

Log na gCapall Resident Association (41-100)

[REDACTED]
South Circular Road,
Limerick.

Planning, Environment and Place Marking Department,
Limerick City & County Council,
Dooradoyle
Limerick
V94 WV78

9th November 2022

Re Part 8 – South Circular Road to City Centre Active Travel Scheme

Dear Sirs/Madam,

I would like to lodge a submission/objection in relation to the planned Part 8 – South Circular Road to City Centre Active Travel Scheme on behalf of Log na gCapall, Residents Association.

We are not opposed to cycle paths in principal in Limerick city, however it is important to have these cycle paths for the safety of cyclists and motorists in the correct locations.

We are opposed to the proposed cycle path on South Circular Road as if it proceeds as planned, it would be to the detriment of long standing residents, a lot of whom are elderly, which will impact resident's quality of life and freedom. We oppose the planned Active Travel Scheme on the following grounds:-

1. The limited on street parking will be severely reduced for residents and the general public in the area. This will greatly impact on the day to day lives of all residents in the area, many of these residents have been living in the area for over 60 years. Residents have purchased homes in these areas not anticipating that they would not have parking outside their home due to a cycle path. Values of properties will depreciate due to the fact there will no longer be on street parking as a result of the proposed cycle path.

Residents need direct access to parking outside their properties for the following reasons:-

- a) Carers/home help calling to elderly residents.
- b) If residents require work to be done to their properties tradesman will require parking for their vans, etc.
- c) Concerns regarding access to properties if doctors/nurses were required for home visits.
- d) Meals on wheels services for residents on the South Circular Road impacted.

- e) Groceries being delivered from supermarkets.
 - f) Couriers delivering to houses.
 - g) Grandparents/Family/friends visiting residents on South Circular Road – how are these people going to have parking facilities to be able to visit residents.
 - h) There is a health and safety issue for residents if they are unable to park outside their homes. Should residents arrive home late in the evening or late at night in the depths of winter and they have no parking outside their home it raised safety concerns for residents if they have to walk a distance to their homes. The primary safety concern is with the possibility of muggings or worse if you have to walk a distance to your home from your car. Residents with mobility issues that require parking outside their home. Where are these residents going to park?
 - i) Delivery of oil to homes.
2. A double cycle lane should most definitely not be going ahead. This is too wide. This could attract scrambler bikes and possibly horse and traps to the area.
 3. Increased traffic on O'Connell Street, O'Connell Avenue, Ballinacurra Road, New Street and the Dock Road. By cutting off South Circular Road there is going to be a huge increase in traffic around the city. Ballinacurra Road residents will find it extremely difficult to get out of their driveways onto Ballinacurra Road with the increase in traffic volume. As there would be no right turn from Ballinacurra Cross onto South Circular, residents/doctors/family/friends/carers/grocery-delivery vans/couriers will have to turn up Lifford Avenue, which will increase traffic for all residents living there.
 4. There are two crèches located on South Circular Road/Henry Street area. Where will parents be allowed to drop off their babies/toddlers/children safely to these two crèches? The crèche on Henry Street will have no parking whatsoever outside it, as the cycle lane will be right outside the crèche. How will it be safe to drop children here?
 5. On New Street you will find that motorists are driving down the side of the Greenyard Café trying to avoid the traffic lights at Punch's Cross. This is a residential area/business with many children living in Temple Ville. This is a health and safety issue.
 6. People could now possibly start to park in adjoining estates, i.e Log na gCapall, Lifford Park, Fitzhaven, Castlewell, Templeville, on South Circular Road as there will be no on street parking which is a safety concern for children living and playing in these estates.
 7. Business' on Henry Street will be impacted negatively as a result of this cycle lane with hardly any parking in the area. It could result in the closure of business in the area.
 8. There is a huge safety issue for motorists and cyclists having people turning right off South Circular Road, onto Lifford Avenue and then attempting to turn right onto the Ballinacurra Road will be near impossible with the increase volume of traffic that will now be using the Ballinacurra Road as a result of not being able to drive on South Circular Road directly into town.
 9. There could be a danger to cyclists with cars stopping on the road to let children out of cars at school time opening car doors onto the proposed cycle path.

The South Circular Road is a main artery into the city centre, along with Ballinacurra Road and the Dock Road. South Circular Road is a vital road into the city centre to alleviate traffic pressures on the Ballinacurra Road and the Dock Road. If you remove this thoroughfare into the city the traffic around the Ballinacurra Road/Dock Road/New Street areas will be chaotic.

Just because there is a cycle lane put in place does not mean people can or will change the way they travel to work or school. Some people have to travel distances to drop their children off at school and to travel to work, or indeed need their car at their place of work as they will require their car throughout the day for work purposes.

By removing South Circular Road as a road for vehicles into the city centre people will in turn be forced to remain in their cars for longer periods of time due to traffic congestion.

This proposed active travel route will have a negative impact on the day to day lives of many people/residents and should not proceed in its current format. There has to be a better alternative for a cycle path into the city without impacting the long standing residents' day to day lives. South Circular Road is too narrow to have a cycle lane.

Have Limerick City Council looked at alternatives such as the Dock Road or Edward Street as a better option for a cycle lane into Limerick City?

Yours sincerely

Orla O' Dwyer on Behalf of
Log na gCapall Residents Association