



The Secretary,
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902.

14th August 2024

Re: Proposed Luas Finglas Project

Dear Secretary,

Fingal County Council (FCC) fully supports the development of the Luas Finglas project. It promotes sustainable travel and also benefits the social, economic and environmental assets of Charlestown and the area which lies within Fingal.

Luas Finglas has the real potential to deliver on Project Ireland 2040's vision for future growth and development on the northside of the city and in the wider Fingal area. Project Ireland 2040 identifies the needs for reliable, affordable, sustainable and integrated public transport in Dublin and promotes the delivery of key infrastructure projects as set out in the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area. A cornerstone project of the strategy includes the Luas Greenline northwards to Finglas.

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region 2019-2031 promotes the growth of Dublin and regional centres in a sustainable manner, aligning services with population and economic growth, optimisation of infrastructure including public transport and the promotion of compact urban settlement patterns. RSES promotes the Luas extension to Finglas which represents a significant opportunity for sustainable transport orientated development along the transport corridor.

The Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 through its key strategic policy seeks the development of a high quality integrated public transport system across the County with emphasis on transport linkages to Dublin City including support for the Luas Greenline Capacity Enhancement including an extension of Luas to Finglas. Chapter 6 of the Fingal Development Plan 'Connectivity and Movement' is explicit in the promotion of integrated land-use and transportation and supports sustainable travel, a reduction in private car use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Luas Finglas will provide high-capacity, high frequency sustainable transport infrastructure from Charlestown into the city centre, providing an efficient, convenient, and high-quality public transport link from the northside of the city to Dublin city centre. The scheme will result in transport network integration with the wider public transport network, including the future Dart+ West and BusConnects projects and planned strategic walking and cycling infrastructure, resulting in a transformative change for residents, commuters' and visitors within the area from a social, economic and environmental perspective.

This strategic infrastructure represents a prime opportunity for strategic development and regeneration along the corridor. Specifically, this scheme will serve the town and district centre zoned lands at Charlestown Shopping Centre and high-density residential development in the area as well as the strategic employment lands at Jamestown Business Park, designated Framework Plan (FP11.C) lands under the Development Plan which seeks to examine future rejuvenation opportunities for the lands, due to their location adjoining regeneration lands in the Dublin City Council area. Future transportation investment in Luas Finglas as well as BusConnects and active travel infrastructure will benefit ongoing residential and commercial expansion and act as a catalyst for further regeneration within the area.

Luas Finglas will have a significant and positive impact on communities along the corridor potentially removing private cars from local streets, making these areas more attractive and vibrant places to live, with excellent potential to promote sustainable mobility and achieve the vision of 'walkable' communities.

The scheme will also bring about enhanced community integration between communities in Charlestown, Meakstown and Dublin City, including increased access to key services such as education, healthcare, employment, and amenities along the route.

In this regard, Luas Finglas fulfils key strategic objectives of the Fingal Development Plan for sustainable growth, healthy placemaking and economic prosperity, sustainable travel and enhanced connectivity and permeability with ease of access for all, with the City Centre and the wider region. This strategic infrastructure will also provide a fast and efficient sustainable transport alternative to the private car which is vital in promoting modal shift away from non-sustainable travel modes and enabling a reduction in our transport related carbon emissions in line with Development Plan policy and wider national policy.

Fingal County Council acknowledge the need for the park and ride facility and the bike parking, including secure bike parking proposed, near the terminus at Charlestown. FCC recognises that a change to public transport involves changes in redistributing space from private vehicles to public and active travel. FCC is available to meet with TII and its project team to consider how the transport scheme can be delivered while improving quality for buses, pedestrians and cyclists and maintaining movements for other vehicles.

Charlestown and the wider area of Fingal County Council will be greatly improved by the arrival of Luas Finglas. Fingal County Council's committed to supporting this scheme through the railway order process and on through detail design through construction stage. Fingal County Council is available to engage with the project team during the future stages to discuss how the scheme can be delivered in the best manner.

Yours sincerely,



Ethna Felten.
Deputy Chief Executive.

Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

An Roinn Phleanála & Forbairt Maoine
Oifigí na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8
Oifigeach Poiblí Ainmnithe faoin Acht um Brístocaireacht a Rialáil 2015

Planning & Property Development Department,
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Secretary
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Proposed Finglas Luas Project

30 July 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Dublin City Council welcomes the proposed Luas Finglas project, which has the potential to provide a high-quality and much-needed transport solution linking Finglas to the city centre. This new service will offer a high-capacity public transport option to an area of the city currently underserved.

The Luas Finglas will be a continuation of the Luas Green Line, creating a new connection between Charlestown, Finglas Village, Finglas West, St Helena's, Tolka Valley, and the city centre. The 3.9 km route will feature four new stops: St Helena's, Finglas Village, St Margaret's, and Charlestown. A 350-vehicle park-and-ride facility will be located near the St Margaret's Road stop, close to the M50. The route will include interchange opportunities with local bus networks at all new stops and with mainline rail services at Broombridge. Notably, most of the route will use grass track, an innovative and sustainable choice for urban transport in Ireland.

Luas Finglas will significantly improve journey times, reducing the current 44-minute trip from Charlestown to Trinity College to approximately 30 minutes.

This project represents a major public investment and a significant step towards enhancing sustainable travel in Finglas, benefiting the city's social, economic, environmental, and cultural assets. Dublin City Council envisions that within the next decade, Dublin will be recognized as one of Europe's most sustainable and dynamic cities. Our vision is for a compact city with a vibrant culture and diverse, green, innovation-based economy, all interconnected by excellent public transport, cycling, and walking infrastructure, integrated within a high-quality network of biodiverse green spaces.

The Luas Finglas project is crucial for achieving this vision. It will provide essential transport infrastructure with high capacity, frequency, and quality, transforming travel from the northwest of the city to the centre. It will support the consolidation of the city and metropolitan area and encourage a shift from private car use to more sustainable transport modes.

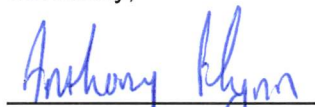
Furthermore, Luas Finglas will enhance integration with other major transport services, including Iarnród Éireann's DART+ services at Glasnevin and BusConnects. This improved connectivity will maintain Dublin's attractiveness and livability, contributing to its vitality. The project will also promote a healthier urban environment by increasing public space for pedestrians and enhancing the visual and recreational amenities of station areas.

By supporting the Luas Finglas, we advance our commitment to reducing carbon emissions and promoting climate action. The project aligns with our goal of developing a 15-minute city where essential services are accessible by foot or bike, supporting compact growth, improved connections, and sustainable development patterns. It also supports the Jamestown Masterplan, which aims to regenerate 43 hectares of land, fostering new housing, job creation, and community amenities underpinned by exceptional urban design principles.

Luas Finglas will enhance the quality of the public realm, prioritizing pedestrian movement and creating safer, more accessible urban spaces. It supports higher-density development, employment opportunities, and improved mixed-use facilities in suburban Dublin. Dublin City Council strongly believes that the Luas Finglas project is a fitting response to the needs of Dublin and is consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the city.

Dublin City Council remains committed to the Luas Finglas project and will continue to engage with Transport Infrastructure Ireland throughout the statutory planning process.

Sincerely,



Anthony Flynn
Assistant Chief Executive
Planning & Property Development Department
Culture, Recreation & Economic Services Department