

## PRELIMINARY OPTIONS SELECTION REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

















# **Executive Summary**

#### ES1.1 DART+ Programme Overview

The DART+ Programme is a transformative railway investment programme that will modernise and improve the existing rail services in the Greater Dublin Area. It will provide a sustainable, electrified, reliable and more frequent rail service, improving capacity on rail corridors serving Dublin.



Figure ES-0-1 DART+ Programme

The current electrified DART network is 50km long, extending from Malahide / Howth to Bray / Greystones. The DART+ Programme will increase the length of the DART network to 150km of railway corridor through the electrification and upgrade of existing lines transforming commuter train travel in the Greater Dublin Area. This modernisation includes the electrification, re-signalling, and certain interventions to remove constraints across the four main rail corridors, as per below:

 DART+ South West (this Project) – circa 16km between Hazelhatch & Celbridge Station to Heuston Station and also circa 4km between Heuston Station to Glasnevin, via the Phoenix Park Tunnel Branch Line.









- DART+ West circa 40km from Maynooth & M3 Parkway Stations to the City Centre.
- DART+ Coastal North circa 50km from Drogheda to the City Centre.
- DART+ Coastal South circa 30km from Greystones to the City Centre.
- DART+ Fleet purchase of new electrified fleet to serve new and existing routes.

DART+ Programme is a key transportation improvement to form a high quality and integrated public transport system. It will have benefits for the residents of the Greater Dublin Area and also those living in the other regions. It will assist in providing a sustainable transport system and a societal benefit for current and future generations.

The Programme has also been prioritised as part of *Project Ireland 2040* and the *National Development Plan 2018-2027* as it is integral to the provision of an integrated, high-quality public transport system.

Delivery of the Programme will also promote transport migration away from the private car and to public transport. This transition will be achieved through a more frequent and accessible electrified service, which will result in reduced road congestion, especially during peak commuter periods.

Ultimately, the DART+ Programme will provide enhanced, greener public transport to communities along the DART+ Programme routes, delivering economic and societal benefits for current and future generations.

#### ES1.2 DART+ SOUTH WEST OVERVIEW

The DART+ South West Project will deliver an electrified network, with increased passenger capacity and enhanced train service between Hazelhatch & Celbridge Station to Heuston Station (circa 16km) on the Cork Mainline, and Heuston Station to Glasnevin via Phoenix Park Tunnel Branch Line (circa 4km).

DART+ South West will complete four tracking between Park West & Cherry Orchard Station and Heuston Station, in addition to re-signalling and electrification of the entire route. The completion of the four tracking will remove a significant existing constraint on the line (i.e., where the rail corridor reduces to two tracks), which is currently limiting the number of train services that can operate on this route. DART+ South West will also deliver track improvements along the Phoenix Park Tunnel Branch Line, which will allow a greater number of trains to access the city centre.

Upon completion of DART+ South West electrification, new DART trains will be used on this railway corridor, similar to those currently operating on the Malahide / Howth to Bray / Greystones Line.









Figure ES-0-2 DART+ South West Route Map

#### ES1.2.1 **Capacity Increases Associated with DART+ South West**

DART+ South West will improve performance and increase train and passenger capacity on the route between Hazelhatch & Celbridge Station to Heuston Station and through the Phoenix Park Tunnel Branch Line to the City Centre, covering a distance of circa 20km. It will significantly increase train capacity from the current 12 trains per hour per direction to 23 trains per hour per direction (i.e. maintain the existing 12 services, with an additional 11 train services provided by DART+ South West). This will increase passenger capacity from the current peak capacity of approximately 5,000 passengers per hour per direction to approximately 20,000 passengers per hour per direction.

#### ES1.2.2 Key Infrastructure Elements of DART+ South West Project

The key elements of DART+ South West include:

- Completion of four-tracking from Park West & Cherry Orchard Station to Heuston Station, • extending the works completed on the route in 2009.
- Electrification of the line from Hazelhatch & Celbridge Station to Heuston Station and also from • Heuston Station to Glasnevin, via the Phoenix Park Tunnel Branch Line, where it will link with proposed DART+ West.
- Undertaking improvements / reconstructions of bridges to achieve vertical and horizontal • clearances.
- Remove rail constraints along the Phoenix Park Tunnel Branch Line. •
- Feasibility report and concept design for a potential new Heuston West Station.

The 'Emerging Preferred Option' will be compatible with future stations at Kylemore and Cabra, although the construction of these stations is not part of the DART+ South West Project.









#### ES1.3 The Emerging Preferred Option

The starting principle for the Project is to upgrade the existing railway corridor and undertake all works, within the railway corridor. This can be achieved over the majority of the route, including building on the groundwork carried out under the original Kildare Route Project, which delivered the existing four track system and several reconstructed bridges from Hazelhatch & Celbridge Station to Park West & Cherry Orchard Station. The last remaining significant constraint is the area between Park West and Heuston Station, where the rail corridor reduces to two tracks. Expanding to four tracks will require widening of the rail corridor and this will have a potential impact on adjoining property owners.

The process to determine the Emerging Preferred Option for the DART+ South West Project followed a two-step optioneering process – Stage 1: Preliminary Assessment (Sifting) (long list of options), followed by Stage 2: Multi-Criteria Analysis (feasible options), where appropriate. This led to the identification of Emerging Preferred Options in respect of interventions required. These, and general linear works required along the full length of the Project, are the key elements of the Emerging Preferred Option.

For the purpose of describing the Emerging Preferred Option, general linear works are described first followed by sections (from west to east) with similar Project requirements and resulting levels of works or interventions, as follows:

- General Linear Works.
- Hazelhatch & Celbridge Station to Park West & Cherry Orchard Station.
- Park West & Cherry Orchard Station to Heuston Station.
- East of St John's Road Bridge to Glasnevin Junction.









Figure ES-0-3 Sections of the Project Route Corridor with Similar Project Requirements and Resulting Levels of Works or Interventions

#### ES1.3.1 General Linear Works

The Project will require modernisation and modifications to the existing railway line. There is a range of general linear works required along the full length of the Project to enable the electrification of the line and the upgrade of the existing network. These are:

- Overhead electrification equipment (OHLE) will be required along the full extent of the railway line from Hazelhatch & Celbridge Station to Heuston Station and through the Phoenix Park Tunnel Branch Line up to Glasnevin Junction, where it will link with the proposed DART+ West Project. This will be similar to the overhead electrification equipment currently used on the existing DART network.
- Six electrical substations will be required at intervals along the rail line to provide power to the network.
- Signalling upgrades and additional signalling will be required to the upgraded infrastructure.









- Where existing bridges do not provide the necessary clearance for overhead electrification of the lines or lateral clearance for four tracking, options are being considered on a case-by-case basis, these include:
  - Provision of specialist electrical solutions for the OHLE with reduced clearance;
  - Lowering the rail track under the bridge;
  - Modification of the existing structure;
  - o Removal of the existing structure and provision of a replacement structure; or
  - A combination of the above.
- Overhead electrified line protection works will be required at all existing rail overbridges.
- Interfaces with existing utilities, boundary treatments (including new retaining walls), drainage works, vegetation management and other ancillary works will be required along the length of the Project.

## ES1.3.2 Hazelhatch & Celbridge Station to Park West & Cherry Orchard Station

The works carried out under the original Kildare Route Project between 2006 and 2009 provided the main groundwork for DART+ South West including the existing four track system and several reconstructed bridges.

The Emerging Preferred Option for this circa 11km section comprises the general linear works as outlined in ES1.3.1. The electrification works can be run under the existing bridges with no / minimal intervention in the bridge structures and minor localised track lowering works and use of specialist OHLE solutions to achieve the required clearance. All these works can be accommodated within the existing rail corridor.

## ES1.3.3 Park West & Cherry Orchard Station to Heuston Station

The section between Park West & Cherry Orchard Station and Heuston Station requires electrification and widening to four tracks. To meet these Project requirements, the track corridor must be widened, and the physical surroundings must be altered. Extending to four tracks in this area will require an increase in the width of the existing rail corridor outside of lands owned by larnród Éireann, potentially interfering with property rights (on a permanent and / or temporary basis).

Following an option selection process that included developing and evaluating a number of options at each location, the Emerging Preferred Option for each location was established. These are described below.

## ES1.3.4 Area around Le Fanu Road Bridge

The rail corridor on the Cork Mainline between Cherry Orchard Footbridge (OBC8B) and Le Fanu Road Bridge (OBC7), initially comprises three existing tracks and at Le Fanu Road Bridge (OBC7) narrows to two existing tracks. Increasing to four tracks requires the realignment of the existing tracks and an increase in the overall railway corridor width. Le Fanu Road Bridge (OBC7) is a narrow arch structure and is inadequate in both span length and height for the four tracks and electrification infrastructure.







The Emerging Preferred Option replaces the bridge with a longer span or spans to facilitate the additional width required for the additional tracks. To overcome the lack of height available for the electrification infrastructure, the road level will be raised in combination with lowering the rail track. Retaining walls are required to the north and south of the corridor adjacent to the new bridge to allow the widening of the corridor while minimising the impact on the adjacent properties. The raising of the road level will also mean that retaining walls will be required along the road to the north of the railway.

The proposed replacement bridge will be a modern structure that will provide segregation for pedestrians, cyclists and improved sightlines and will be a significant improvement on the existing situation for all road users.



The proposed new bridge is presented below in sectional elevation looking east.

Figure ES-0-4 Emerging Preferred Option for Le Fanu Road Bridge (OBC7)

#### ES1.3.5 Area around Kylemore Road Bridge

This section of the railway comprises two existing tracks and one bridge structure (Kylemore Road Bridge (OBC5A)). The bridge does not have adequate span length to fit four tracks and is not high enough for the DART line electrification infrastructure to pass under. There are a number of constraints in this area including:

- The railway corridor is bounded on both sides by soil slopes.
- To the north and south of the bridge are road junctions and access points that that significantly restrict alterations that may be required to the road geometry.
- Kylemore Road is a potential route for a future LUAS line. Therefore, the design must consider • this potential new infrastructure.
- The west of Kylemore Road Bridge has been identified for a potential future railway station to the west of the bridge. The designs for this area must not prejudice its delivery in the future.









The Emerging Preferred Option for Kylemore Road Bridge replaces the bridge with a longer span to facilitate the additional track width. To overcome the lack of height available for the electrification infrastructure, the road level will be raised in combination with lowering the rail track.

Retaining walls are required to the north and south of the corridor to allow the widening of the corridor while minimising the impact on the adjacent properties. The raising of the road level will also mean that retaining walls will be required along the road to the north and south of the railway.

The proposed new bridge is presented below in sectional elevation looking east.



Figure ES-0-5 Emerging Preferred Option for the Kylemore Road Bridge (OBC5A)

## ES1.3.6 Area around Inchicore Works

The railway in this area (between Kylemore Road Bridge (OBC5A) and Sarsfield Road Bridge (UBC4)) comprises two mainline tracks which are joined by two additional short tracks (or sidings) connected to the Inchicore Depot. The existing tracks through the area would not provide the required four tracking while maintaining the functionality of the depot. Therefore, the laying of additional tracks is required, which in turn requires the realignment of the existing tracks and an increase in the railway corridor width in this area.

The Emerging Preferred Option focuses this enhancement of the corridor to the south requiring the demolition / modification of some larnród Éireann facilities within the Inchicore Depot. There is potential interference to third party property rights but further design development and technical and construction related solutions will seek to minimise this.

## Khyber Pass Footbridge

Khyber Pass Footbridge (OBC5) is an existing pedestrian overbridge linking Inchicore Works to Sarsfield Road to the north. The existing structure has three tracks beneath it and is not wide enough to safely accommodate an increase to four tracks.

The Emerging Preferred Option provides a new pedestrian bridge with sufficient height and width to meet the requirements for four-tracking and electrification. The extent of works may potentially interfere







with property rights in the immediate area but further design development and technical and construction related solutions will seek to minimise this.

The proposed new pedestrian bridge is presented below in sectional elevation looking east towards Heuston Station.



Figure ES-0-6 Emerging Preferred Option for Khyber Pass Footbridge (OBC5)

## ES1.3.7 Sarsfield Road Bridge Area

Sarsfield Road underbridge (UBC4) carries the railway over Sarsfield Road. Both the bridge and the railway corridor in this area comprise three mainline tracks and are not wide enough to carry the fourth track that is required.

The Emerging Preferred Option replaces the existing bridge deck with two parallel bridge decks, one for the Intercity service and one for the DART service. The existing walls along Sarsfield Road would be mostly left untouched by the construction works. The proposed bridge is presented below in sectional elevation looking east towards Heuston Station.

There is potential interference to third party property rights but further design development and technical and construction related solutions will seek to minimise this.

Heading east of the bridge the corridor will predominantly be widened to the north to add a fourth track (into the embankment between the railway and Con Colbert Road).











#### ES1.3.8 Area around Memorial Road Bridge

The existing Memorial Road Bridge (OBC3) is too short in span length to accommodate the additional fourth track, so a longer span bridge is required. The existing bridge also does not have the height required to accommodate the electrification infrastructure beneath the bridge. The bridge is very close to the Con Colbert dual carriageway so any increases in the height of the road would have an impact on the dual carriageway.

The Emerging Preferred Option replaces the bridge with a longer span bridge. In addition, the rail tracks will be lowered to facilitate the electrification infrastructure beneath the new bridge. The masonry retaining walls on the southern side would need to be strengthened due to the lowering of the track and new retaining walls would be required along the northern side.

The permanent way boundary wall along Con Colbert Road will need to be reconstructed to a higher containment standard and height, as it will be removed to provide retaining wall construction access.

The proposed bridge is presented below in sectional elevation looking east towards Heuston Station.









Figure ES-0-8 Emerging Preferred Option for Memorial Road Bridge (OBC3)

## ES1.3.9 South Circular Road Junction Area

This area extends from Memorial Road Bridge (OBC3) to the South Circular Road Junction. There are two major bridge structures in this area which are part of the junction namely South Circular Road (OBC1) and St. John's Road Bridge (OBC0A). St. John's Road Bridge (OBC0A) has an adequate span length to enable a layout with the minimum four tracks requirement and is high enough for the electrification infrastructure required for DART. South Circular Road Bridge (OBC1) does not have adequate span length to fit four tracks and is not high enough for the electrification infrastructure to pass under.

The Emerging Preferred Option leaves South Circular Road Bridge (OBC1) in place and includes the construction of a new structure to the north of the existing bridge. The new structure would be for the new DART tracks and the existing Intercity service would continue under the existing South Circular Road Bridge (OBC1). The new structure requires retaining walls to be constructed on both sides beyond the junction area to the west.

The South Circular Road Junction is extremely busy and frequently has traffic queues, so any works in this area are likely to impact traffic. In order to minimise impact on traffic during the works, the construction will be carried out in phases, utilising all available road space to safely divert all road users around the affected area.

The new structure will accommodate DART trains. This means that the existing South Circular Road Bridge (OBC1) would not need to be electrified and the track levels can be left as they are currently.

The proposed intervention is presented below in sectional elevation looking east towards Heuston Station.









Figure ES-0-9 Emerging Preferred Option for South Circular Road Bridge (OBC1)



Figure ES-0-10 Aerial View of Emerging Preferred Option for South Circular Road Junction







#### ES1.3.10 Heuston Station and Yard

Heuston Station currently does not have any provisions for electrification. Platforms and sidings within the Heuston area are to be electrified to receive the DART+ Fleet. These works will require rearrangement to provide access to the DART platforms and to update access to inter-city tracks.

In terms of Permanent Way works, the constraints on track work in Heuston Station are predominantly those posed by the need to maintain the operational capability of the existing freight routes, station platforms and servicing infrastructure (such as the train wash, service and stabling sidings), as well as the existing drainage and signalling. The sheer number of tracks, their configuration and connectivity through existing Points & Crossings (P&C's) mean that any modifications must be carefully considered to tie in with the platforms and service facilities.

In the station area, platforms and sidings will be electrified as required for the DART services. The scope of which will be fully concluded at Public Consultation No. 2.

All works can be undertaken within land owned by larnród Éireann.

#### ES1.3.11 East of South John's Road Bridge to Glasnevin Junction

This area extends from the east of St John's Road Bridge (OBC0A) and northwards over the River Liffey via the Liffey Bridge (UBO1) and under Conyngham Road Overbridge (OBO2) where it enters the Phoenix Park Tunnel.

Close to the junction of the Cabra Road and Navan Road the line exits the Phoenix Park Tunnel and continues north under several road bridges as follows: McKee Barracks Bridge (OBO3), Blackhorse Avenue Road Bridge (OBO4), Old Cabra Road Bridge (OBO5), Cabra Road Bridge (OBO6), Fassaugh Road Bridge (OBO7), Royal Canal and LUAS Twin Arch (OBO8), the Maynooth Line Twin Arch (OBO9) and Glasnevin Cemetery Road Bridge (OBO10). The line then continues east and interfaces with the proposed DART+ West Project at Glasnevin Junction.

A requirement of the DART+ South West Project is to investigate the feasibility of a new station at Heuston West, at the site of the existing Platform 10, located to the north west of the greater Heuston Station complex adjacent to the Liffey Bridge (UBO1). A preliminary assessment for the station has been undertaken by the Project Team and concept design options are being considered.

The Emerging Preferred Option for Liffey Bridge (UB01) features electrification and retention of the existing fixed track system.

The existing twin tracks along the Phoenix Park Tunnel Branch Line will be electrified. DART+ South West is currently undertaking surveys and analysis along this section, including within the tunnel, to understand the current characteristics and constraints. The Emerging Preferred Option will follow the existing rail corridor and may involve track lowering and/or bridge modifications at certain locations to achieve the height requirements for electrification.

The specific interventions at each bridge along this rail section will be based on the analysis of survey data and presented at Public Consultation No. 2.











Figure ES-0-11 Northern and Southern Portals to the Phoenix Park Tunnel and view of inside tunnel

#### ES1.3.12 Further Design Development & Option Selection

The preliminary options selection and design development that has been undertaken has led to the determination of the Emerging Preferred Option which is now the focus of this public consultation (Public Consultation No. 1).

Once the public consultation process on the Emerging Preferred Option is complete, all feedback and submissions received will be reviewed and considered as part of the next stage of the design development towards identifying the Preferred Route. Following a full appraisal of the feedback and consideration, a public consultation report will be prepared to document this process. This will be incorporated into the Options Selection Report that will be presented at Public Consultation No. 2.

All information gathered by the Project Team during these public consultation events will be used to inform the design development of the project which will be the subject of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) (if required), and ultimately the Railway Order application will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval.





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