

Annex 2: NTA Letter of Consent

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3rd July 2024

Re: DART+ Coastal North Electrified Heavy Railway Order

Dear Mr. Reynolds,

As you will be aware, the Government has authorised the granting of approval in respect of Approval Gate 1 (under the Infrastructure Guidelines) in respect of the DART+ Coastal North element of the overall DART+ Programme. Following the Government's authorisation, I can now confirm formal consent in respect of Approval Gate 1 for the DART+ Coastal North element of the overall DART+ Programme, permitting the submission of a Railway Order application in respect of the DART+ Coastal North project.

I also can confirm that, pursuant to Section 37(1) of the Transport (Railway Infrastructure) Act 2001 as amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006, the Authority hereby grants its consent to the submission of a railway order application by Coras Iompair Éireann to An Bord Pleanála, being the DART+ Coastal North Electrified Heavy Railway Order.

As you know, the project concerns railway infrastructure other than metro or light railway for the purposes of section 44(2) of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 (the "2008 Act") in the Greater Dublin Area (as defined in the 2008 Act) (the "Project Infrastructure"). Accordingly, the Authority confirms that Iarnród Éireann - Irish Rail, being a subsidiary company of Coras Iompair Éireann, is performing, in accordance with section 44(2) of the 2008 Act, to the extent relating to such Project Infrastructure, the Authority's functions under section 44(1) of the 2008 Act.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Graham,
Chief Executive.

cc. *Hugh Creegan, Eoin Gillard, Marcello Corsi – NTA*
Paul Hendrick, Paul Wilcock – Iarnród Éireann



27th May 2024

Hugh Creegan
Deputy Chief Executive
National Transport Authority

Sent by email

Re. Approval by Government of DART+ Coastal North at Approval Gate 1

Dear Hugh,

I refer to the DART+ Coastal North Preliminary Business Case (PBC) prepared by Iarnród Éireann (IÉ) and submitted to the Department of Transport by the National Transport Authority (NTA). The Department of Transport and the Government have considered the PBC in line with the requirements of the Infrastructure Guidelines, specifically at Approval Gate 1, as outlined in this letter.

Government Consent for Approval

At the Cabinet meeting of 21st May 2024, the Government gave consent for Approval Gate 1 in respect of the DART+ Coastal North project, pursuant to the Infrastructure Guidelines. This consent enables a Railway Order (planning) application for the project to be lodged by Córas Iompair Éireann (CIÉ) to An Bord Pleanála, which we understand will occur by this July, bringing the project to the next stage in its development lifecycle.

Governance Arrangements

The NTA is the Approving Authority and IÉ is the Sponsoring Agency in relation to the overall DART+ Programme, including the DART+ Coastal North project. The governance and monitoring arrangements established by the Department of Transport for large sustainable mobility projects will continue to apply throughout the delivery of the DART+ Programme, including through the Major Projects Governance Oversight Group (MPGOG). In this context and in line with the Infrastructure Guidelines, the Department will continue to advise the Minister for Transport throughout the development of the DART+ Programme, including DART+ Coastal North.

Future Considerations

The DART+ Coastal North PBC was reviewed by the Department's Public Transport Investment and Policy Division and Strategic Research and Analysis Division (SRAD), as well as by JASPERS.

The JASPERS review of the PBC, as already shared with the NTA, was broadly positive. However, they noted a number of areas that they considered ought to be reviewed in future, including as part of a revised Business Case at a later stage in the project lifecycle. Accordingly, as the project is developed,



the Department expects that relevant JASPERS recommendations are considered in a future iteration of the project Business Case, prior to final review by the Government ahead of Approval Gate 3.

I look forward to continued engagement with the NTA and IÉ on this important public transport project, and wish you well in its development.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Ebrill
Principal Officer
Public Transport Investment and Policy Division

CC by email includes: Garret Doocey, Assistant Secretary, Department of Transport; Eoin Gillard, Assistant Director, NTA.