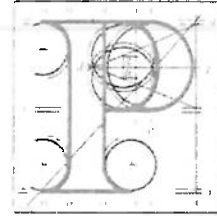


Our Case Number: ABP-320164-24



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Residents of Howth, Sutton & Surrounding Areas
c/o Andrew Peirce
46 St Fintans Road
Sutton
Dublin 13

Date: 09 October 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 submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed railway order and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the relevant County Councils and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

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 the meantime 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

RA05

Teil (01) 858 8100
Glaao Áitiúil LoCall 1800 275 175
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Láithreán Gréasáin Website www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost Email bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde 64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1 Dublin 1
D01 V902 D01 V902

I am writing on behalf of the residents of Howth, Sutton, and surrounding areas to express our deep concern and strong objection to Fingal County Council's proposed reduction of direct DART services to Howth and Sutton. This plan would force commuters to take a DART to Howth Junction and transfer to a bus, with dire consequences for our community. We believe this decision is short-sighted and will negatively affect our quality of life, traffic congestion, public safety, the local environment, and economic development.

1. Traffic and Congestion: Sutton Cross and Key Roads

The proposed shuttle DART service with a frequency of every 10 minutes will cause level crossings to be closed for up to 30 minutes every hour. This will further exacerbate the already significant traffic bottlenecks, particularly at Sutton Cross, a major junction for commuters, residents, and tourists. Congestion in the area is already unmanageable during peak hours, and the situation will only worsen, especially as more people are pushed to use their cars to commute, completely defeating efforts to reduce vehicle emissions.

2. Impact on Emergency Services

With frequent closures at these crossings, there will be significant delays to emergency services, putting lives at risk. Sutton Cross is a critical point for ambulances and other emergency vehicles, and these changes could prevent timely responses during medical or other emergencies.

3. Safety Concerns at Howth Junction Station

Requiring passengers, particularly teenagers and elderly residents, to transfer at Howth Junction—an area already associated with high levels of crime and anti-social behavior—raises serious safety concerns. This proposal effectively makes the DART less safe and accessible for the community, particularly during late hours. We cannot allow this to become a barrier to using public transport safely.

4. Environmental Impact and Climate Concerns

At a time when we are urged to use more sustainable transport options, this proposal will likely have the opposite effect, encouraging more residents to return to car travel. Without a direct, efficient DART service, public transport becomes far less convenient, leading to increased car use and carbon emissions, thus contradicting Ireland's environmental and climate goals.

5. Impact on Schools and Community Well-being

The long-term impacts on local schools will also be negative, as parents may begin to opt for schools in areas with more accessible transport links. This will place further pressure on already oversubscribed schools elsewhere, negating recent investments made in educational infrastructure in this area. As transport accessibility declines, so too will the attractiveness of the area for families, which risks reducing student numbers at local schools.

6. Large-Scale Developments in Howth

Howth is currently undergoing significant development, including the construction of hundreds of new apartments, most of which have very limited parking, as well as a new 5-star hotel. The proposed reduction in DART services will severely hamper these development plans, leaving both new residents and tourists without a reliable means of accessing the area. With Howth's

vital tourism sector relying heavily on direct DART access, this proposal risks turning Howth into a no-go zone for both investors and visitors, potentially crippling the local economy.

7. Economic Consequences for Developers and Business

Developers and businesses are investing millions into Howth's future, yet this reduction in transport connectivity could render these investments unviable. How can we expect businesses to thrive or tourists to visit when the ease of travel is so severely compromised? The disconnect between transport planning and economic development will have long-lasting repercussions for both residents and the wider business community.

8. A Disproportionate Impact on the Northside

It seems that this proposal is yet another example of the north side being left behind in terms of transport planning and infrastructure. After enduring three years of disruptive roadworks in Clontarf and Fairview that have proven anti-business and anti-resident, this plan to permanently reduce DART services to Howth and Sutton only adds insult to injury.

We respectfully ask that you reconsider this proposal, and we urge Fingal County Council to engage with the local community to devise a transport solution that supports, rather than hinders, public transport use, economic development, and environmental goals.

Regards

Andrew Peirce
46 St Fintans Road
Sutton
Dublin 13