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3rd February 2021

Attention: Mr Kieran Somers
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
Ireland

Project Name: Cork Line Level Crossings – Railway Order Application
Project Number: 32111000

Subject: Replacement of 7No. manned level crossings on the main Dublin to Cork Railway Line ABP Reference: ABP-305149-19

Dear Mr Somers

I refer to the above proposed Project and to our upcoming pre application consultation meeting with An Bord Pleanála (the Board) on the 4th February 2021.

The purpose of this letter is to set out the applicant's understanding of the process and the content of the application for confirmation by the Board.

The Applicant

Córas Iompair Éireann (CIÉ) is the applicant for the proposed Project. The 2001 Act provides that an application may be made to the Board for a Railway Order by the National Transport Authority (NTA), the Agency (Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)), CIÉ, or another person.

Iarnród Éireann (IE) has developed the proposed Project on behalf of CIÉ and is responsible for the operation of intercity rail passenger services throughout Ireland and more specifically for the proposed Project on the Dublin to Cork line.

Content of Application

The application for the Railway Order will be made pursuant to the provisions of Section 37 of the 2001 Act (as amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 (the 2006 Act)). This requires, inter alia, that an application shall be made in writing and shall be accompanied by:

- a) A draft of the proposed Railway Order;
- b) A plan of the proposed railway works;
- c) A book of reference to a plan indicating the identity of the owners and of the occupiers of the lands described in the plan; and
- d) A Statement of the likely effects on the environment of the proposed railway works.



3rd February 2021

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A statement of the likely effects on the environment of the proposed railway works is addressed by preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) (previously referred to as an Environmental Impact Statement in Section 39 of the 2001 Act) and the EIAR supporting the Railway Order application has been compiled in accordance with Directive 2014/52/EU.

In addition to the contents listed above, the application will include:

- Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC) Compliance Report; and
- Planning Compliance Report.

Procedure/Process

It is understood from previous discussions with the Board that the following is also required as part of the application package:

- 1) Completed Strategic Infrastructure Development Application Form;
- 2) Copy of the published notice. There is no statutory requirement for Site Notices Railway Order applications under the legislation and we do not intend to erect any;
- 3) A list of the bodies notified of the application and an indication of the date they were notified;
- 4) A list of any other public notices or other public consultations, and an indication of the date or dates of such notice(s) or consultation required by the Board as indicated to the prospective applicant in pre application discussions;
- 5) Screening opinion in relation of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) in relevant cases. The application includes a NIS and this includes Screening for Appropriate Assessment;
- 6) The applicable fee is that under Category SA1 (of the Boards online Strategic Infrastructure Development cases: Fees Guide) in the amount of €100,000;
- 7) A project website has been created: www.irishrail.ie/CorkLineLevelCrossings; and
- 8) It is also understood that the Board requires:
 - 3No. hard copies and 7No. electronic copies of the application documents; and
 - 5No. hard copies and 5No. electronic copies of the application documents for both Cork County Council and Limerick City and County Council (being the relevant local authorities).

Further to the above, the table below sets out the procedure/process of submitting a Railway Order Application as per the 2001 Act (as amended) and includes a project response to each aspect.

Section 40 of 2001 Act	Project Response
Section 40 (1) of the 2001 Act sets out that "Before an application is made for a railway order, the applicant shall: a) Deposit and keep deposited at such place or places, being a place or places which is or are easily accessible to the public, as may be appointed by the Board, a copy of the draft order and all documents which may accompany the application, for not less than 6 weeks following the publication of the notice referred to in paragraph (b);	The proposed Project will deposit copies of the application documents at the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Planning Department, Limerick City and County Council, Dooradoyle Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick, V94 WV78; and▪ Planning Department, Cork County Council Headquarters, County Hall, Carrigrohane Road, Cork, T12 R2NC.▪ Kilmallock Library, Áras Mainchín Seoighe, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.
b) Publish a notice in one or more newspapers	The proposed Project will include a notice in the following newspapers circulating in County Cork and



3rd February 2021

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<p><i>circulating in the area to which the order relates-</i></p> <p>(i) <i>Indicating that an application will be made for an order;</i></p> <p>(ii) <i>Indicating the time and the place-or places at which, and the period (which shall be 6 weeks) during which, a copy of the draft order and accompanying documents deposited under this section may be inspected;</i></p> <p>(iii) <i>Stating that the Board will consider any submissions in relation to the proposed order or in relation to the likely effects on the environment of the proposed railway works which are submitting in writing to it by any person within the period referred to in subparagraph (ii)</i></p> <p>(iv) <i>Stating that a copy of or extract from the draft order and accompanying documents may be purchased on payment of a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making such copy or extract, and</i></p> <p>(v) <i>Stating, if it be the case, that the proposed railway works are likely to have significant effects on the environment in Northern Ireland,"</i></p>	<p>County Limerick. Irish Examiner Corkman Limerick Post Limerick Leader Weekly Observer Vale/Mallow Star</p> <p>Can the Board please provide a sample notice.</p>
<p>c) <i>"Serve on the planning authority in whose functional area (or any part thereof) the proposed railway works are proposed to be carried out, on the Minister and such other persons (if any) as the Board may direct a copy of the draft order and accompanying documents and the notice referred to in paragraph (b),"</i></p>	<p>The proposed Project will serve notice on Cork County Council, Limerick City and County Council and the Minister (Minister for Transport);</p>
<p>d) <i>"Serve a copy of the notice referred to in paragraph (b) together with relevant extracts from the documents referred to in paragraph (a) on every (if any) occupier and every (if any) owner of a land referred to in the draft order, and</i></p>	<p>The proposed Project will serve a copy of the notice referred to in paragraph b with relevant extracts from the from the application on every occupier and owner or land referred to in the draft order.</p>
<p>Section 40 (2) sets out that <i>"Members of the public may inspect a copy of the draft railway order and accompanying documents deposited under this section free of charge at the times and during the period specified in the notice referred to in subsection (1)(b) and may purchase copies of or extracts from any of the documents aforesaid on payment of a fee to the applicant not exceeding the reasonable cost of making such copies or extracts as may be fixed by the applicant."</i></p>	<p>Noted. The Non-Technical Summary will be made available free of charge. The EIAR and other documents will be available at print cost.</p>
<p>Section 40 (3) <i>"A person may, during the period specified in the notice referred to in subsection (1)(b), make submissions in writing to the Board in relation to the proposed railway order or the likely effects on the environment of the proposed railway works."</i></p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Indicative Timeframe for Submission



3rd February 2021

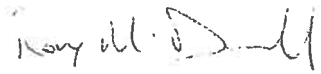
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We have set out below an indicative timeframe for submission in line with our understanding of the process.

Process	Timescale
The Board issues letter confirming content, process, and procedure for Railway Order Application.	2 weeks from final pre application consultation meeting
1) Applicant Publishes Notice of application which specifies the 6-week period of consultation/submissions; 2) The application documents are deposited at the specified places; and 3) Notice is served on Cork County Council, Limerick City and County Council and owner/occupiers of lands included within the Railway Order application.	Within 4 weeks from receipt of Boards letter

I trust the above will help to inform our discussion during the pre-application consultation meeting on the 4th February.

Yours sincerely



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Cc

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