to the proposed Bus Connects plan for the Shankill area. While I appreciate the intent to improve public transportation, there are numerous compelling reasons why this particular plan is unsuitable for Shankill, and critically not needed. I urge you to please consider the following additional points:

No Evidence of better Bus Journey Times: The proposed plan fails to provide any substantial evidence or guarantee of improved bus journey times through Shankill. The claimed time savings of just under 6 minutes northbound and 7 minutes southbound over the entire Bray to City Centre route do not warrant the vast modifications and significant disruptions.

No justifiable reason for huge and costly works: The major works planned between Shankill village and Wilford Roundabout, which NTA documents suggest will yield no significant time benefits, are questionable. The disruption to our community, the environmental impact, and the social disruption dwarfs any potential advantages.

Transportation Infrastructure Ireland's decision regarding bus lanes on the N-M11. The criteria for dismissing Option 2A, which follows a similar route to the N-M11 bus lanes, are no longer valid.

Schools and pupils: There are 4 schools in the area, with an average of 1,500 pupils, these plans will cause chaos considerable delays as the flow of traffic will be significantly disrupted with bottle necks and congestion.

Negative impact to the environment, flora and fauna: The plans will have devastating environmental impact due to the loss of old trees, stone boundary walls, hedgerows, and other natural features along the Dublin Road. There will be a cost to rare birds and bats in the area as they lose their roosts.

Impact on Local Businesses: The proposed plan poses a threat to local businesses in Shankill, which are vital to the local economy. This too contravenes current government policies, which wish to see local businesses thrive and act to regenerate and revitalise those in rural area. Our urban community is no different!

Safety when cycling: With all the cost and disruption there will still be a lack of 'nonstop' cycle lanes and there is still no thorough plans for safe cycling in the Shankill area. For example: the limited cycle lane at St Annes is not a viable solution.

Safety for pedestrians: The proposed changes would create safety issues for pedestrians, especially children, the elderly, and disabled individuals. The wider roads and increased traffic lanes could jeopardize pedestrian safety and diminish the quality of life in Shankill. For example, when alighting the bus coming from Bray to visit the cemetery.

Water Infrastructure: No evidence of planning for the stream running under the R119, which has previously caused issues of flooding in the area. This oversight could have significant hydrological consequences.

Current Bus Servicing Shankill. Today's service works very well, and we use it daily and experience no regular traffic delays.

Ignoring the better solution at a gargantuan cost to the tax payer, the Shankill community and environment.

A solution is Route Option 2A, a dedicated bus corridor parallel to the M11, this would have a reduced environmental impact and less social disruption.

In light of these objections and the solution above, I urge An Bord Pleanála to re-evaluate the proposed plan comprehensively. Alternative options, such as the introduction of express bus services using N-M11 bus lanes or the implementation of bus lanes only at pinch points, must be explored.

I must also ask that An Bord Pleanála ensures vigorous compliance with environmental regulations and meaningful community consultation throughout the decision-making process. I draw your attention to the Aarhus Convention, which was ratified by the government of Ireland.

Thank you for your attention to these critical concerns. I trust that you will consider these objections scrupulously.

Yours sincerely,

Gavin Doherty,
49 Woodbank, Shankill, Dublin 18, D18EF22 - Mobile: [REDACTED]