

Oifig an Aire

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**An Roinn Iompair,
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport



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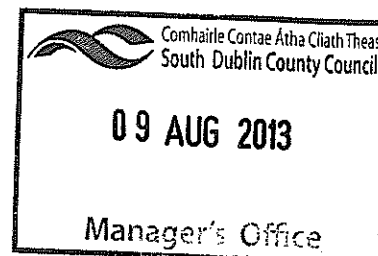
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August 2013

Our Ref: MLVC13/1961

Your Ref: M10/0713

Ms Emer O'Gorman
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services Department
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24



Dear Ms O'Gorman,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the motion Agreed by South Dublin County Council supporting the DART Underground (DU) Programme and the options to secure Ten-T co-funding.

As Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport I have responsibility for policy and overall funding in relation to public transport. Following the establishment of the National Transport Authority (NTA) on 1st December 2009, the provision of public transport infrastructure in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) including the development of the DART Underground Programme comes under the remit of the NTA.

The DART Underground (DU) Programme is made up of 2 elements, namely

- I. The development of an underground tunnel (the DU project) between Docklands and Inchicore, and
- II. A series of related works including the Resignalling of the Northern and Maynooth lines, Electrification of the Kildare, Maynooth & Northern lines, the Kildare Route Project involving four tracking on the Kildare line and the expansion of the DART fleet and associated depot facilities. Phase 1 of the Kildare Route Project was completed in 2010

From a policy perspective I wish to advise you that under the "*Infrastructure and Capital Investment 2012 -2016 Medium Term Investment Framework*", subject to funding availability, some associated works which have capacity benefits in and of themselves as part of the overall DU Programme, may proceed over the next number of years and this will prepare the network for the delivery of the Tunnel at some point in the future.

Works are underway on the City Centre Re-signalling project and the removal of Reilly's Level-Crossing on the Maynooth line as well as studies in relation to the Electrification of the Northern line to Balbriggan.

As you have noted in your letter, DART Underground is currently part of the Ten-T Priority Project 26 (Belfast-Dublin-Cork). Ten-T co-funding of €9.4m has been received from the Ten-T Executive Agency of the European Commission for expenditure on the planning and design phase of the Tunnel element of DART Underground.

I wish to confirm that DART Underground remains a key element of the overall transport integration strategy and is integral to a holistic transport solution to deliver a quantum improvement in rail accessibility to the city centre with benefits for each of the four rail corridors radiating from the city centre, including the Kildare rail line. The timing of its delivery however is heavily dependent on economic recovery and access to a variety of funding sources.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leo Varadkar', written in a cursive style.

Leo Varadkar, TD

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport