

Frank Nevin,
Director of Land Use, Economic & Transport Planning,
South Dublin County Council,
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Tallaght,
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Railway Procurement Agency

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October 6 2011

Re: Metro West Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme

Dear Frank,

As you will be aware, following an instruction from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, RPA has withdrawn the railway order application for Metro West. The NTA has made it clear to RPA that the project has not been cancelled and is expected to proceed at some future stage.

Metro West remains part of the overall strategy for an enhanced public transport network for Dublin. RPA therefore expects to lodge a new railway order application for Metro West at a future stage, when the country's finances have improved and when circumstances allow. The timing of this new railway order application is currently unknown.

It is important that every effort is made to support the long term viability of the project, and to ensure that it can be expeditiously advanced when the economic circumstances improve. In this regard I request that South Dublin County Council use the planning process to preserve the proposed route and maintain mechanisms to allow financial contributions from developers towards the capital cost of Metro West to be realised.

We understand on the back of the withdrawal of the railway order application, that a motion has been put forward by a member of South Dublin County Council to revoke the Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme for Metro West. The contribution to the capital cost of the project through development levies is a key consideration in determination of project timescales and feasibility. RPA thus considers it important that the Metro West levy scheme is not revoked. RPA however acknowledge that, given the current status of the project, the operation of the levy scheme needs to be considered.

Rather than revoke the scheme, RPA requests that South Dublin County Council consider a temporary suspension of the levy until such time as a likely date for a new railway order application for Metro West has been determined.

Yours sincerely,



Pat O'Donoghue
Director of Design and Engineering
Railway Procurement Agency