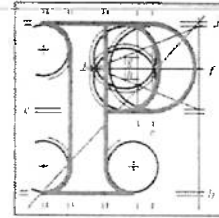


Our Case Number: ABP-320164-24



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Cllr Mícheál Mac Donncha
251 Kilbarrack Road
Dublin 5
D05 A6KO

Date: 08 October 2024

Re: DART + Coastal North Railway Order 2024 - Northern Line between Dublin City Centre and Drogheda including the Howth Branch
Dublin City Centre and Drogheda, located in counties Dublin, Meath and Louth

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed railway order and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

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 Councils 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 officer of the Board at laps@pleanala.ie Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,


Aisling Reilly
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737131

RA05

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An Bórd Pleanála

NA29N.320164

Dart + Coastal North

Observation from

Councillor Mícheál Mac Donncha, Donaghmede Local Electoral Area, Dublin City Council

Address: 251 Kilbarrack Road, Dublin 5, D05 A6KO.

mmacdonncha@gmail.com

I welcome the DART + Coastal North Project in so far as it will improve rail services with all the associated benefits for commuters, visitors, our economy and our environment. Investment in and development of public transport is vital and has widespread public support. That said, serious and significant problems remain in the proposed plan, specifically with regard to the Howth Branch and Howth Junction/Donaghmede station.

The Planning Report states:

“Significant volumes of submissions raised objections to the proposed DART shuttle service proposed to enable DART frequency on the Northern Line to be maximised. Many of these submissions centred their objections around the need to interchange at Howth Junction & Donaghmede Station, a loss of direct services to Dublin City Centre from the Howth Peninsula during peak periods, and the knock-on effects on the surrounding road network associated with increased level crossing closure times.”

It must be emphasised that these public concerns remain among communities served by Howth, Sutton, Bayside and Howth Junction/Donaghmede stations. The concerns have not been allayed in the period since the initial consultation.

In my view the plan does not strike a correct balance between the desirable objective of maximising frequency on the Northern line and of at least continuing a high standard of service on the Howth Branch. Sacrificing a direct service on one line for a more frequent service on another, albeit more frequented line, should be avoided. It appears to me that Iarnród Éireann has not shown that adequate efforts were made to avoid this and to eliminate any

necessity for a shuttle to and from Howth and an interchange at Howth Junction/Donaghmede.

With regard to Howth Junction/Donaghmede station itself there is a lack of information on exactly what is planned for the station and a lack of consultation with the local community. At a well-attended public meeting called by the Donaghmede Estate Residents Association on 16 September 2024 it was very clear that there was no public awareness of the full implications of the plan for the station, what changes are to be made, what is to be demolished, what is to be constructed, the timeline and the impact on the surrounding area.

A public display of plans and opportunity for exchange was organised by Arup on behalf of Iarnród Éireann in Sutton for communities on the Howth Branch. However, a request by the Donaghmede Estate Residents Association for the same public engagement in Donaghmede was refused. This is not acceptable. For such a major national and publicly funded infrastructure project public information and engagement are essential.

In light of the above I submit that the Howth Branch and Howth Junction/Donaghmede aspect of this plan should be reconfigured to address the widespread concerns raised and, at the very least, should be put on hold pending proper public consultation with the community served by Howth Junction/Donaghmede station.