

Eoghan Murphy TD – Bus Corridor Consultations February 2019

My office has met with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and attended each of the community forums to fully understand the plans around the new Bus Corridors. The Community forums are intended to offer representatives (from local resident, community and business associations, along with public representatives) a chance to discuss the impacts that the changes may have, and contribute towards the design of the plan. The forums will be active throughout all stages of the process.

Some of the issues that have been raised at the forums and when I have spoken with constituents are:

- Traffic & infrastructural changes
- Potential compulsory purchase orders
- Loss of parking spaces
- Increase in use of rat runs
- Transparency of consultation process
- Change to heritage and aesthetics of areas
- Lack of car / cycle access to some locations
- Length of public consultation
- The idea of congestion charges as an alternative solution
- Safety

For anyone who did not get to ask a question at the forums, or are not in contact with a representative attendee, you can email queries to cbc@busconnects.ie. Details of public information events are [here](#).

The NTA have reiterated that this proposal is just a first draft and that they are happy to make amendments – **they are looking for feedback**. If you have not done so already, I would encourage you to make a submission [here](#).

Some information that may be of interest:

- Transport modelling (where displaced traffic will go etc.) will not be done until later in the project (the NTA have said that this is standard practice for urban schemes) we will interrogate this further
- A request has been made for a change in legislation to allow for camera-based enforcement to deal with illegal use of roads – this could help in cases of local-only access etc.
- The NTA believe that introducing congestion charges is not a realistic option until better public transport is provided
- All submissions will be published (without personal details)
- The NTA have agreed to consider extending the consultation deadline and it will likely be pushed back beyond 29th March. I have requested confirmation of this
- The revised bus network plan (focussing on bus routes, not the corridors being dealt with currently) will be published in the summer and will be put out for consultation again then

The full process is expected to proceed as follows: public consultation; revisions to the project; further public consultation; final revisions; an Environmental Impact Assessment Report is prepared; government approval is sought to apply for planning consent; and finally an application is made to An Bord Pleanála.

Please get in touch at eoghan.murphy@oir.ie - I am taking all comments on board and will continue to engage with constituents, the NTA and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that all concerns are heard.