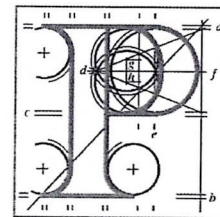


• **Our Case Number:** ABP-314724-22



An
Bord
Pleanála

Sadhbh O'Neill
18 Convent Hill Terrace
Co. Waterford
X91 N5WP

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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Sadbh O' Neill
18 Convent Hill Terrace
Waterford
X91 N5WP
Tel: 353 (0)87 2258599

Re: Observation re Railway (Metrolink – Estuary to Charlemont via
Dublin Airport) Order 2022

13th January 2023

I understand that the Bord is considering the application by TII for a railway order in relation to the first phase of the Metrolink project. I write simply to emphasize the vital importance of this project going ahead as quickly as possible. Ireland now has a legal obligation to reduce greenhouse gas emission to net-zero by 2050 at the latest. This will require an economy-wide effort to transform current infrastructure and behavior so that the production and consumption of services, along with related supply chains, is done with much higher levels of energy efficiency and with renewables in the first instance with a view to eliminating our reliance on fossil fuels for most sectors well before mid-century.

For the transport sector, which contributes 15% of total annual GHGs, major improvements will be required in infrastructure planning and spending to reduce car dependency and offer sustainable mobility solutions. The recently published Climate Action Plan 2023 notes: "Travel preferences are deeply embedded through settlement patterns, policies, and mindsets, which favour private car usage over more sustainable transport modes." The Plan promotes a new approach based on a recent OECD report commissioned by the Climate Change Advisory Council, which prioritises transport policymaking along an Avoid-Shift-Improve framework. The "Shift" part of the framework necessitates dramatic improvements to Ireland's public transport network so it can offer seamless, integrated mobility services and offer a realistic alternative to private motorised vehicles.

The case for fast, frequent and high-capacity public transport between Dublin Airport and the city centre has been well made and it is nothing short of scandalous that it has taken this long to develop proposals for a rail/ light rail/ metro service. For this reason I am fully supportive of the Metrolink project and would urge you to approve it as quickly as possible. Linking the Metrolink line to the Luas network makes sense however I would argue that extending the proposed line to Charlemont out to UCD should be considered.

The campus generates over 7 million annual commuting trips but is poorly catered for by public transport and bus services that mostly service the Stillorgan dual carriageway. At peak times, bus capacity is not sufficient to meet demand and many staff and students drive because it is so much more quick and less complicated. I would urge the board to reconsider the possibility of extending the Metrolink past Charlemont out towards Stillorgan through the UCD campus.

Yours sincerely,