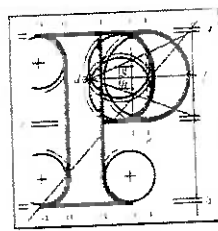


Our Case Number: ABP-320164-24



An
Bord
Pleanála

Daria Lisowska Crowley & Others
30 Bayside Boulevard North
Bayside

Date: 19 September 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 letter in relation to the above mentioned case. The contents of your letter have been noted. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board at 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

RA03

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Daria Lisowska Crowley - 30 Bayside Boulevard North, Bayside
Aoife Slattery - 18 Bayside Boulevard North, Bayside
Nichola Burgess - 24 Bayside Boulevard North, Bayside
Charlotte Kelly - 26 Bayside Boulevard North, Bayside
Mick O'Connell - 34 Bayside Boulevard North, Bayside

17/09/2024

Case Officer
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Submission Regarding Proposed Changes to DART Services from Howth - Case No. 320164

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed changes to DART services from Howth, particularly the requirement for passengers to change at Howth Junction station in order to continue their journey to Dublin city centre.

Our primary concern is the potential for severe overcrowding on trains departing from Howth Junction. During peak hours, trains arriving from Drogheda are overcrowded, and with additional passengers from the Howth line having to transfer, securing space on these services will become increasingly difficult. The current plans do not seem to account for the existing demand from northern Dublin commuters, and with new developments just being finished in Howth and Sutton and new ones planned in Howth, the strain on these trains will only worsen.

Secondly, these changes will inevitably increase travel times for residents of Howth, Baldoyle, and Sutton. The requirement to change trains at Howth Junction introduces unnecessary delays, making commutes longer and more burdensome. This will disproportionately affect daily commuters who rely on a direct service to the city centre, adding time and complexity to their journeys. Moreover, the proposed solution does not align with efforts to promote sustainable transport. By making public transport less convenient and attractive, this change could discourage commuters from choosing the DART over cars, which would undermine efforts to reduce traffic congestion and lower carbon emissions in the region.

We are also deeply concerned about the safety of Howth Junction station. This station already faces challenges with overcrowding and safety, particularly during peak hours. Forcing even more people to use this station exacerbates these issues, and we are not confident that the station, in its current state, is equipped to handle the increased number of passengers safely.

Additionally, the proposed shuttle service between Howth and Howth Junction will contribute to longer delays at level crossings along the DART line. Increased shuttle frequency will lead to more frequent stops at crossings, further congesting local traffic and causing delays for both road users and pedestrians. This will compound the inconvenience for local residents and extend travel times.

While we are aware of planned improvements to Howth Junction station, past projects, such as the protracted and inefficient upgrades to Clongriffin DART station, give us little confidence that these promises will be fulfilled in a timely or effective manner. The ongoing accessibility issues at Clongriffin, particularly for wheelchair users and parents with buggies, illustrate the challenges of such projects, and we fear similar delays and issues may arise with Howth Junction.

In conclusion, we respectfully urge An Bord Pleanála to reconsider the proposed changes, taking into account the significant impacts on overcrowding, travel times, safety at Howth Junction, and additional delays at level crossings. These issues will not only inconvenience commuters but also negatively affect local communities and businesses in Howth and the surrounding areas.

Thank you for considering our submission. We trust that these concerns will be carefully evaluated in the decision-making process.

Yours faithfully,
Daria Lisowska Crowley, Aoife Slattery, Nichola Burgess, Charlotte Kelly, Mick O'Connell