

METROLINK

Computer Generated Image of the proposed MetroLink (Source; Dublin People)



Fingal is the fastest growing region in Ireland. To plan for the increasing population projected in Ireland, Dublin needs to plan for future sustainable transport options. The MetroLink is planned from Dublin Airport to Charlemont. Dublin Airport is Ireland's main international gateway this will be an important development for Dublin to relieve traffic congestion. Nearly 8,000 of the 20,000 workers in Swords commute to work there. Cars are used for 72% of all trips in this region and public transport's portion of trips is only 12%, mostly concentrated on the coastal DART line.

In 2018, a record-breaking 31.5 million passengers travelled through Dublin Airport. Dublin Airport supports 117,300 jobs in the Irish economy, and 19,200 of these are employed directly at the airport and its surroundings. Yet there is no rail connection to get either passengers or employees to our largest transport hub.

MetroLink will carry up to 50 million passengers annually, cutting journey times from Swords to the city centre to 25 minutes. It will change the way we travel – and how we live. MetroLink trains will be bigger, faster and there'll be more of them. To achieve the necessary speed and capacity it must be separated from other road users – vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. MetroLink will run underground for most of the route where it can achieve all of this independently of the road network and minimises the impact on the city. The MetroLink will offer a direct route to Dublin Airport from Dublin City Centre offering an easily accessible route for travellers to avail of.

The proposal has faced opposition due to difficulties with the route as it incorporates the existing Luas green line and the stops along the route. There will need to be construction work along the route which would mean the Luas line would not operate for some time. Many residents and members of the public particularly in Charlemont are unhappy with the changes that would need to be made to the Luas to accommodate these plans as they believe the Luas is fine as is. However, many people believe the Luas needs to be upgraded to prepare for the continued development of Cherrywood and Sandyford along the Luas line. Currently, the Luas is at capacity during rush hours. The development of the MetroLink would allow for a higher frequency and capacity on the Luas line.

The public has the opportunity to submit their views during the public consultation. The developers want to emphasise the benefits of having a MetroLink connecting Swords to Charlemont that will be available for all to use.

Following a meeting between the developers and the public to share their views a decision will be made. An Bord Pleanála is responsible for strategic infrastructure projects and will decide the future of the MetroLink to ensure any potential development is sustainable.