

Submission No.	92
Organisation Name or Name of Submitter	Failte Ireland

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Ref: Railway (Metrolink-Estuary to Charlemont via Dublin Airport) Order 2022 (Letter 24/11/2022)

1	Letter	2	Failte Ireland is fully supportive of this infrastructure project and are pleased to see it progress to the planning phase.	<p>TII would like to thank Failte Ireland for taking the time to make this submission. Your positive support is gratefully appreciated, and for the reasons you have set out, TII are committed to realising the MetroLink Project to address the challenges highlighted and to deliver the benefits that MetroLink will bring.</p> <p>We note the observations made in your letter, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Dublin Airport is the key access point for the island of Ireland and the visitor experience and the ease of transit of our visitors to and from the airport is vitally important. •International tourists would rather use public transport (or indeed walk) to navigate around the city. Therefore, an efficient and reliable transport system is a key requirement. •MetroLink will create an integrated transport network which connects Irish Rail, DART+, Luas and BusConnects services. •The Project has an essential part to play in enabling sustainable visitor movement and transit from Dublin to our regional cities and towns. •Driving decarbonisation of the tourism sector is a key priority of Failte Ireland's strategy. •Objective is to protect, enhance and promote both our natural and built heritage for the common benefits for visitor, industry, community and the environment. Therefore, continuing to shift our visitors onto sustainable modes of transport is a priority which will also result in a significantly improved visitor experience. <p>The objective of the MetroLink Project is to provide a sustainable, safe, efficient, integrated and accessible public transport service between Swords, Dublin Airport and Dublin City Centre. TII are working closely with daa to provide an integrated air and rail transport system that will provide onward connectivity to the wider transport network and country. The Project has been designed to ensure maximum interchange with other modes of transport, specifically more sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport, and a modal shift from private car use, creating an improved environment for Dublin.</p> <p>TII are equally committed and supportive of Failte Ireland's commitment to sustainability. In 2021 TII published a Sustainability Implementation Plan – "Our Future" (TII 2021a). Within this plan, six key sustainability principles have been developed to reflect TII's organisational ambition to lead in the delivery and operation of sustainable transport. 'Transition to net zero' principles focus on reduction of the carbon impact of construction, operation, and use of the transport network through responsible use of resources, reuse and repurposing, as well as driving the net-zero transition and enabling customers to make more sustainable choices.</p>
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