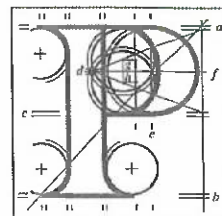


Our Case Number: ABP-314724-22

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Marie Balfe
31 Townsend Street
Dublin 2

Date: 06 December 2022

Re: Railway (Metrolink - Estuary to Charlemont via Dublin Airport) Order [2022]
Metrolink. Estuary through Swords, Dublin Airport, Ballymun, Glasnevin and City Centre to
Charlemont, Co. Dublin

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above-mentioned proposed Railway Order and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions/observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the relevant County Council(s) and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Niamh Thornton
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737247

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaao Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

MetroLink Railway Order - Case Reference Number NA29N.314724

Maria O'Connor, 26 Townsend Street, Dublin 2, D02 E032

23rd Nov 2022.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would be grateful if an Bord Pleanála would consider my observation on the following please, I wish to object to the unacceptable decision by Transport Infrastructure Ireland to go ahead with the Metrolink plans involving the Tara street station redevelopment at the expense of 78 homes and apartments and the local sports & leisure centre,

My home is one of those under threat, I am a tenant of DCC (Dublin City Council) and I live at 26 Townsend street and my house is due for demolition according to the Metrolink plans at Tara street (along with the other 77 homes & apartments), My parents moved into this house in Townsend street when it was built back in 1992, I then took up residence in the house in 2004 and have lived very happily here in the area for the last 18 years. It is a very close community, everybody knows one another and look after one another, a lot of the tenants are elderly and they rely on each other so this is a very frightening and worrying time for all involved. Several of these tenants were already forced to move back in 1992 from nearby Moss street area to make way for a large building development.

It is like this close inner city community is being pushed out of their area as Dublin City Council is now prioritising selling land to make money, rather than housing people and keeping communities intact. There is a sense of shock, anger and bewilderment in the area at the moment due to this unnecessary decision to demolish 78 homes (right in the middle of the biggest housing crisis in Ireland's history). What makes this decision even more ludicrous is the fact that there are other options out there for the Tara Street stage of Metrolink which would not involve destroying peoples homes, but these options have not been even been considered by Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

We are also disappointed with DCC's role in this, despite being long and loyal tenants we have been given no support or back up. DCC appear to be working closely with Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the National Transport Authority and the Metrolink project, pursuing the demolition of our homes and the Sports Centre, rather than in any way opposing the demolition or seeking alternatives which would preserve this community.

I have done my own research into this matter and found that there was a lack of proper investigation by Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Metrolink into the alternative routes that could have been used instead of this one that requires demolishing all these homes, there was also a lack of proper investigation of alternative construction methods (underground construction, rather than what they call cut and cover, for the Tara metro station) that would mean that our homes could be preserved.

Another factor to consider is that the land on which our houses sit is extremely valuable and the Metrolink group has a remit, once the new underground station has been built -- to sell this land which would at that stage be empty above ground -- in order to raise funds for the project, this is a blatant and obvious conflict of interest on the part of the state bodies involved.

Myself, my neighbours and the local community are all affected by this and we are determined to make a stand against it.

Since Transport Infrastructure Ireland made this announcement, my own health has suffered and I feel under constant stress along with so many others whose houses and homes are in danger, 78 houses and apartments, the local sports centre and swimming pool which is used by adults and children alike are all to be demolished, this cannot be allowed to happen,

I would like to finish by saying that I am not against Metrolink, I think a lot of the ideas and plans are excellent and Dublin city centre does need a rail link to the airport, and north county Dublin needs connection to the city. However the plans regarding the Tara street development of the Metrolink project must be stopped or changed, the country is in the middle of a housing crisis and there are other options for them to use which will not involve demolishing 78 homes and a sports centre,

I love my house and I am very happy in this area in Townsend street and I appeal to An Bord Pleanála to please not let them destroy my home and so many other residents homes in the area, especially when it is not necessary as there are other alternatives out there, I thank you for your help.

Kind Regards Maria O'Connor.

P.S. – This submission is also made on behalf of Marie Balfe of 31 Townsend street and Monica Deering of 32 Townsend street.