

Senior Engineer
Cork County Council
Traffic and Transportation
Floor 10
County Hall
Cork

6th March 2018

Re: Provision of Shared Use Cycle & Pedestrian Facility as part of Dunkettle Interchange

To Whom It Concerns,

Cork Chamber is the leading business organisation in Cork proactively working to identify and progress developments that are facilitative of economic growth into the future. Cork Chamber represents an employer base of close to 1,200 businesses and over 100,000 employees across the region. In representing the voice of business, Cork Chamber adds its strong support to the planned provision of a shared use cycle and pedestrian facility as part of the Dunkettle Interchange and highlights the continued development of cycle and pedestrian facilities as an essential evolution of how we leverage our natural environment as both an amenity and as a viable commuting option.

Current walkability or cycle-ability along this route is highly unsafe. The planned improvements will greatly improve choice for commuters and lends itself to developing a sustainable, permeable, and accessible metropolitan environment. To achieve a metropolitan location that is sustainable, it is important that alongside the larger infrastructure projects the supporting works on the linking infrastructure is also completed to ensure an integrated and fit-for-purpose transport network. Such projects can be enormously valuable in their latent potential to impact positively on commuter experiences and the overall attractiveness and viability of a region to investment. Wherever possible, we advocate for cycle and pedestrian routes to follow the contours of the harbour, adding to Corks offer as an exceptional place to live and visit, for residents and tourists, making the most of our natural assets.

Traffic congestion along this route is a daily occurrence and especially at peak times. As economic activity has intensified so has the extent of this problem and the consequent effect on the flow of people (commuter and residential), goods and services to and from the area. The future plan which sees a link between Little Island to Glouthaune, Dunkettle, Lota and

Glanmire will be enormously beneficial to these and the surrounding communities, and it is essential that this infrastructure is continued and effectively connected to surrounding infrastructure links for example connecting into the City and Eastwards. It will also be critical to linking with Tivoli as this moves towards redevelopment. In this context, we again emphasise the benefits of a waterfront route.

Cork now has a public transport infrastructure requirement that is greater than ever and it is critical that developments to support growing urbanisation and the future population projections, as well as Irelands national commitment to Climate Change mitigation are undertaken and progressed now. Cork Chamber believes that the provision of cycle and pedestrian facilities is essential to meet the future user demands of a growing population base. The opportunity exists in Cork to develop adaptable infrastructure that promotes for a mixture of transport modes, whether it be bus, private car, cycling or walking. It is essential that we plan for a future that caters to changing travels patterns and preferences. Furthermore the opportunity exists to create linkages, integrate and connect our various modes of transport, to develop cohesive greenways and to create public infrastructure that promotes public transport uptake.

In conclusion, Cork Chamber shares the commitment of Cork County Council in promoting and supporting the development of the Cork transport network to facilitate the continued and sustainable economic development of the Cork region.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Conor Healy', with a small flourish at the end.

Conor Healy
CEO