



Transport & Mobility Forum

Cork City Council
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Traffic Operations
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Via online consultation portal

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c/o Cork Environmental Forum
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6th January 2023

Public Consultation – Response

Proposed Zebra Crossing Safety Improvement Works at Grattan Street, Cork

<https://consult.corkcity.ie/en/consultation/proposed-zebra-crossing-safety-improvement-works-grattan-street-cork>

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for giving the general public and stakeholders the opportunity to feed into the Grattan St Zebra Crossing Proposal.

The Transport and Mobility Forum, Cork (TMF) is a cross-sectoral representative group of organisations who have a common interest in sustainable travel *. The TMF fully supports measures and policies promoting sustainable and active travel. Sustainable and Active Travel (cycling and walking) helps to reduce congestion on roads, improve air quality, supports a low carbon economy, reduces noise pollution and improves public health.

As such it is the TMF's aim to support the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).



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Overview

We strongly support the proposal for an improvement of the zebra crossing in Grattan St, outside Cork Educate Together National School. While in the past, there have been growing concerns about the speed and volume of traffic in the area and in particular for the safety of children crossing here, this design will substantially contribute to making the crossing safer for the most vulnerable road users in our community and the street less hostile for the community in general.

Observations:

The build out of the footpath on the eastern side, creating a forecourt to the school entrance, will provide more room for parents and children at drop-off and collection times, and make the crossing better visible to motorists.

In this context we welcome the permanent removal of drop-off car spaces north of the crossing.

The installation of a raised table as the other essential element finds our full support

Visibility / Sightlines

One issue in the past has been a lack of visibility for the crossing and its users. In heavy traffic, vehicles usually queue back from the junction at Washington St to far behind the crossing, predominantly on the right-hand lane, while the left-hand lane often remains clear. This creates a substantial hazard esp. for children crossing from the western side to the school, as they are blocked by waiting cars, vans or trucks to the view of driver approaching on the – clear – left-hand lane.

The proposed build out will make the crossing more visible to drivers on the left-hand side, supported by stronger flashing beacons.

The raised table is another essential improvement as it will reduce speeds driven at the crossing, and drivers might already stop ahead of the raised table.

The situation, however, with halted traffic on the right lane and the left lane being clear, might change in the coming years with the planned changes in traffic arrangements around the Court House (e.g. in connection with BusConnects).

Suggestions

For the reasons given above (sight lines), it is essential to have motor traffic stopping further off-set, ahead of the actual crossing. This would also reduce the impact of the inevitable issue of a build-out acting as a pinch point for cyclists. Anything that would further support this would be a welcome addition (e.g. Yellow Box).



Transport & Mobility Forum

In order to further reduce speeds driven in free flow on Grattan St, we would also suggest that Grattan St as residential street should have a **30km/h speed limit**, at minimum in the approach to the school (zebra crossing).

- Slower speeds on residential streets and at school entrances should be a matter of course.
- It would improve safety for parking drivers entering /exiting from the perpendicular car spaces there.
- All traffic must make a turn soon after passing the crossing anyway (Washington St, in future possibly Liberty St), so slowing down is necessary anyway a few metres further down the road.

We are in strong support of the proposed crossing improvements and trust that our additional suggestions will be considered.

We would be obliged to further participate in the discourse and planning processes around this and other Active Travel improvement schemes as we feel that TMF can provide valuable input into the process. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time at tmfcork@gmail.com .

Kind regards

Stephan Koch

Transport and Mobility Forum – Acting Chair

Darren McAdam-O'Connell

Transport and Mobility Forum – Coordinator

Note: *The comments within this submission are solely the view of the Transport and Mobility Forum (TMF) as a whole and not the opinion or view of any individual partner of the TMF.*

**) A full list of partners in the Transport and Mobility Forum can be found at*

<https://transportandmobilityforum.com/partners/>