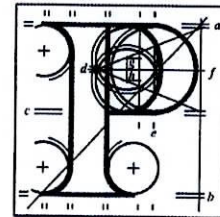


Our Case Number: ABP-316119-23

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Dublin Chamber
C/O Stephen Browne
7 Clare Street
Dublin 2

Date: 01 June 2023

Re: DART+ South West Electrified Heavy Railway Order - Hazelhatch & Celbridge Station to Heuston Station,
and Hesuton Station to Glasnevin
County Dublin and County Kildare

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,

Eimear Reilly
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737184

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Submission to An Bord Pleanála on Dart+ South West Railway Order Application.

Dublin Chamber is a strong supporter of public transport and recognises its importance to the success of Dublin. Businesses throughout Dublin need an effective public transport system for both their employees and consumers alike. Dublin Chamber welcomed the commitment given in the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan to implement the DART expansion plan as one of the major national infrastructure projects to be accessed and delivered by 2027. The Dart+ Programme will triple the length of the DART network from 50km to 150km of integrated railway corridor through the electrification and upgrading of existing lines. By using and upgrading the current infrastructure, the DART+ programme can be delivered rapidly as the DART is already over capacity during peak rush hours. This programme has the potential to be transformative for the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) by providing a sustainable and most importantly, a reliable and frequent rail service.

We in Dublin Chamber strongly urge the Board to approve the Railway Order for this project at the earliest opportunity to allow works to begin. Dublin Chamber and its members have long been supporters of the extension and the electrification of rail in the capital. Dublin's population now has far outpaced the targets of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and continues to grow. Dublin's hinterland has also continued to grow. The 2022 Census shows Kildare as one of the three fastest growing areas in the country. We understand that the NPF will be reviewed later this year as a result. The rapid population growth in the Greater Dublin Area suggests that DART+ South West is urgently needed.

An increase in rail transport services in the City Region but will also go some way in helping to reach the Government's carbon reduction targets of 50% by 2030.

Dublin Chamber's Position.

The Greater Dublin Transport Strategy lays out a number of projects that if completed on time will see the construction of a number of badly needed transport connections for the Dublin area. Dart+ South West is one of these. Cars and congestion have been a hallmark of the transport experience for many commuters coming to work in the capital, however, having a fast and reliable rail link from the commuter belt in Kildare directly to the city centre at Heuston Station would foster a major modal shift away from cars to public transport. This project in isolation will have a small impact, to transform Dublin's public transport system entirely we need to implement the full DART+ Programme alongside the MetroLink, BusConnects and the Greater Dublin Area Cycling Network Plan.

Dublin's continued growth and development underscores the need for the swift and ongoing development of transport links across all forms of public transport including rail. The DART+ projects are a key plank of this. Improving and investing in key infrastructure projects, such as the DART+ South West extension, are vital to sustaining growth and maintaining Dublin's competitiveness. Dublin Chamber is an advocate for transport oriented development and that development, particularly the development of housing, employment, public services and leisure spaces, occur within close proximity to key public transport corridors or facilities. The NPF also highlights how developing new public transport corridors can open up key sites in the city for brownfield regeneration. By developing the DART+ South West we can enable community transformation by opening up areas to new opportunities. The increased capacity of the DART and its ability to create modal change can act as a catalyst for local regeneration.

We would urge the Board to approve the application for a Railway Order for this project at the earliest opportunity, so that building works can take place and the timelines for the project are met. We in Dublin Chamber are at the Board's disposal should an Oral Hearing be held.

Contact:
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