

The Secretary  
An Bord Pleanála (Strategic Infrastructure Division)  
61-64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

18<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Re: Application by the National Roads Authority (operating as Transport Infrastructure Ireland) for the Railway (Luas Finglas – Broombridge to Charlestown) Order [2024]**

Dear Secretary,

I refer to the above matter.

The National Roads Authority (operating as Transport Infrastructure Ireland) (referred to herein as “TII”) hereby applies to An Bord Pleanála under section 37(1) of the Transport (Railway Infrastructure) Act 2001 (as amended and substituted) (“**the 2001 Act**”) for the Railway (Luas Finglas – Broombridge to Charlestown) Order [2024].

**Consent of the National Transport Authority**

The consent of the National Transport Authority for making of this Railway Order application by TII as required under section 37(1) of the 2001 Act is included at **Attachment 1** to this letter.

**Pre-Application Consultation Concluded on 17 April 2024**

This application is made following the conclusion of the pre-application consultation with An Bord Pleanála (pre-application consultation ref: ABP-315939-23). The pre-application consultations were formally concluded by letter from An Bord Pleanála dated 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (Full pre-application consultation file enclosed at **Attachment 2** to this letter).

**Proposed Railway Order**

The Railway Order, if granted, will authorise TII to carry out the proposed railway works, as set out in the Railway Order, including all works necessary to enable the construction, operation, maintenance and improvement of a railway designated as a light railway, which includes inter alia the construction of a northern extension of the Luas Green Line, approximately 3.9km long, from its current terminus in Broombridge to a new terminus in Charlestown, in close proximity to the N2-M50 interchange, with 4 new stops, bridge structures, cycling facilities and infrastructure, one new park and ride and a new extension to Broombridge depot stabling facilities. Pursuant to section 43(5) of the 2001 Act, TII may, with the consent of the Minister for Transport, make arrangements with another person to construct, maintain, improve or operate the railway or the railway works to which the order relates.

The proposed railway works as set out in the Railway Order, will generally comprise but are not limited to the construction of a Railway approximately 3.9km in length, running from the existing Green Line

terminus at Broombridge to a new terminus at Charlestown, including cycling facilities and infrastructure. The track alignment will cross over the existing Iarnród Éireann Maynooth line and Royal Canal via a bridge structure, continue along Broombridge Road, cross the Tolka River via another bridge structure and continue through Tolka Valley Park. The alignment will cross Tolka Valley Road and continue along the former Finglaswood Stream Valley to arrive at St Helena's Stop, before crossing to Farnham pitches, which will be modified to accommodate the scheme. The line will continue through the park and cross Wellmount Road into Patrickswell Place, where the existing access road will be realigned. The alignment will proceed between the existing Ravens Court development and Finglas Garda Station to arrive at Finglas Village stop. The line will then run parallel to the N2 road, before crossing the existing roundabout which will be replaced with an at grade signalised junction. A multi storey park and ride structure will be constructed in this area. The alignment will then turn onto St Margarets Road, where the St Margarets Stop will be located. The route will continue northwards before arriving at the Charlestown terminus where the existing junction with Melville Road will be reconfigured.

The proposed railway works as set out in the Railway Order will also include railway signalling, command and control and communications systems; provision of cycling facilities and associated infrastructure, provision of electrical substations; establishment of temporary construction compounds; establishment of temporary traffic management and road diversions; new and realigned access routes and road junction improvements; diversion of existing utilities; provision of new drainage infrastructure; provision of environmental mitigation measures; and other infrastructural modifications to facilitate the overall project.

The Railway Order, if granted, also includes powers for TII to acquire compulsorily land or rights in, under or over land, or any airspace, specified in the order; to temporarily acquire and occupy land, or any airspace, specified in the order; to acquire easements and other rights over land specified in the order (including rights which exist or which TII is authorised to create); to extinguish public rights including public rights of way specified in the order; and provides for other rights over land.

The proposed railway works as set out in the Railway Order are subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment and an Appropriate Assessment and in that regard an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, and a Natura Impact Statement are being submitted with this Railway Order application.

The Railway (Luas Finglas – Broombridge to Charlestown) Order 2024 application is for a railway which is designated as a light railway.

### **Application Documents**

Enclosed are two paper copies and five electronic copies (5 separate USB keys) of the Railway Order documentation, containing identical information and including the following application documents as required under section 37(3) of the 2001 Act:

- (a) A draft of the proposed Railway Order, entitled "*Railway (Luas Finglas – Broombridge to Charlestown) Order [2024]*";
- (b) A plan of the proposed railway works;
- (c) A book of reference to the plan of the proposed railway works (indicating the identity of the owners and of the occupiers of the lands described in the plan);

- (d) An Environmental Impact Assessment Report assessing the likely significant effects on the environment of the proposed railway works; and
- (e) An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement.

In accordance with section 40(1)(a) of the 2001 Act, TII have provided you with one further hard copy of the Railway Order application, to be deposited and kept deposited in your offices in a location that is easily accessible to the public from 22nd November 2024 until 5:30pm on the 20th January 2025.

We certify that the Railway Order application documentation as listed above presented in paper copy and electronic format to An Bord Pleanála, the Minister for Transport, Designated Bodies, Prescribed Bodies and Local Authorities presented on the standalone website ([www.luasfinglasro.ie](http://www.luasfinglasro.ie)) and at the locations for public inspection, is generated from a single data source and is identical.

Electronic versions of the application documents specified in section 37(3) of the 2001 Act (as listed above at (a) to (e)) are available at [www.luasfinglasro.ie](http://www.luasfinglasro.ie). An electronic editable version of the draft Railway Order document is included to assist in consideration of the Railway Order application.

### **Additional Confirmations, Information and Documentation**

The statutory application fee of €100,000 for making a Railway Order application has been paid to An Bord Pleanála by electronic transfer. Confirmation of this payment is included at **Attachment 3** to this letter.

In accordance with the requirements of section 40 of the 2001 Act, TII has undertaken the following:

- ❖ For easy access to information for the public, arrangements have been made to make the Railway Order application documents and the Pre-application Consultation documentation available at the following locations:
  - An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902;
  - Planning Department, Dublin City Council, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, D08 RF3F;
  - Planning Department, Fingal County Council, County Hall, Main Street, Swords, County Dublin, K67 X8Y2;
  - Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Parkgate Business Centre, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8, D08 DK10, Ireland; and
  - National Transport Authority (NTA), Haymarket House, Haymarket, Smithfield, Dublin 7, D07 CF98.

These locations, where the public can access the paper copy of the Railway Order application documentation, are referenced in the newspaper notices, along with details of the standalone website ([www.luasfinglasro.ie](http://www.luasfinglasro.ie)). The newspaper notice also indicates that copies of the documents can be purchased from TII and contact details for such requests are provided.

- ❖ Notices have been published in the newspapers listed below, indicating TII's intention to submit the draft Railway (Luas Finglas – Broombridge to Charlestown) Order [2024] application to An Bord Pleanála. The notices were published in the following newspapers circulating in the area to which the order relates:
  - Irish Independent, published on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024;
  - Northside People West, published on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024;

The newspaper notices indicate that the documents may be inspected at the appointed locations and online, and makes clear that the statutory consultation period commences on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 and closes at 5:30pm on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025. It indicates that the Board will consider any submissions in relation to the proposed order or in relation to the likely effects on the environment of the proposed railway works, and the likely significant effects of the proposed railway works on European sites, which are submitted in writing to it by any person within that period. A copy of the two newspaper notices have been included at **Attachment 4** to this letter.

- ❖ The draft Railway (Luas Finglas – Broombridge to Charlestown) Order [2024], the accompanying documentation and a copy of the newspaper notice has been served on
  - (i) each of the Planning Authorities in whose functional area (or any part thereof) the proposed railway works are proposed to be carried out (being Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council),
  - (ii) each of the Designated Bodies specified by the Minister for Transport pursuant to section 39A of the 2001 Act, and
  - (iii) such other persons as directed by the Board, in accordance with section 40(1)(c) of the 2001 Act described by the Board as Prescribed Bodies.

A list of those bodies and specimen correspondence served on Planning Authorities, Designated Bodies, and Prescribed Bodies indicating TII's intent to apply for the Railway (Luas Finglas – Broombridge to Charlestown) Order [2024] are included at **Attachment 5** to this letter.

- ❖ A copy of the Northside People West newspaper notice together with relevant extracts from the Railway Order application documents have been served on every owner and every occupier of lands referred to in the draft Railway Order. A list of all landowners & occupiers and a specimen of the correspondence served on them is included at **Attachment 6** to this letter. This attachment also includes the relevant extracts from the AA Screening Report and the Natura Impact Statement as served with the notification pack.

Further, we enclose:

- (i) a completed Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) Application Form (at **Attachment 7**),
- (ii) SID Application Form Digital Copy of Application Boundary (at **Attachment 13**),
- (iii) letters of support received (at **Attachment 8**), and
- (iv) a list of all documentation submitted (at **Attachment 9**).

Further, it is confirmed that TII have provided the required information to the EIA Portal in accordance section 172B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), and we enclose the confirmation notice from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage that he is satisfied that the required information has been entered onto the EIA Portal at **Attachment 10** to this letter.

The AA Screening Determination conducted pursuant to Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011) (as amended) is at **Attachment 11**.

As the Board is aware, the Board has an obligation under section 40A of the 2001 Act to, as soon as practicable after receiving an application for a railway order such as this, to send certain details to the Minister for Housing, Local Government, and Heritage.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely



Sandra McCarthy

Secretary to the Authority

[As authorised in this regard]

Transport Infrastructure Ireland Parkgate Business Centre

Parkgate Street

Dublin 8

D08 DK10

#### **Enclosures:**

##### Application Documents

- (a) A draft of the proposed Railway Order, entitled "*Railway (Luas Finglas – Broombridge to Charlestown) Order [2024]*";
- (b) A plan of the proposed railway works;
- (c) A book of reference to the plan of the proposed railway works (indicating the identity of the owners and of the occupiers of the lands described in the plan);
- (d) An Environmental Impact Assessment Report assessing the likely significant effects on the environment of the proposed railway works; and
- (e) An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement.

##### Additional Confirmations, Information and Documentation

Attachment 1 – NTA Letter of Consent

Attachment 2 – An Bord Pleanála Letter Concluding Pre-Application Consultations

Attachment 3 – Application Payment Receipt

Attachment 4 – Newspaper Notices

Attachment 5 – List of Prescribed Bodies, List of Designated Bodies and Specimen Letters

Attachment 6 – List of Landowners & Occupiers, Specimen Letter Served on Landowners & Occupiers, Extracts from the AA Screening Report and the Natura Impact Statement

Attachment 7 – SID Application Form

Attachment 8 – Letters of Support Received

Attachment 9 – List of all Documentation Submitted

Attachment 10 – EIA Portal Confirmation Notice

Attachment 11 - AA Screening Determination

Attachment 12 – 5 USB keys

Attachment 13 - SID Application Form Digital Copy of Application Boundary