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Dear David and the members of SAMRA,

Many thanks for your letter regarding the trial Covid Mobility measures for Sandymount Strand.

It was good to meet with you back in November and I am very aware of what has been happening in the community since we met. I am also aware of both the level of support for the trial, and the many concerns that have been raised by some of the residents about the proposal.

When we met, I listened carefully to the concerns you raised, some of which I shared, and I also outlined my own position. I don't believe that I gave a firm commitment to intervene to stop the trial. As a Minister, even under normal circumstances, it is inappropriate for me to direct the NTA or Dublin City Council in relation to specific projects. I have however given strong policy support for the range of temporary Covid mobility measures they have been advancing as a result of the pandemic.

I am happy to ask the NTA to continue to investigate the other suggestions put forward by the residents such as an extension or cantilever along the promenade and the sea wall. However, my understanding is that the same challenges exist as they did in 2015 when a similar proposal was put forward, which included a potential solution to Merrion Gates, but this was rejected locally. It would also take years to deliver, and we need these measures now.

There is no easy solution to this, but we do need a solution. This trial will not only help in terms of providing more space for pedestrians and cyclists to keep people safe during the pandemic but will also give us an opportunity to trial a potential option for this section of the Sutton Sandycove cycle route and to connect with the other sections that have been successfully developed. I see this route as a key piece of safe cycling infrastructure that will help to provide connectivity, reduce our transport emissions and dramatically improve our public realm.

There is already significant traffic and air quality monitoring taking place and this will



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mechanisms because as I mentioned before, regardless of this trial, this needs to be addressed.

There has been a significant level of consultation with the residents through the forum and other meetings and this communication will continue throughout the trial. I am also aware that filtered permeability proposals and additional cycling facilities have been presented by Dublin City Council in an attempt to look at the Sandymount area holistically, which was something that was requested by residents from the outset and is something I welcome.

I remain hopeful of a positive outcome of these measures. In other parts of the city there have been concerns about Covid mobility measures but residents have been surprised by the results and many of their initial fears did not come to light one implemented.

Once again, I think it is important to remember that this is a trial route, which will allow any design issues to be dealt with throughout that process and I am happy to continue to hear any thoughts you may have as things progress. I appreciate that this is not the response you were hoping for, but please do keep me informed of any further issues that arise throughout the trial.

Kindest regards,

Eamon Ryan TD
Green Party TD for Dublin Bay South
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