The junction of North Wall Quay, East Wall Road and the East Link Bridge, also known as the Point roundabout, is located in the Dublin Docklands area. It is a key junction for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicular traffic travelling between areas north and south of the River Liffey.

The junction is a three arm roundabout with no formal crossings for pedestrians and cyclists. There are high volumes of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicular traffic travelling through the junction during the peak commuter periods. This often results in high levels of queuing along the East Link Bridge during the peak PM period. During events at the 3 Arena there is significant pedestrian activity in the area as well as pick-up and drop-off activity.

The existing vehicular access to Dublin Port (Terminal 3) is off East Wall Road and is a left-in, left-out junction. This junction arrangement results in additional HGV movements along East Wall Road as traffic exiting the Port must use the Point Roundabout to U-turn before travelling northwards.

East Wall Road is becoming an increasingly important public transport node with an important bus stop served by frequent routes such as the 747, Aircoach and Swords Express and ‘The Point’ Luas stop in the general area. As the existing facilities require buses which serve the northbound bus stop to stop ‘on-line’, general traffic is often delayed while passengers are boarding.

The Point Roundabout Improvement Scheme looks to improve the road network in the local area for all road users by providing dedicated pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities at the Point Roundabout junction as well as improving the facilities along East Wall Road.

It is also proposed to improve the traffic management in the area by providing an additional traffic lane northbound along East Wall Road and by relocating the Port access to the Sheriff Street Upper/East Wall Road junction.
As part of the scheme it is proposed to upgrade the Point Roundabout junction to a three-arm signalised junction with a left-turn slip lane from North Wall Quay to East Wall Road. This junction will include toucan crossings to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists on North Wall Quay and the East Link Bridge.

The upgrade of this junction will result in the requirement of a new access arrangement for Dublin Port to accommodate northbound movements. The scheme proposes to provide a new access to Dublin Port by providing a fourth arm at the signalised junction of East Wall Road and Sheriff Street Upper. This new access will enable the closure of the existing left-in left-out access to Dublin Port along East Wall Road.

Additionally, to improve traffic management in the area, it is proposed to widen East Wall Road to provide an additional northbound lane along with a cycle track and footpath. The additional lane will allow a relatively free flow of traffic from North Wall Quay onto East Wall Road while also helping to ease the levels of queuing on the East Link Bridge.
Main Benefits

The main benefit of the scheme will be the significant improvement to pedestrian and cycle facilities in the area, especially crossing facilities at the junction of North Wall Quay and East Wall Road. Pedestrians and cyclists will be able to cross this junction in a safe and convenient manner.

The additional northbound lane will ease the levels of queuing experienced on the East Link Bridge while allowing northbound traffic to pass buses which are stopped ‘online’ along East Wall Road.

The proposed closure of the existing Port access and provision of a new access at the junction of East Wall Road and Sheriff Street Upper will reduce the number of HGV’s travelling along East Wall Road.

It also removes an existing conflict between pedestrians/cyclists travelling southbound and HGV’s accessing and egress from the Port.

The scheme is also consistent with Dublin Port plans to develop their cruise ship facilities which would see a number of pedestrians at the Point junction.
Main Impacts

As the provision of safe and convenient pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities requires a reduction in junction capacity, there will be slight increases in queuing on certain arms of the main junctions.

Traffic modelling shows that there will be an increase in queuing during peak periods on the East Wall Road and East Link Bridge arms of the Point junction. At the junction of East Wall Road and Sheriff Street Upper, it is estimated that there will be a small increase in queuing on East Wall Road (North) during the AM and PM peak hour periods.

As there are a significant amount of utilities in the area, the works are likely to require the re-routing, replacement or protection of a number of services. This work will be carried out in co-ordination with the utility companies to minimise any disruptions.

During the construction stage, mitigation measures will be put in place by the main contractor to minimise the impacts noise, dust and vibrations. Dublin City Council will endeavour to carry out works which may cause significant traffic disruption outside of peak traffic periods.

An assessment of the risk of contaminated land within the works area has also been carried out, with the risk rated as being low to medium and it is unlikely that any significant mitigation would be required.

Next Stages

Following this public consultation stage, submissions from the public and key stakeholders will be taken into account and changes will be made to the design where appropriate. Once a final design has been approved, the detailed design will be carried out and following a tender process a contractor for the works will be appointed. The construction stage is likely to last for 7 to 8 months. An indicative timeline for the project is as follows:

- **2015 Q3**: Public Consultation
- **2015 Q4 - 2016 Q2**: Detailed Design & Procure Contractor
- **2016 Q3 - 2017 Q1**: Construction Stage
Details of the scheme proposals will be on display at the locations and times below each weekday from Friday 17th July 2015 until Monday 31st August 2015.

- Dublin City Council Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8 (09:00 to 16:30).
- Dublin Docklands Development Authority Offices, Custom House Quay, Dublin 1. (09:00 to 17:00).

Members of the design team will be available to answer queries at the locations listed below on the following dates and times:

- Dublin Docklands Development Authority Offices, Custom House Quay, Dublin 1: Wednesday 5th August 2015, from 3pm to 6pm.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed scheme may be made in writing to the following address before 16:30 on Monday 14th September 2015. Submissions should be headed ‘Point Roundabout Improvement Scheme’.

Executive Manager, Planning Department, Dublin City Council, Block 4 Floor 3 Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8.

This application relates to a proposed development within the North Lotts & Grand Canal Dock SDZ Planning Scheme area.