

Improving Bus and Bike Access Through Environmental Assessments



CHALLENGE

The aim is to create a sustainable, low-carbon transit network that alleviates road congestion, supports economic growth, and strengthens connectivity. The scale of the project, progressing 12 separate schemes, which included 16 individual bus corridors, presented its own co-ordination challenges.

SOLUTION

AWN provided essential environmental services for the BusConnects Dublin, conducting baseline monitoring, detailed 3D modelling, and offering expert witness services at the oral hearing.

RESULT

The 12 EIARs have been submitted to An Bord Pleanála and by November 2024, nine of the 12 had received planning permission with three remaining undecided. The focus has moved to procurement to begin construction.

It is a key part of the Government's policy to improve public transport and address climate change in Dublin and other cities across Ireland. BusConnects is a key component within a number of Government and regional policies which include the National Development Plan 2021-2030, Climate Action Plan 2023, the National Planning Framework 2040 and the Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2042.

The project includes the provision of approximately 230km of designated bus lanes and 200km of cycle tracks in 12 separate schemes across five local authority areas.

CHALLENGE

The aim is to create a sustainable, low-carbon transit network that alleviates road congestion, supports economic growth, and strengthens connectivity. BusConnects integration with Luas, the DART and the proposed MetroLink stations will offer improved multimodal connections, creating a more accessible, efficient, and climate-friendly urban transportation system for Dublin's future. However, with any infrastructure project, there is the potential for environmental impacts.

In addition to the challenge of assessment, the scale of the project, progressing 12 separate schemes, which included 16 individual bus corridors, presented its own co-ordination challenges.

SOLUTION

AWN Consulting Ltd., a Trinity Consultants team, rose to the challenge of co-ordination of our expert teams to meet the deadlines set down by the client to ensure timely progression of the BusConnects program. AWN provided essential environmental services for the BusConnects Dublin, conducting baseline monitoring, detailed 3D modelling, and offering expert witness services at the oral hearing. Working as a sub-consultant to Jacobs, and alongside Roughan & O'Donovan, AECOM and Arup on the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), AWN focused on noise & vibration, air quality, and climate impact assessments, crucial for understanding and mitigating potential impacts on the environment and surrounding communities.

RESULT

The 12 EIARs have been submitted to An Bord Pleanála and by November 2024, nine of the 12 had received planning permission with three remaining undecided. The focus now has moved to procurement to begin construction and ensuring the provision of greater public and active travel for Dublin. The delivery of BusConnects is a key measure that delivers on commitments within the National Development Plan (2021-2030), the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (2022-2042) the Climate Action Plan (2023) and the National Planning Framework 2040. AWN Consulting has since been awarded the same roles for BusConnects Galway and Cork.

Further Text: busconnects.ie/cities/dublin/

ABOUT TRINITY CONSULTANTS

Trinity Consultants, a leading global environmental consulting firm, provides services and solutions in the EHS Regulatory Compliance, Built Environment, Life Sciences, and Water & Ecology markets. Founded in 1974, Trinity has the technical expertise, industry depth, and capabilities to help clients achieve their goals across the natural and built environments.