

DART+ Maynooth Line - MCA Stage 1						
Blakestown Level Crossing Assessment						
Parameter	Criteria	Sub-Criteria (Quantitative/ Qualitative)	Do Nothing	Do Minimum	Option 1	
1	Economy	1.1 Construction and Land Cost	Assessment of cost of construction of option, land costs, acquisition costs and temporary works	Significant comparative advantage over other options	Some comparative advantage over other options	Highly competitive advantage over other options
		1.2 Long Term Maintenance costs	Identify options to reduce costs for structures and maintaining level crossings over remaining term	The existing scenario would maintain the existing maintenance costs of the level crossing	The closure of the level crossing would reduce the maintenance requirement of the level crossing	An advantage would be reduced maintenance requirements and opening costs over level crossing
		1.3 Traffic Functionality/economic benefit	Benefits to vehicular traffic through reduction in journey time lengths and delays through removal of level crossings. Consideration of potentially longer routes for traffic	Existing connectivity maintained, albeit with increased distance from alternative bus routes. There is a slight time increase on the route following over-bridging and above passing times	Displacement of traffic onto alternative routes, increase in journey time for local residents	Displacement of traffic onto alternative routes, increase in journey time for local residents
2	Integration	2.1 Transport Integration	Impact on access for and ease of interchange between modes. Impact on the operation of other transport services both during construction and in operation. New interchange routes and facilities. Reduced walking and wait times associated with interchanges. Modal shift figures during construction and operations. Changes to journey times to transport routes.	Existing connectivity maintained, albeit with increased distance from alternative bus routes. There is a slight time increase on the route following over-bridging and above passing times	Reduction in journey time. Reduced access to Royal Canal Cycle Duvois	Reduction in journey time
		2.2 Land Use Integration	Impact on land use strategies and regional and local plans. Assessment of support for land use factors local land use and planning. Includes of project in relevant local and regional planning documents.	Does not meet the higher level regional and local plans and would not be considered as part of the local use planning process outlined in the LAMP 2021-2027, unless it includes the level crossing which is required to be removed	Regional, national, regional and local planning policy. The consideration of land use factors is contained in a strategic level in the Dublin Metropolitan Council plan. The local planning process requires to include the associated transportation scheme. Therefore, land use planning is not a constraint on the proposed level crossing. However, the proposed level crossing is not in line with the regional and local planning policies. The proposed level crossing is not in line with the regional and local planning policies. The proposed level crossing is not in line with the regional and local planning policies.	Regional, national, regional and local planning policy. The consideration of land use factors is contained in a strategic level in the Dublin Metropolitan Council plan. The local planning process requires to include the associated transportation scheme. Therefore, land use planning is not a constraint on the proposed level crossing. However, the proposed level crossing is not in line with the regional and local planning policies. The proposed level crossing is not in line with the regional and local planning policies. The proposed level crossing is not in line with the regional and local planning policies.
		2.3 Geographical Integration	Impact on improvement of external links. Desires to link various development - mostly rural due to isolated nature of the level crossing. Overall classification scheme would be highly positive.	Original Distance from access to farm to R148 junction 270m retained	Shorter distance route 3.2m (1% diversion route)	Shorter distance route 3.2m (1% diversion route)
		2.4 Other Government Policy	Integration with Government Policy. Smarter Travel, Investment Programme, rail safety, classification etc	Meeting the existing does not meet government policy	Closing the crossing will meet other transport needs government policy but not rail	Meeting existing and provide to rail
3	Environment	3.1 Noise and Vibration	Estimated number of people likely to be affected by transport related noise with the scheme within 50m.	No significant impacts predicted at this stage	No significant impacts predicted at this stage	Removes with traffic increases however will have short term construction impact
		3.2 Air Quality and Climate	Local air quality effects. No number of receptors within 50m.	No significant impacts predicted at this stage	Removes vehicle traffic and associated construction phase	Removes vehicle traffic therefore reducing nitrogen and particulate matter. No new traffic, however increased traffic impacts from short term construction impact
		3.3 Landscape and Visual (including light)	Key landscape characteristics affected. Effects on listed key views, impact on landscape character.	No impact on existing landscape or visual characteristics	No impact on existing landscape or visual characteristics	The options involve limited physical alterations to existing landscape. No significant impacts on existing landscape or visual characteristics
		3.4 Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	Potential compliance/conflict with biodiversity objectives, listed plants on protected species, designated sites. Overall effect on nature conservation resources	No impact on existing landscape or visual characteristics	No impact on existing landscape or visual characteristics	Highly competitive advantage over other options
		3.5 Cultural, Archaeological and Architectural Heritage	Overall effect on cultural, archaeological and architectural heritage resources (built effects and DCH) National	No impact on existing landscape or visual characteristics	No impact on existing landscape or visual characteristics	Highly competitive advantage over other options
		3.6 Water Resources	Overall potential significant effects on water resource attributes likely to be affected during construction and operation.	Minimal negative impact on water resource attributes during construction phase. Minimal construction phase impacts on water. Some comparative advantages over other options	Minimal negative impact on water resource attributes during construction phase. Minimal construction phase impacts on water. Some comparative advantages over other options	Minimal negative impact on groundwater quality during construction phase
		3.7 Agriculture and Non-Agriculture	Overall impact on land take & property. Number of properties to be impacted/acquired. Early temporary or permanent severance effects, etc.	There is no impact on agriculture or non-agriculture property	There is no impact on agriculture or non-agriculture property	Highly competitive advantage over other options
		3.8 Geology and Soils (including Waste)	Soils and Geology and likely impact on geological resources based on preliminary construction details. Soil resources to be developed/removed. Existing information relating to potential to encounter contaminated land. High level assessment based on the likely structure/ works required and the potential for ground contamination due to historic landfills, pits and quarries	Highly competitive advantage over other options	Highly competitive advantage over other options	Highly competitive advantage over other options
4	Accessibility & Social Inclusion	4.1 Impact on Vulnerable Groups	Overall likely impact on existing sources of electromagnetic radiation.	No change from an EMR perspective therefore advantage over other options	No change from an EMR perspective therefore advantage over other options	It is assumed that the routing of the crossing, the location of existing overhead lines etc, will be the same as or improved by the location of any of the options over the entire project. As Do-Nothing option an improvement from an EMR perspective at the project the assessment
		4.2 Stations Accessibility	Quantification of increased service levels to the vulnerable groups.	Original Distance from access to farm to R148 junction 270m retained	Original Distance from access to farm to R148 junction 270m retained	Original Distance from access to farm to R148 junction 270m retained
		4.3 Social Inclusion	Quantification of service levels impacts including severance to all groups. Overview of local connectivity through removal of level crossings without connection would be worst under this heading	No change from an EMR perspective therefore advantage over other options	Shorter distance route 3.2m (1% diversion route)	Shorter distance route 3.2m (1% diversion route), pedestrian and cyclist and an increased road users safety for
5	Safety	5.1 Rail Safety	Safety for Rail users - removal of LC possible in this respect	Monitoring the crossing will be a significant challenge to rail safety for crossing the rail	Closing the crossing will remove the barrier between rail and pedestrian crossings	Closing the crossing will remove the barrier between rail and pedestrian crossings
		5.2 Vehicular Traffic Safety	Quality of Access for these road users, lengths of diversions, removal of interfaces with rail and other modes of transport	Monitoring the crossing will be a significant challenge to rail safety for vehicles using the rail	Closing the crossing will remove the barrier between rail and pedestrian crossings	Closing the crossing will remove the barrier between rail and pedestrian crossings
		5.3 Pedestrian, Cyclist and Vulnerable Road user Safety	Quality of Access for these road users, removal of interfaces	Original Distance from R148 junction to Berkenham North Road junction 300m retained, however footpaths access with train line	No cycle tracks on the immediately surrounding road network, but the closure of the level crossing would reduce access to the Royal Canal Duvois, see also Transport Register data	Original Distance from access to farm to R148 junction 270m retained
6	Physical Activity	6.1 Connectivity to adjoining cycling facilities	Analysis of the extent that the scheme connects with cycle tracks	Some comparative advantage over other options	Highly competitive advantage over other options	Highly competitive advantage over other options
		6.2 Permeability and local connectivity opportunity	Journey Time and lengths of diversions for active modes and numbers affected. Analysis of the connectivity between level crossing and green amenity/ attractions related to active mode	No active mode connectivity present in the immediate surrounding road network, but increased closure of the level crossing would reduce access to the Royal Canal Duvois, see also Transport Register data	Some comparative advantage over other options	Some comparative advantage over other options

Criteria	Do Nothing	Do Minimum	Option 1
1 Economy	Highly competitive advantage over other options	Some comparative advantage over other options	Highly competitive advantage over other options
2 Integration	Some comparative advantage over other options	Some comparative advantage over other options	Some comparative advantage over other options
3 Environment	Highly competitive advantage over other options	Highly competitive advantage over other options	Highly competitive advantage over other options
4 Accessibility and social inclusion	Some comparative advantage over other options	Highly competitive advantage over other options	Some comparative advantage over other options
5 Safety	Highly competitive advantage over other options	Some comparative advantage over other options	Highly competitive advantage over other options
6 Physical Activity	Some comparative advantage over other options	Highly competitive advantage over other options	Highly competitive advantage over other options
Progress To Stage 2	No	Yes	Yes
Comment			