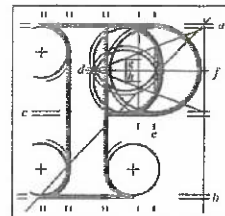


Our Case Number: ABP-314724-22

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Patricia Roe
73 Swords Road
Whitehall
Dublin 9

Date: 18 January 2023

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 (including your fee of €50) 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

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Metrolink Submission Railway Order (RO) 2022

ABP Ref: NC06F.302010

Councillor Patricia Roe

73 Swords Road

Whitehall

Dublin 9

I wish to make the following observations on the proposed Metrolink route, in particular the proposed Collins Avenue station at Our Lady Of Victories Church grounds and ventilation shaft in Albert College Park, Ballymun Road, Dublin 9.

I do not consider the current proposal for a station in the grounds of OLV church and the positioning of a ventilation shaft and car park within the current area of Albert College Park to be the optimum option. A much better long-term option would be to situate the station in the park, which would have a smaller footprint, post construction, and would allow for ease of access by the public and, in particular those accessing Dublin City University. An underground station would have far less lasting negative impact on the park and would fulfil the current Z9 zoning of the park lands.

I do not think that the repositioning of the station from the church lands to the park would have an adverse impact on passenger use and access to current and future bus routes. Albert College Residents Association (ACRA) including Ballymun Road North Residents have suggested an alternative location for the station in the Park which would entail one minute walk to main entrance to DCU (the main driver of passenger use at this location) and seven minute walk to Collins Avenue, to east/west bus connections.

If the station were relocated to Albert College Park, as outlined above, the ventilation shaft could be located at a vacant site adjacent to Ballymun Library directly along the Metrolink route. Residents in the area, in particular the representative Resident Associations, have actively engaged with every stage of the consultation and feel very strongly that alternative locations for the station and ventilation shaft have not been adequately considered.

While work on the station, if located in the park, will put several playing pitches out of commission for the duration of the build, and will cause disruption to park users and its wildlife, the location of a shaft, proposed carpark and access for emergency vehicles will also cause disruption whereas a Similarly designed station as the Griffith Park Station would minimise the impact on the park with far less permanent land take than the proposed ventilation shaft.

Works at the church will permanently impact access/egress to Albert College estate, will have a negative impact on residents in the two adjoining Assisted Living complex, the Church and particularly, OLV primary school located opposite the proposed station site. Works at the OLV site would also have a more negative impact on traffic flows for the duration of the pre-and build stage, preventing access to/from Albert College Estate, and onto Collins Avenue and due to the proximity to the major junction at Collins Ave / Ballymun Road and the drop off/collect parking requirements at OLV Primary schools.

I agree with and wish to support submissions from local resident associations: GADRA and ARCA(&Ballymun Road North Residents).

The relocation of the station to Albert College Park and the ventilation shaft to empty land beside Ballymun library is a positive option from both short term and long term objectives.

Short term advantages:

Less adverse impact on traffic on surrounding roads

Less adverse impact on OLV Schools

Removes risk of Seniors having to vacate homes at Albert College Court and Hampstead Court

Long Term advantages:

Smaller station footprint with less adverse impact on surrounding area

Less land take from Albert College Park

More convenient for those accessing DCU (largest driver of passenger movement at this stop)

Less risk of impeding/changing flow of underground river Wad = less risk of flooding for Ballymun Road residents

Retains OLV church frontage and architectural appearance