

Traffic Regulation & Safety,
Cork City Council,
City Hall,
Anglesea Street,
Cork,
T12 T997.

RE: Proposed Changes to York Hill Traffic Flow

8th April, 2025

To whom it concerns,

Cork Chamber welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the public consultation on the proposed changes to York Hill traffic flow.

Cork Chamber represents 1,200 members together employing 130,000 people throughout the city, metropolitan area and county. Our vision is to lead a transforming and ambitious Cork City and County, and our purpose is to unite, represent and support our members and community. Our direction is guided by our formal pledge to uphold the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Cork Chamber has also been designated an SDG Champion by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications for 2024 – 2025.

As an organisation based on Summer Hill North, we fully support efforts to improve traffic flow, encourage multi-modal transportation, and enhance the pedestrian experience in the area. The current movement of traffic from York Hill onto Summer Hill North presents challenges, particularly during peak times, with numerous vehicles attempting illegal right-hand turns onto an already constrained street from a lane that is not well-suited to two-way traffic.

However, if the option of through-access via York Hill is removed, it is essential to consider where this displaced traffic will redirect, and whether it could intensify traffic and congestion in nearby areas such as St. Luke's Cross and St. Patrick's Hill.


As the aims and objectives of the BusConnects programme come to fruition, it is vital that any proposed changes to key traffic corridors be carefully trialled and reviewed to avoid unintentionally worsening traffic conditions or obstructing public transport services which are central to reducing private car use.

Cork Chamber recommends trialling filtered permeability or exploring other interim solutions, such as introducing a one-way system up York Hill onto Wellington Road which would prevent illegal right turns onto Summerhill North. In the absence of either of these solutions other potential interventions should be explored, such as smart traffic signals at the York Hill

junction that could restrict right turns while supporting safer, more efficient flow. AI-powered traffic monitoring systems could also be used to analyse traffic behaviours in real-time and notify Gardaí when restricted movements occur. Furthermore, automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) technology could be implemented to monitor compliance and issue fines for illegal turning movements, thereby reinforcing any restrictions effectively. This use of technology would align with Cork City's EU Mission: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities designation while also enabling Garda resources to be deployed elsewhere.

In conclusion, it is crucial that the current problems being experienced on York Hill are addressed and it is positive to see action being taken in this regard. Cork Chamber supports the proposed changes to York Hill traffic flow, which should be trialled, monitored and reviewed to ensure they do not create new issues elsewhere in the network. Cork Chamber would also support the introduction of a one-way system up York Hill onto Wellington Road which would prevent illegal right turns onto Summerhill North and the use of smart traffic signals as potential solutions to the problems currently being experienced. We hope that you will consider our observations, and we look forward to the outcome of the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

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

Conor Healy

CEO

