



**Rathgar
Residents Association**

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Core Bus Corridor Project
National Transport Authority
Dún Scéine
Harcourt Lane
Dublin 2

28th April 2019

Rathfarnham to City Centre Core Bus Corridor 12

To Whom It May Concern

Committee members of the Rathgar Residents Association have examined the documentation provided by Bus Connects, attended meetings organised by Bus Connects, liaised with residents and commercial enterprises most closely affected by the proposed route for corridor 12 and consulted widely with local residents and wish to state that they support the expert submissions made by the Rathgar Road Residents Committee, Terenure Road East Committee and other expert submissions from aligned residents groups. Below are additional comments that encapsulate the concerns about the impact of Corridor 12 on the local area made by residents.

Will Bus Connects CBCs make public transport a real option for residents?

1. At peak commute times residents in the historic urban villages find that they cannot use buses reliably as they are full by the time they reach Terenure, Rathgar and Rathmines.
There is real concern that there is no evidence in the Bus Connects proposal to suggest an increase in bus capacity that will improve this situation for residents in the urban villages.
2. The current information provided by Bus Connects does not show how connectivity, journey times and transport experience will be improved for users of CBCs, particularly for those who transit across the river Liffey.
There is very real concern that far from improving the commuting experience for public transport users from urban villages that Bus Connects could in fact massively disrupt journey times and public transport experience for people.
3. It is not clear what is to happen to bus routes that do not form part of the proposed CBC 12 and in the case of the 140 and 14 bus routes this is of grave concern to residents.
Residents must be given clear information and be fully consulted about the impact of any changes to bus routes on service users and affected property owners before implementation.

How will Bus Connects Impact historic urban villages like Rathgar?

4. The proposals for CBC 12 will permanently remove the village character of Rathgar and surrounding roads.

Residents do not accept that a commuter highway respects the built heritage, residential character or conservation zoning of the area.

5. Residents are very concerned that the traffic management required to facilitate bus and bicycle commuters on CBC 12 will require the removal of the only on street disabled parking space in the village and see local roads bearing ever greater volumes of traffic. *Local roads in Rathgar do not have off street parking in keeping with the Z2 zoning for the area. Residents are not prepared to accept the potential for parking congestion (already an issue in the area) and the requirement to send more traffic down residential roads that already cope with significant volumes of commuter traffic.*
6. Drawing on experience from other such infrastructure projects, local businesses in Rathgar are convinced that by altering the village character of Rathgar, Bus Connects and CBC 12 will permanently damage existing commercial interests. *Existing commercial interests will be required to cope with massive short term disruption that may force many to permanently close with no compensation or alleviation package envisaged.*
7. One of the constitutional aims of the RRA is to preserve and develop the amenity of Rathgar and generations of residents have committed a great deal of time and effort to preserve the unique characteristics of this heritage village as an asset to the city as a whole. *Residents do not support the mass interference with or removal of any heritage features or curtilages of protected properties in the area as proposed by the Bus Connects Project*

In conclusion the promises made by Bus Connects for a faster more connected public transport infrastructure for city residents are unrealised in the CBC plans. Rathgar residents know from everyday experience that the unmet demand for fast efficient public transport in the south west of the city is so great that the CBC plans as currently envisaged will not meet it and are very disappointed that serious consideration has not been given to the provision of alternative public transport options that are faster and more efficient than bus corridors. They also know that the idea of re-designing our city street scape to facilitate long distance cycle commuters as a transport option is unsustainable and will result in cycle congestion, already a significant issue on the Rathgar/Rathmines route. They know that if the plans for CBC 12 go ahead as envisaged the unique character of the historic urban village of Rathgar and its surrounding areas will be destroyed forever and the local area will become another vibrant residential community in the city sacrificed to the daily commute and choked by displaced traffic.

Rathgar Residents Association Committee