



Department for

**Infrastructure**

An Roinn

**Bonneagair**

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From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure  
**Nichola Mallon MLA**

Ms Eilish McGoldrick  
Democratic Services Officer  
Belfast City Council

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Your reference: EMDFI171220SG  
Our reference: CORR-3269-2020  
Date: 5 February 2021

Dear Ms. McGoldrick

## **PUBLIC REALM SCHEMES AT SHANKILL GATEWAY AND FREDERICK STREET.**

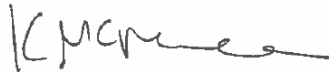
Minister Mallon has asked me to thank you for your letter of 17 December 2020, on behalf of Belfast City Council's (BCC) City Growth and Regeneration Committee, regarding the Public Realm schemes at Shankill Gateway and Frederick Street. She has also asked me to stress her commitment, and that of her officials, to continued partnership working with both the Council and the Department for Communities (DfC) to refine proposals for these junctions that fully reflect our shared ambitions to make Belfast a greener city, prioritising public transport, walking and cycling wherever we possibly can.

In relation to the Shankill Gateway scheme, you are aware that proposals have been developed to include a new layout for the Millfield/Carrick Hill/Peters Hill/North Street junction. These proposals would, in aligning with strategic objectives, improve pedestrian, cycling and public transport facilities. However it may be helpful to explain that, in a situation where there was not time for council officers and departmental officials to develop a better solution, the planning application submitted by DfC included the existing junction layout so that planning approval for the entire project could proceed. This was, however, on the understanding that officials would, in conjunction with DfC and BCC officials, work at pace to bring forward proposals for alternative junction layouts that would better reflect the priority we all agree needs to be given to public transport, pedestrians and cyclists.

To take forward this task, a Working Group, comprising officials from DfC and DfI and officers from BCC, has been set up with a specific focus on the development of key junctions in this part of the city including those at Carrick Hill/Clifton Street/North Queen Street/Frederick Street and at Carlisle Circus. The group will also be considering solutions for the Peter's Hill/ Millfield and Great Patrick Street/ Frederick Street/ York Street junctions. The aim will be to come forward with proposals that fully reflect our shared commitment to creating a more sustainable city, in line with the ambitions we set out in our shared *Bolder Vision* document.

The Minister is keen that this work brings forward proposals quickly for consideration by ministers and councilors and will arrange for a further update to be provided to the Council soon. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please do contact Divisional Roads Manager, Kevin Monaghan at [kevin.monaghan@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.monaghan@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K MCFerran', written in a cursive style.

**KATHRYN MCFERRAN**  
**PRIVATE SECRETARY**