

Submission to MetroLink proposal for intervention shaft at Albert College – Cllr Mary Fitzpatrick

As a local resident and Dublin City Councillor I welcome the opportunity to give feedback on the proposal for a MetroLink Intervention Shaft at Albert College Park.

I take issue with the following aspects of the public consultation:

- It does not invite feedback on the actual concept of an intervention shaft Vs a MetroLink station at Albert College
- It does not explore or evaluate the possibility of a MetroLink station instead of an intervention shaft at Albert College
- It asserts the need of the intervention shaft on health and safety grounds but does not acknowledge that the same health and safety considerations could be addressed through the provision of a MetroLink station at Albert College
- It invites feedback only on two aspects of the proposal:
 - The overall appearance of the building and its surroundings.
 - The proposed construction methodology.

It is unacceptable that this consultation attempts to exclude feedback on the principle of the provision of an intervention shaft at Albert College and attempts to assert that the provision of an intervention shaft at this location is already an agreed element of the project.

The detailed information document provided by MetroLink for the consultation states “TII held a non-statutory Public Consultation on the MetroLink Preferred Route in April 2019, during which the proposed location for the tunnel intervention shaft were presented to the general public and other stakeholders. At the time of the public consultation the concept design for MetroLink had not been progressed to the preliminary design stage and as a consequence TII had very limited design information on the size and form of the tunnel intervention shaft to present to members of the public. “

This statement highlights the contradiction in TII/MetroLinks position with regards provision of information and consultation on an intervention shaft at Albert College. Firstly, it attempts to assert that the intervention shaft was “presented” during the non-statutory consultation. Yet it then continues to state that the “preliminary design of the intervention shaft had not progressed” so details could not have been “presented” or shared.

On this basis it is unreasonable to try to assert that the provision of an intervention shaft is already agreed/approved. This is a significant structure that will take three years to construct and have a lasting impact on the surrounding community. No attempt should be made to try and slip this in under the radar.

There must be proper consideration given to the alternative provision of a MetroLink Station at this site. Full consultation should allow for and invite feedback on the very provision of an intervention shaft versus the provision of a station.

To facilitate such consultation, I ask that TII/MetroLink undertake and present an evaluation of provision of a MetroLink Station instead of an Intervention Shaft at Albert College. This might require consideration of repositioning of other stations on the proposed route but an infrastructure like this, if built, will be in place for 100s of years and it must be done properly and to maximum public benefit.

A MetroLink Station at Albert College would meet all the health and safety concerns and give the added benefit to the community of station access to the MetroLink and reduce the negative impact on the local park amenity.

I urge TII/MetroLink to reconsider and to provide for a MetroLink Station at Albert College Park.

Sincerely,

Cllr Mary Fitzpatrick