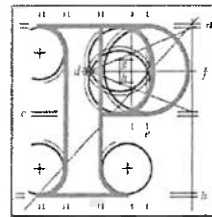


Our Case Number: ABP-317742-23



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Ivana Bacik TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House

Date: 11 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 accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

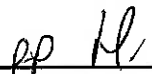
Please note that the proposed road development shall not be carried out unless the Board has approved it or approved it with modifications.

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 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
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D01 V902	D01 V902

Bray to City Centre Bus Corridor Scheme

Observation – Ivana Bacik TD

Dáil Éireann, Leinster House, Dublin 2. Tel: [REDACTED]

As a public representative for the Dublin Bay South constituency and a local resident in Dublin Bay South, and having appraised the documentation supplied by Bus Connects, I wish to provide the following observations on the Bray to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme.

First, I wish to express my support for the scheme, which represents a key step towards improving public transport and cycling infrastructure along this busy route. As a regular cyclist myself, I am strongly supportive of plans for improved bus services, the increased provision of safe cycle lanes and active travel infrastructure. It is of great benefit generally to see plans for the development of a cleaner, quieter, more sustainable environment for everyone living and working in the area covered by this scheme.

Indeed, as we move to a more sustainable city, it is essential that greater provision is made to facilitate active travel and improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. It is also essential that increased levels of public transport options are provided, and in particular that buses are given enhanced space on our roads.

Increased frequency of buses, and reduced journey times on public transport, will encourage and enable more people to take public transport, which in turn will lead to reduced levels of congestion in our urban villages. Reducing traffic congestion will result in substantial benefits for local communities in reducing carbon emissions, improving air quality, and enhancing pedestrian and cyclist safety.

I am also strongly supportive of the move towards metro and light rail transit for Dublin, and will keep pressing, along with local residents and constituents, for the introduction of a fair, forward-looking and sustainable transport solution for our area and the entire city – in particular, the urgent development of the long-awaited Metro Link.

Along with local residents, I have sought to see provision made for the continuation of Metro Link from St Stephen's Green to South West Dublin, and have questioned the decision to make provision for the terminus at Charlemont. We need to ensure the provision of convenient, well-planned and affordable public transport with accessible links between buses, light rail and metro, so as to bring about significant and necessary reductions in car usage.

In the short to medium term, it is unarguable that buses remain the most accessible and effective public transport option available for supporting Dublin's growing population. Therefore, the implementation of improved and enhanced bus corridors and bus lanes will enable this mode of public transport to serve local communities in a more efficient, accessible and timely manner.

In this submission, along with expressing my general support for the scheme, I also wish to raise some general observations on the proposed scheme.

I thank all the many constituents, residents, and groups in and adjacent to my constituency who have engaged with me on this scheme.

Labour Leader Ivana Bacik TD has raised concern about the fees associated with making a submission to An Bord Pleanála during statutory public consultation processes on infrastructure projects.

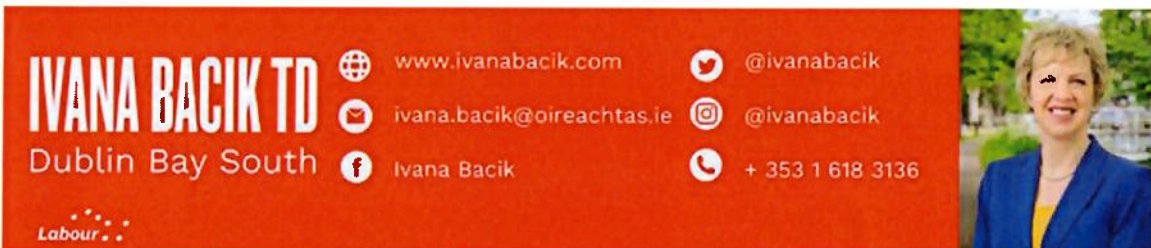
Deputy Bacik said,

“Ireland has ratified the Aarhus Convention, which is an international agreement affirming the right to public participation in decision-making. Civic engagement should not be contingent on income. Individuals should not be prohibited from having their say in a public consultation, simply because they cannot afford it.

“At a time when we are experiencing a cost-of-living crisis, I am increasingly hearing from constituents who are having to think twice before making a submission during public consultation on new infrastructure in their area. We all want to see new projects introduced to improve infrastructure in this country, and I am particularly supportive of effective new public transport, active travel and cycling infrastructure. That is why it is so important that a robust planning and consultation process is in place to ensure that issues are resolved early on. Everybody stands to benefit from a more accessible consultation process.

“My constituents in Dublin Bay South have contacted my office on many occasions, frustrated because of financial restrictions on their engagement with the mechanisms which are there to enable their participation. In the context of the ongoing statutory consultation on the Bus Connects route from Rathfarnham/Templeogue-City Centre, constituents who wish to make comments in support of, and/or with concern about, aspects of the plans, have expressed their concern at the €50 fee associated with making a submission to An Bord Pleanála within this process. I would ask Government to consider whether the level of this fee should be reviewed, with a view to strengthening deliberative democracy and a process of inclusive social dialogue at local and national level.”

ENDS



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Please note that any personal data contained in your email correspondence with Ivana Bacik TD will be processed by Ivana Bacik TD and her staff as a data controller in accordance with applicable data protection law. Much of this data processing will be done in connection with representations/requests made and also for electoral purposes. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately and then delete it. Please do not copy it, disclose its contents or use it for any other purpose. Thank You.

The Deputy is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 (details available on www.lobbying.ie)