

MetroLink Consultations,
Transport Infrastructure Ireland,
Parkgate Business Centre,
Parkgate Street, Dublin 8,
D08 DK10

11th May 2018

Re: MetroLink. Proposed Tunnel Boring Machine Site and Griffith Park Station

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you in response to the Emerging Proposed Route for Dublin's MetroLink and, in particular, the proposed Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) Site and Griffith Park Station at CLG Na Fianna GAA Club.

As a resident of Drumcondra, I fully support investment into public transport. Our area suffers huge traffic congestion, which will only grow as the economy continues to recover. However, I am deeply concerned about the impact this proposal will have on CLG Na Fianna, Scoil Chaitríona, Scoil Mobhi, Tír na nÓg and the surrounding community, residents and businesses. Several residents and stakeholders have contacted me to oppose the plan in its current form and I am hopeful that, as a public representative for the area, I can outline on as many of those concerns as possible.

CLG Na Fianna GAA Club

This Club has been at the heart of the community for more than six decades, catering for generations of children and families. CLG Na Fianna has more than 140 teams ranging in age from 4 to over 40. Training and matches provide an important function for keeping these players physically active and socially engaged, which has associated physical and mental health benefits. It is clear that not having access to pitches for six years during construction would be seriously detrimental to the club, its members and its surrounds.

Many local children are also members of the GAA Club and attend football and hurling training on the main and all-weather pitches on Mobhí Road, as well as in the handball alley inside the clubhouse. Many parents also participate in mentoring and supervision of the children while they take part. Again, it would be incredibly detrimental to the community to take away such a highly valued amenity.

Schools & Aftercare Service

It appears that the schools on the site were not properly considered in any of the planning decisions, in particular Scoil Mobhí.

The current plans propose disposal of the only access road and all parking for the schools. The Scoil Mobhí school playground will be surrounded on two sides by the TBM Site and overlooking classrooms. So, for potentially 6 years of primary school, the children will be surrounded by the noise, dust, vibrations and danger of a busy construction site.

Cultural Impact

Scoil Chaitríona, Tír na nÓg and Scoil Mobhí operate as a vibrant Irish language community, in which Na Fianna clubhouse plays a vital role, hosting Irish language classes, and conversation circles for adults as well ceol agus rince for the children and after-school care for children. These are but a few of the social, cultural and community support structures in place in this hub which will be detrimentally affected if this plan continues. It is a vital and established hub for the development and use of the Irish language in the community for over 50 years, a model in the revival of the language, catering as it does for people of all ages. This proposed development poses a great threat to its future and does not take into account the governments 20-year strategy for the Irish language and in this context its overall 'Ireland 2040' development plan.

Health & Safety

There is legitimate concern from residents that significant *dust* will be generated over the course of the work - and for several years afterwards. Heavy exhaust fumes and other potentially hazardous airborne materials are an inevitable part of a project of this scale. The unavoidable creation of significant levels of dust and diesel emissions on the site is a major concern for respiratory health. Dust is a serious irritant for all children and staff. However those with underlying respiratory disease such as asthma or cystic fibrosis would be at significant risk. In addition, there are acknowledged health risks such as aspergillosis and silicosis.

It is well established that *noise* can seriously impair learning. This includes impairment to cognition and perception. It is for this reason construction noise constraints are set at a maximum of 65dB for schools. However, those maximum levels are not the only relevant factor. The site currently has very low baseline ambient noise levels. A significant change in that ambient level, even if to below maximum allowable levels, is likely to be extremely disruptive to education on the site, particularly if those changes include the introduction of a tonal or impulsive noise element. The noise and vibration generated from the works will also have a detrimental health impact on children with hypersensitivity disorders, such as those on any part of the autism spectrum.

There are also *child safety* concerns in relation to the numbers of workers that will access the site during construction. All persons in close proximity to the schools and sport grounds should be Garda vetted and receive child safety training.

Traffic Management

There are already significant traffic management issues in the Glasnevin/Drumcondra area. No doubt that the MetroLink will help alleviate this problem in the long term but this should not be at the expense of a local community.

It is anticipated that up to 55 truckloads per day will be moving in and out of the Mobhí Road site. Mobhí Road is already a busy, narrow road. The suggestion that it would be able to accommodate anywhere near this additional capacity is ridiculous. In addition to the disruption caused, the large construction vehicles that will be used pose a potential for serious injury or even death.

Although MetroLink has the potential to be a great asset to the Northside, and some disruption will be necessary during construction, this proposal has been conceived with no thought for the detrimental impact it would have on the education, cultural and sporting activities, and health and safety of the local community.

It is essential that the role clubs like CLG Na Fianna play in the community is respected. I hope that transport authorities will continue to work with these stakeholders to find a more appropriate solution for MetroLink.

I hope you will take the points above into serious consideration.

Kind regards,

Norma

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Councillor Norma Sammon

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