

Submission to Metrolink Proposal May 2018

As a daily user of public transport I welcome any additional services proposed. Public ownership and fare subsidisation are my primary focus rather than the method of transport.

At this early stage of the process, without a detailed active planning application and in the absence of a comprehensive preliminary business case, it is difficult to determine the cost benefits of the proposal or the finer detail of the intrusiveness of the construction phase of the project. However, it is clear that the proposed route will affect a significant number of residents and businesses across all areas. My assumption is that the Emerging Preferred Route was decided for engineering convenience and economic grounds rather than an assessment of the impact on the local population. Given the lack of consultation with local residents and public representatives prior to the release of the Emerging Preferred Route I expect the submissions from the both residents and public representatives to be used as guidance in reviewing the proposal and producing a more amenable proposition.

In my own constituency the primary concerns are the proposals affecting Na Fianna GAA club, Scoil Chaitriona and Scoil Mobhi, the loss of the park at the Mater Hospital, the loss of people's homes in the Dalcassian Downs apartments and any possible structural damage to homes due to tunnelling.

When the report detailing a full appraisal of the feedback from the public consultation is published later in the year I suggest that another consultation phase is undertaken prior to the submission of any planning application to *An Bord Pleanála*. This would be another opportunity to engage with local residents to attempt to allay any remaining fears. As an indication of willingness to ensure transparency at all stages of the project *Transport Infrastructure Ireland* must release the report assessing the environmental impacts of the project and the final details of any property land acquisitions needed for the scheme, prior to the application for a Railway Order.

It is understandable that individuals will be affected disproportionately by such a huge construction project but the impact of the proposal to locate a Tunnel Boring Machine Site at Na Fianna GAA Club must be reversed and a more suitable site chosen. The club is at the heart of the community and caters for 130 teams, including 100 juvenile teams. Na Fianna and both Gaelscoileanna have ran a very professional and effective campaign to retain their facilities and I wish to support their endeavours.

Given the lack of public green space in our area the loss of the Mater Plot Park on Berkeley Road should be reconsidered.

The owners of any residential properties where CPO's are proposed must be consulted directly and assured that all possible measures will be taken by *Transport Infrastructure Ireland* to ensure that they receive proper compensation and are assisted in remaining resident in the immediate area.

The owners of any residential properties where underground tunnelling is proposed must be consulted directly and assured in relation to possible structural damage

A reasonable request from some residents for a socio-economic impact analysis of the proposed works should be agreed prior to any planning application being lodged.

Parking facilities at the proposed new Metro stations must be clarified during the consultation process as we don't want to see a repeat of the parking difficulties experienced at the new LUAS station at Broombridge in Cabra.

I would also request clarity on the affect the proposed station at Cross Guns Bridge will have on the proposed Royal Canal Cycleway. The cycleway project has already been delayed for over a year and any further delay would be unacceptable.

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