

## **Statement by the Railway Procurement Agency on the Report of Establishment Team of the Dublin Transport Authority**

The Railway Procurement Agency (RPA) notes the publication of the Report of the Dublin Transport Authority Establishment Team. The RPA fully supports the setting up of a DTA where it can "add value" to the work of the existing bodies in the more effective implementation of Transport 21 projects in the Greater Dublin Area.

The RPA does not agree with the proposal that the new DTA should absorb the RPA, effectively leading to the dismantling and abolition of the Agency. The Report does not provide a credible explanation as to why a new State agency is required to take over the implementation of Metro and Luas projects, whose planning is now well advanced. The RPA itself was established less than five years ago and has demonstrated its capability in the successful implementation of Luas.

The RPA has developed significant momentum in the delivery of Transport 21 projects in the Dublin Area and in particular, its flagship project, Metro North. After extensive public consultation, the RPA selected a route for Metro North, which was announced recently. The RPA has agreed a PPP structure that will be the basis of an international competition, after detailed consultation with international contractors and investors. The Agency has also assembled a team of fifty internationally-experienced professionals to design the project and negotiate a commercial structure with PPP bidders. The proposal to create a new agency (DTA), with a mandate to plan and develop Metro North, runs a serious risk of delaying the momentum that the RPA has already achieved in developing the project. It would also be likely to cause confusion among many parties including potential bidders for the largest PPP project in the state.

In responding to the invitation by the Minister for Transport to comment on the DTA Report, the RPA will be conveying these views to the Minister in coming weeks.

Since its establishment in 2001, the RPA has focused on delivering transport infrastructure to the highest standards, in partnership with the private sector and with other public agencies. The 50 million passengers who have travelled on Luas since its launch in 2004 are a measure of the public response to the delivery of first-rate public transport infrastructure.

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