

Aoife Brennan - Staff Officer
Admin & Meetings
Land Use, Planning and Transportation Department
South Dublin County Council,
County Hall,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24

Dún Scéine, Lána Fhearchair
Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 WT20

Dún Scéine, Harcourt Lane
Dublin 2, D02 WT20

t 01 879 8300

info@nationaltransport.ie
www.nationaltransport.ie

21st September 2020

Dear Aoife,

I refer to your email of 18th September providing details of the motion passed by the Rathfarnham/Tempoogue/Firhouse/Bohernabreena ACM stating “[t]hat this area committee invites the NTA to address the committee with an up to date presentation and briefing in relation to the BusConnects proposals for this area”.

Due to the broad range and nature of our transport functions across the State, the National Transport Authority (NTA) receives many requests from local authorities for NTA attendance at meetings of Municipal Districts, local area committees and other Council committees. In addition, we also recognise that the geographic scale of the BusConnects Dublin Programme means that there are a considerable number of area committees across the region covered by the Programme.

Given our limited resources, the number of area committees within the region of the BusConnects Dublin Programme, and the volume of attendance requests we receive from other committees across the State, we are, in general, not in a position to attend such area committee meetings or local area meetings.

However, we fully recognise the importance and significance of the BusConnects Programme within the South Dublin County Council area. Accordingly, we would welcome the possibility of attending a singular forum within the Council structure that would allow us to cover all areas and issues concerning the BusConnects Programme (and other items if required) within the South Dublin area in a unified manner.

In the case of other Councils, we have provided briefings to meetings of the relevant Strategic Policy Committee covering transport matters, to which all Councillors were invited. In other cases we have provided briefings to a full Council meeting, while in Dublin City Council a Public Transport Sub-Committee to the Traffic and Transport SPC has been established with which we will be involved in briefing on relevant matters.

I do reiterate our desire to ensure to ensure that public representatives are fully briefed and that we respond to Councillor queries and issues. The only request we have is that there is a singular forum covering all of the relevant areas within the county.

By way of intermediate update, I can confirm that a further round of public consultation for the BusConnects Dublin Core Bus Corridors will commence at the end of October or the start of November of this year, reflecting the fact that the earlier consultation this year was largely truncated due to Covid-19. Following the completion of the next round of consultation, the designs for the corridors will be finalised and the documentation for the planning consents completed. It is now expected that the planning consent applications for all of the BusConnects Core Bus Corridors will be lodged with An Bord Pleanala at the end of next March.

Separately, it is planned to announce the final revised Dublin Area bus network later this month, having been informed by three rounds of public consultation. Our intention is that this revised network of bus services will be implemented in a series of phases over the next few years. This is an announcement only – it doesn't trigger further consultations.

Pending an update meeting, I hope that the above information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Creegan

Hugh Creegan,
Deputy Chief Executive.