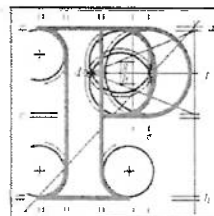


**Our Case Number:** ABP-320164-24



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Colin Doyle and Others  
Shandon  
133 Dublin Road  
Sutton  
Dublin 13  
D13 T2V0

**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 and oral hearing request 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](http://www.pleanala.ie).

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact the undersigned officer of the Board at [laps@pleanala.ie](mailto: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

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
Ríomhphost	Email	<a href="mailto:bord@pleanala.ie">bord@pleanala.ie</a>

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

Colin Doyle

Shandon

133 Dublin Road

Sutton

Dublin 13

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An Bord Pleanála

64 Marlborough St

Rotunda

Dublin 1

September 20<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Case Number: 320164

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make an objection to DART+ Coastal North, case number 320164. This is on behalf of myself and my family (wife and 3 teenage daughters at the above address). Please note it also impacts my elderly father, Frank Doyle of 201 Sarto Lawn, Bayside as well as my sister Suzanne Doyle and her family in 11 Del Val Avenue, Sutton – all of whom (like so many in the affected locality) fully support this objection.

The reasons are:

**1. Loss of direct DART services**

The direct DART services from Howth, Sutton and Bayside to the city centre and beyond are vital to keep our communities connected.

DART services have been running to Bayside, Sutton and Howth for 40 years, and a direct train service has been running to Howth Station since 1847.

## **2. Level crossings**

A shuttle DART service operating every 10 minutes in each direction would cause the level crossings to be closed for up to 30 minutes of every hour.

For example, the crossing at Sutton Station could be closed for more than 32 minutes of every hour, and the Baldoyle Road crossing could be closed for more than 30 minutes of every hour in a worst case scenario. (Appendix A6.1 Dart+ Coastal North Level Crossing Assessment page 11)

## **3. Increased traffic**

The traffic assessment submitted by Irish Rail as part of their application shows that longer closures of the level crossings will result in more traffic congestion.

The traffic study states that traffic queues on Baldoyle Road could be up to 59% longer than they currently are. (Appendix A6.1 Dart+ Coastal North Level Crossing Assessment page 29)

This has the potential to impact traffic on the wider road network including buses and cars that aren't passing through the level crossings.

## **4. Sustainable travel**

It is National Policy to encourage people to use sustainable transport instead of their cars.

77% of people who took part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> public consultation said they would not be encouraged to use the DART over their cars. (Appendix A3.2 PC2 Findings Report page 21)

Furthermore, Irish Rail's 2<sup>nd</sup> public consultation report found that:

*"The loss of direct services to Dublin City Centre was regularly cited in submissions as grounds for existing DART users from the Howth Peninsula to revert from DART usage to private car usage."*

- Appendix A3.2 PC2 Findings Report page 33

Removing direct DART services does not align with our national transport and climate policy.

## **5. Accessibility**

A shuttle DART service will require people to transfer DARTs at Howth Junction Station if they want to continue into the City Centre.

This will cause difficulties for people with disabilities, limited mobility, and wheelchair users where they need to use the lifts in the station.

In 2023 the Irish Independent reported that lifts at Irish Rail stations were marked out of service over 800 times in just 18 months. It can take days, and even weeks for lifts to be repaired.

## **6. Local businesses**

The loss of direct DART services will have significant negative impacts on local business in Baldoyle, Sutton and Howth.

Businesses will have to grapple with delays to their deliveries and longer journey times for staff and customers.

## **7. Oral Hearing**

I request that An Bord Pleanála holds an Oral Hearing for the DART+ planning application. An Oral Hearing will allow further discussion about the project and the negative impacts these changes will have.

## **Additional**

I also wish to express that many residents in the locality may have lost trust in the process, given ABP's recent high profile resignations and negative publicity. That said, I wish to continue to follow the process, but am aware of others who will not submit due to lack of confidence. This is a dreadful position to be in for our republic.

Others may not have the fee easily disposable, especially during the return to school time of year.

I would therefore request that you take into full consideration the online petitions that have been filled out.

Is mise le meas,

Colin Doyle.