



**AN TÁNAISTE  
LEO VARADKAR TD**

**Dublin West Constituency**

**Department of Enterprise, Trade  
and Employment**

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7<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Re: DART+ West Public Consultation**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to express my views and those of my constituents in Dublin 15 and Dublin 7 on this project.

I am strongly supportive of DART WEST and believe it is long overdue. I believe it will be transformative for the area, good for investment and job creation, reduce commuting times, lessen traffic, reduce emissions and be good for public health and wellbeing.

While there is broad acceptance of the closure of the level crossings at Clonsilla, Porterstown and Ashtown, there is strong opposition to the proposal to close the level crossing at Coolmine and the construction of a new bridge either on Coolmine Road or between Riverwood and Stationcourt/St Mochta's. Residents believe that this would severely damage their residential amenity, take away open space and divert traffic on to now quiet roads. In some cases, a quiet cul-de-sac estate distributor road would become a thoroughfare. While maintaining the level crossing as it is might result in local traffic tailbacks, this is an inconvenience they are willing to accept. I support them in this assessment.

While I can understand why closure is the preferred option from a railway engineering point of view, this aspect of the proposal will result in numerous and very strong objections from the local community at Railway Order stage and even judicial review. I believe this will sour the project and result in extra cost and delay. I am convinced that it is possible to operate a DART service on this line with a level crossing, such as exist on the current DART line, for example, at Lansdowne Road. I am sure this can be done. I strongly recommend that the closure of the Coolmine Level Crossing and the construction of a new bridge should not form part of the Railway Order application.

I have discussed this matter with my cabinet colleagues, Jack and Roderic, in the constituency and there is strong consensus on this matter. I also spoke to Eamon after cabinet.

I am grateful to you for taking my views on board and I wish the project well.

Yours sincerely,

Leo Varadkar TD  
Tánaiste  
Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment