



02/09/2024

By email to David.healy@cllr.fingal.ie

Dear David,

Thank you for discussing the Dart + Coastal North project with me, in particular the provision of infrastructure to enable transfers at Howth Junction. I understand the concerns of the communities which rely on Howth, Sutton and Bayside stations, as well as of the tourism interests in Howth, all emphasising the importance of the direct rail service.

The review of the DART+ Coastal North project by JASPERS (EIB) recommended as follows:

"Further analysis and public consultations should be made on the ideal operating model for DART+CN, in particular whether or not to enforce transfer at Howth Junction for Howth route trains (with the overall operational consequences this implies). The latter may depend on the potential to ensure an attractive, secure transfer environment at this location. In relation to this, we recommend to seek an independent external design opinion for the Howth Junction upgrade project, and to address residual public and other stakeholder concerns regarding the reduction or elimination of direct services on the Howth branch."

I have asked my Department to follow up to ensure the implementation of this recommendation by NTA and Iarnród Éireann.

Yours sincerely,

Eamon Ryan T.D.
Minister for Transport