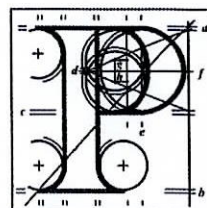


Our Case Number: ABP-314724-22



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Proinsias Mac Fhlannchadha
6 Wilkins Court
Limekiln Lane
Dublin 12
D12 AR00

Date: 29 November 2022

Re: Railway (Metrolink - Estuary to Charlemont via Dublin Airport) Order [2022]
Motrolink. 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 and oral hearing request (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.

The Board has absolute discretion to hold an oral hearing in respect of any application before it, in accordance with section 218 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Accordingly, the Board will inform you on this matter in due course.

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.

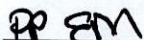
More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: www.pleanala.ie.

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.

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó 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

Yours faithfully,



Niamh Thornton
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737247

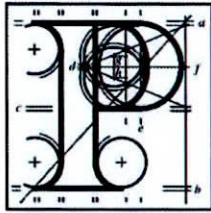
RA05 (No Receipt to Issue)

Tel
Glaao Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel (01) 858 8100
LoCall 1890 275 175
Fax (01) 872 2684
Website www.pleanala.ie
Email bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902



Observation on a Strategic Infrastructure Development Application

Observer's details

1. Observer's details (person making the observation)

If you are making the observation, write your full name and address.

If you are an agent completing the observation for someone else, write the observer's details:

(a) Observer's name

Proinsias Mac Fhlannchadha

(b) Observer's postal address

6 Wilkins Court, Limekiln Lane, Dublin D12 AR00.

Agent's details

2. Agent's details (if applicable)

If you are an agent and are acting for someone else **on this observation**, please **also** write your details below.

If you are not using an agent, please write "Not applicable" below.

(a) Agent's name

Click or tap here to enter text.

(b) Agent's postal address

Click or tap here to enter text.

Postal address for letters

3. During the process to decide the application, we will post information and items to you or to your agent. For this **current application**, who should we write to? (Please tick ✓ one box only)

You (the observer) at the postal address in Part 1

☒

The agent at the postal address in Part 2

☐

Details about the proposed development

4. Please provide details about the **current application** you wish to make an observation.

- (a) **An Bord Pleanála case number for the current application (if available)**
(for example: 300000)

NA29N.314724

- (b) **Name or description of proposed development**

Estuary through Swords, Dublin Airport, Ballymun, Glasnevin and City Centre to Charlemont, Co. Dublin

- (c) **Location of proposed development**

(for example: 1 Main Street, Baile Fearainn, Co Abhaile)

Dublin City Council

Observation details

5. Grounds

Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below. There is **no word limit** as the box expands to fit what you write.

You can also insert photographs or images in this box. (See part 6 – Supporting materials for more information).

Dear sir/madam,

I wish to firstly state my full support for the Metro plan with the exception of the intention to extend to Charlemont. As confirmed by the NTA, the Draft Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2040 was presented for Public Consultation in January with the report issued to the Minister in April. Under Section 12 of the Dublin Transport Authority Act, until such time as the Minister approves the Draft Plan for 2022-2040, the plan covering this development is the [Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy \(2016-2035\)](#) ("the Plan") and any reference to draft plans in this application is premature by the Applicant.

Under the Plan, section 5.3.1 clearly states that "*New Metro North is a **modified version of the original Metro North proposal** which proposes providing a similar service at significantly reduced costs...This new metro line will provide a high-speed, high-capacity, high-frequency public transport link from the city centre to Dublin Airport and Swords. New Metro North will serve a large number of significant destinations, including Ballymun, Dublin City University and the Mater Hospital, and will interchange with other rail and bus services in the vicinity of Drumcondra, O'Connell Street and **St. Stephen's Green**.*" It is clear from this document that there is no requirement nor policy for the Metro North to extend beyond St. Stephens Green. Any extension of the Metro North Scheme to Charlemont is included in the "Metro South (5.3.1)/ Luas Green Line Capacity Enhancements (5.3.2) both of which have been removed in the Draft Dublin Strategy (2022-2040) and therefore one must ask why the extension to Charlemont, a poorly

5. Grounds

served station with poor amenities, especially for those with additional needs, has been included as part of the Metro North Planning Application. As noted in JASPERS [external technical assessment of the Metro North Project](#) (Preliminary Business Case) incorporating Independent External Review issued on the the 2nd of May, 2022) *"It is noted that the revised design for St Stephens Green arose following the objective to provide a connection to Charlemont/Ranelagh, which is **no longer considered a priority by the independent review team.**"* Of pertinence also as opined by the external consultants *"several technical aspects of the project appear to make the project expensive; in particular...the inclusion of the connection to Ranelagh/ Charlemont."* Given the inordinate costs of the project to date in comparison to other European projects of a similar nature this unmerited extension to Charlemont should be value engineered out of the Metro North Project.

Also as advised by JASPERS in their "Project Review: Phase 3 (Preliminary Business Case) incorporating Independent External Review issued on the the 2nd of May, 2022 *"The connection to Ranelagh could feasibly be deferred until there is clarity on the future of the Luas Green Line,"* highlighting the external assessors difficulty in obtaining comfort in the rationale for the extension to Charlemont. Given that the Metro South and Luas Capacity Enhancements do not feature in the draft GDA Transport Strategy 2022-2040 there is no merit in continuing this extension to Charlemont and in fact to do so is tantamount to poor project planning and a waste of money by the NTA as it may jeopardise further expansion plans to other areas of Dublin, in particular South West Dublin.

I hope that the Bord can consider approving this valuable scheme which will greatly help improve connectivity in the GDA but omit the extension of the Metro North to Charlemont due to the lack of support for an extension to same and the impact it may have on future extensions to the line.

Supporting materials

6. If you wish, you can include supporting materials with your observation.

Supporting materials include:

- photographs,
- plans,
- surveys,
- drawings,
- digital videos or DVDs,
- technical guidance, or
- other supporting materials.

You can insert photographs and similar items in your observation details: grounds (part 5 of this form).

If your supporting materials are physical objects, you must send them together with your observation by post or deliver it in person to our office. You cannot use the online uploader facility.

Fee

7. You **must** make sure that the correct fee is included with your observation.

Observers (except prescribed bodies)

- strategic infrastructure observation is €50.
- there is no fee for an oral hearing request

Oral hearing request

8. If you wish to **request the Board to hold an oral hearing**, please tick the “Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing” box below.

You can find information on how to make this request on [our website](#) or by contacting us.

If you do not wish to request an oral hearing, please tick the “No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing” box.

Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing

☐ Yes

No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing

☐

Final steps before you send us your observations

9. If you are sending us your observation using **the online uploader facility**, remember to save this document as a Microsoft word or PDF and title it with:

- the case number and your name, or
- the name and location of the development and your name.

This also applies to prescribed bodies sending an observation by email.

If you are sending your observation to us by post or delivering in person, remember to print off all the pages of this document and send it to us.

For Office Use Only

FEM – Received		SIDS – Processed	
Initials		Initials	
Date		Date	

Notes