

17 Kirkpatrick Avenue  
Clonsilla  
Dublin 15  
D15 E2CD  
28<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Submitted by email

An Bord Pleanála  
Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

DART West + Railway Order Ref No NA29S.314232

To whom it may concern I wish to make the following observation on the Railway Order Ref No 314232. I welcome the electrification and the proposed improvement in train services However I would ask you to consider the following in granting the order.

- **Public consultation:** This is a major infrastructural programme which will affect thousands of citizens. The consultation was conducted during a pandemic and online only. Even when the restrictions were there was no attempt to hold in person meetings. We would have to question the legitimacy of this as a public consultation process. It excluded a large number of citizens who do not have access or skills to engage fully. Compare this consultation process to the recent EIRGRID process
- **Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA):** At the commencement of the process (Non-Statutory Consultation 1) There were many criticisms and errors detected in the MCAs but they were never revisited or corrected before the process moved on.
- **Capacity:** There is little doubt that the recent pandemic has changed working practices with legislation introduced to support the change. I would suggest a revised capacity assessment before this development progresses any further.
- **Level Crossing Closures:** I live in an area which will be seriously impacted by the closure of the level crossings. The signalling has not been upgraded for many years and I suggest the signalling be upgraded and the level crossings be left open until the “turn up and ride” service is in place. Currently the level crossing at Merrion Gates operates well with a similar service to that proposed by the development.
- **Lifts:** Although the pedestrian/cycle bridge are of improved design they are not acceptable for individuals with mobility issues. It is imperative that lifts be fitted in all rail stations.
- **Parking Management:** A drop of facility at Coolmine station will not solve the excessive parking in local housing estates which will be seriously exacerbated by the lack of access to the Railway carpark. I request a condition be inserted which ensures Fingal County Council

Irish Rail and Residents introduce an agreed parking management plan for all communities who will be affected.

- **Post Construction Reinstatement:** I suggest a condition be attached which ensures all trees, lands and hedgerows tampered with, cut down or damaged be reinstated post construction and landscapes be enhanced to mitigate the visual impact of the development.
- **School Safety:** A conditions should be attached that Irish Rail construct a footbridge at the realigned junction at Troy bridge to ensure the 2000+ children accessing the schools at the junction have a safe crossing space.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour and Safety:** The closure of the level crossings will result in many busy level crossings turning into quite dark areas overshadowed by large pedestrian/cycle bridges with no surveillance from passing vehicles I request Irish Rail meet with An Garda Siochána to ensure lighting, access points and surrounding areas are safe and monitored by CCTV
- **Castleknock Bridge:** As an access to a train station this bridge is not safe for suitable as access to a busy train station. It must be a condition of the Order that Irish Rail in *conjunction with Fingal County Council fund and deliver a suitable access road to this station.*
- **Architectural Structures:** There are many protected bridges along the stretch of the development and we would like lowering the railway line and using shorter overhead lines to avoid any interference or damage to architectural bridges.
- **Ashtown:** I would like further exploration of the need for an underground tunnel at Ashtown. This is an expensive and intrusive way of spending tax payers' money.

I would request that you permit an oral hearing.

I trust you will take my comments on board.

Yours sincerely

Fred Rogers