

The Resident

Parkgate Business Centre,  
Parkgate Street,  
Dublin 8, Ireland.

**Gníomhaireacht  
um Fháil Iarnróid**

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

Fón +353 1 646 3400

Facs +353 1 646 3401

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

Our Ref: 01561

Your Ref: 121207

December 12, 2007

**Re: - Metro North: DCU Stop Announcement**

Dear Resident,

We wrote to you on August 27<sup>th</sup> outlining a number of options, which RPA was considering for the design and location of the DCU stop on Metro North. Our letter set out two design options: open air and underground; and two location options: beside Albert College Estate or inside Albert College Park.

RPA has evaluated the options against the criteria set out in our letter and has decided that an underground station beside Albert College Estate best meets these criteria. In reaching this decision, RPA took cognisance of the issues raised by the public and key stakeholders in their response to RPA's public consultation on the options.

An analysis of the comments resulting from public consultation showed there was little consensus on the stop options but localised preference patterns did emerge. For example, while Albert College residents and their representative associations (Albert College Residents Association and Ballymun Road Area Association) stated a preference for an underground stop inside Albert College Park; residents on Ballymun Road living opposite the park, and residents of Hampstead, The Rise and Griffith Avenue and their representative association (Griffith Avenue and District Residents Association) stated a preference for an underground stop beside Albert College Estate.

The primary purpose of public consultation is to allow us understand the impact of the proposed development of Metro North on local residents and determine what arrangements can be made to reduce those impacts, before submitting the Railway Order application. Many of the responses stated no reason for their preference. The main issues raised by those who did give reasons for their preferences were:

- Loss of green space and amenity areas
- Disruption to scout activities
- Safe access to Scout Hall and schools
- Noise associated with metro operations
- Anti-social behaviour
- Landscape and visual impacts
- Use of residential roads for car parking

In reaching its decision, RPA noted the advice of its environmental consultants that locating the stop inside Albert College Park has significantly worse impacts on the environment in terms of land-use, landscape and visual impacts and ecology. This option also has greater construction impacts due to the need to build additional escape tunnels and exits in the vicinity of Ballymun library.

RPA is also aware of people's concerns in relation to loss of green space; possible noise and anti-social behaviour associated with persons using the metro, particularly late at night; car parking; and in relation to maintaining safe access for pedestrians to local amenities, including schools, the Scout Hall and local shops. We believe that these issues can be mitigated through careful design of the stop and through appropriate operating procedures. We are committed to discussing appropriate mitigation arrangements with local community representatives and other stakeholders as the detailed design progresses.

As a first step in mitigating these concerns, RPA believes that it is appropriate to move the station southwards so that the southern entrance of the building lies within the current boundary wall of Westfield House. This reduces the visual impacts for residents within Albert College estate and on Ballymun Road; moves the northern entrance away from Albert College Court and reduces the amount of green space taken up by the stop. The recommended option is illustrated on the enclosed drawings.

The final decision on whether to approve this stop rests with An Bord Pleanála. The powers needed, by RPA to proceed with the construction of Metro North will depend on a railway order being granted by An Bord Pleanála. Opportunities will be available to the public at that stage for making submissions to An Bord Pleanála in relation to our proposals and in the meantime, public consultation will continue as part of the ongoing Environmental Impact Assessment. Interested parties are invited to continue to engage with RPA as the project develops further. If, after considering RPA's application, submissions received, the outcome of any oral hearing and so on, An Bord Pleanála grants a railway order, construction of the proposed railway works would then be authorised.

RPA appreciates the efforts, which have been made in the local communities to engage in public consultation on the stop and wishes to thank all those who have contributed to this process.

Please contact Mary Denise O'Reilly on 646 3653 or by email on [mary-deniseoreilly@rpa.ie](mailto:mary-deniseoreilly@rpa.ie) if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

pp 

Tom Manning  
Public Relations Manager

Encl: View of proposed stop