**AN BORD PLEANÁLA**

**TRANSPORT (RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE) ACT 2001**

**(AS AMENDED)**

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

**TII**, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 37 of the Transport (Railway Infrastructure) Act 2001 (as amended) (the “**Act**”), will apply on or after Monday 18th November 2024 to An Bord Pleanála for a Railway (Luas Finglas – Broombridge to Charlestown) Order [2024] pursuant to the provisions of the Act.

**Proposed Railway Order**

The Railway Order, if granted, will authorise TII to carry out the 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 including, 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 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 3.9 kilometres 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 Margaret’s Road where the St Margaret’s 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 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, an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, and a Natura Impact Statement are being submitted with the application.

**Types of decisions that may be made by An Bord Pleanála**

In accordance with section 43(2) of the Act, An Bord Pleanála:-

(a) if it is of opinion that the application should be granted, shall make the Railway Order, subject to such conditions, modifications, restrictions and requirements (and on such other terms) as the Board thinks proper and specifies in the order, or

(b) if it is of opinion that the application should not be granted, refuse to make the Railway Order.

**The Railway Order application will include the following documentation:**

1. A draft of the proposed Railway Order, entitled “*Railway (Luas Finglas – Broombridge to Charlestown) Order [2024]”*;
2. A plan of the proposed railway works;
3. 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);
4. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report assessing the likely significant effects on the environment of the proposed railway works; and
5. An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement.

**Inspection of the draft Railway Order and accompanying documentation**

A copy of the draft Railway Order and the documentation accompanying the application may be inspected free of charge during normal office or opening hours from 22nd November 2024 until the 20th January 2025 at:

* 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, Dublin 7, D07 CF98

The draft Railway Order and the documentation accompanying the application may also be viewed electronically at: [www.luasfinglasro.ie](http://www.luasfinglasro.ie) from the 15th November 2024.

**Purchase of Documentation**

Copies of, or extracts from, the documentation accompanying the application for the Railway Order may be purchased on payment of a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making such copy or extract from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Parkgate Business Centre, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8, D08 DK10, Ireland. Such purchase requests may be sent to Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Parkgate Business Centre, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8, D08 DK10 or [info@luasfinglas.ie](mailto:info@luasfinglas.ie) or by calling 1800 666 888.

**Written Submissions**

An Bord Pleanála is the competent authority responsible for taking the decision whether or not to grant the order, from which relevant information can be obtained and to which comments or questions can be submitted. An Bord Pleanála will consider any submissions which are submitted in writing to it by any persons in relation to the draft Railway 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. Any submission must be made in writing to An Bord Pleanála between 22nd November 2024 and [5:30pm] on 20th January 2025 and be accompanied by a fee of €50. **Please note** this fee is not payable by certain prescribed bodies or persons whose lands may be acquired under the draft Railway Order.

**Submissions must be lodged no later than 5.30pm on 20th January 2025** and must be addressed to An Bord Pleanála (Strategic Infrastructure Division), 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902 and marked “Railway (Luas Finglas – Broombridge to Charlestown) Order [2024]”. Submissions can also be made on the An Bord Pleanála website at the following address: https://online.pleanala.ie/en-ie/sid/observation. [Persons whose lands may be acquired under the draft Railway Order are not required to pay a fee and can send their observation by email (laps@pleanala.ie), by post, or by hand to the offices of An Bord Pleanála.]

**Oral Hearing**

Pursuant to section 42 of the Act, An Bord Pleanála may, at its absolute discretion, hold an oral hearing into the application for a Railway Order.

**Judicial Review**

A person may question the validity of the decision of An Bord Pleanála by way of an application for judicial review under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts, 1986 (as amended) (S.I. No. 15 of 1986 as amended) and in accordance with section 47 and 47A of the Act. Practical information on the review mechanism can be assessed under the heading ‘Legal Notices’ – ‘Judicial Review Notice’ on An Bord Pleanála website https://www.pleanala.ie/en-IE/Judicial-Review-Notice or on the Citizen’s Information website www.citizeninformation.ie

**Signed: Sandra McCarthy**

**Secretary to the Authority**

National Roads Authority (operating as Transport Infrastructure Ireland),

Transport Infrastructure Ireland,

Parkgate Business Centre

Parkgate Street,

Dublin 8,

D08 DK10,

Ireland

13th November 2024

Further Information is Available from:

Postal: Luas Finglas, Transport Infrastructure Ireland,

Parkgate Business Centre,

Parkgate Street,

Dublin 8,

D08 DK10

Website: [www.luasfinglasro.ie](http://www.luasfinglasro.ie)

Email: info@luasfinglas.ie

Telephone: 1800 666 888