

**Press Release Information**  
02/07/11  
Tom Manning 087 410 0199  
PR Manager

**Railway Procurement Agency**

Parkgate Centre,  
Parkgate Street,  
Dublin 8, Ireland.

Phone: +353 (0) 1 646 3400

Fax: +353 (0) 1 646 3401

[www.rpa.ie](http://www.rpa.ie)

**Gníomhaireacht  
um Fháil Iarnróid**

Ionad Ghnó Gheata na Páirce,  
Sráid Gheata na Páirce,  
Baile Átha Cliath 8, Éire.

Fón: +353 (0) 1 646 3400

Facs: +353 (0) 1 646 3401

[www.rpa.ie](http://www.rpa.ie)

## RPA - Luas Citywest Launch

The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Leo Varadkar T.D. was in the Fettercairn Community Centre in West Tallaght today to officially launch the new Luas link to Citywest and Saggart.

Luas Citywest will deliver top quality public transport services to established local communities and will facilitate the developing Citywest business area. It is estimated that 2 million extra Red Line passenger journeys will be made as a result of this new line.

Luas Citywest (Line A1) is the new 4.2km light rail link off the Red Line at Belgard and running to Saggart in West County Dublin. The new line includes 5 new stops and a 312 space Park & Ride facility at Cheeverstown.

This new line has been developed by means of a partnership between the public and private sectors and goes into full passenger service immediately.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Varadkar said: "Luas is Dublin's best public transport success story. It is comfortable, reliable and time efficient. Since it came into use seven years ago, over 177 million passenger journeys have been taken by Luas. Uniquely among rail lines in Ireland, it has operated a surplus and has not needed a subsidy. Luas has been a great success. This new line will make it even better. I hope it will not be the last."

"This is a major step forward for commuter services," stated Public & Commuter Transport Minister, Alan Kelly.

"With 2 million extra passenger journeys, I can envisage many people travelling to Dublin stopping at Citywest and using this Luas line to get to the city centre. Hopefully this will contribute to a better commuter experience for those living in the area and for those travelling to Dublin from the regions," stated Minister Kelly.

The private sector consortium which came together to partner the Railway Procurement Agency in the delivery of Line A1 is Citywest Luas Ltd. (CLL). CLL is a group of local landowners and business interests (comprising of Davy Hickey Properties, Harcourt Development Limited and HSS (Mansfield Group)). Luas Citywest delivers a new option in top quality public transport to communities such as Cairnwood, Ambervale, Belgard Green, Fettercairn, Kilmartin, Brookview and Ard Mor.

The expected run time from the terminus at Saggart /Garter Lane to the City Centre is approximately 50 minutes while the projected run time from the existing Belgard stop to Saggart is 10 minutes.

The new line offers a 10 minute frequency at peak and the Tallaght terminus will have a six minute frequency at peak.

The total project cost estimate is just under €150m with the Developer's contribution comprising of land, works and a capital contribution estimated at 55% of the total cost.

Speaking at the well-attended launch ceremony in Fettercairn, RPA Chief Executive Mr Frank Allen said:

“The high frequency service provided by Luas Citywest will improve the quality of life for the residents of West Tallaght and will improve the competitiveness of business in the area. We would like to thank our partners in the community and in Citywest Luas Ltd for making this project possible.”

Mr Conal Harvey, Chairman of CLL said: “This project is a unique example of private developers leading a public private partnership. The developers have contributed more than €50 million in cash plus land for the project, handing over the project to the RPA when the tracks were built. We believe the Luas line will be a tremendous boost for the community and to business development and we are delighted to have been the originators of the project.”

Ends.