

Tripling DART Rail Capacity Through Environmental Services



CHALLENGE

DART+ West's integration with Luas and the proposed MetroLink stations will offer improved multimodal connections, creating a more accessible, efficient, and climate-friendly urban transportation system for Dublin's future.

SOLUTION

AWN conducted baseline monitoring, detailed 3D modelling, and offered expert witness services at the oral hearing.

RESULT

The EIAR was submitted in July 2022 to An Bord Pleanála and an oral hearing was held in October 2023. In July 2024, a decision to grant the Railway Order for the project was made by An Bord Pleanála.

DART+ West is a transformative phase of the DART+ Programme, which will significantly increase rail capacity along the Maynooth Line, running from Dublin's city centre to Maynooth and M3 Parkway to the west. With DART+ West's implementation, passenger capacity on this line will grow from 4,500 to 13,200 passengers per hour by 2025, marking a substantial improvement in public transport options for the Greater Dublin Area. Major infrastructure upgrades include the electrification and re-signalling of approximately 40 kilometres of rail, capacity enhancements at Connolly Station, a new station at Spencer Dock, and the construction of a maintenance depot west of Maynooth.

CHALLENGE

The aim is to create a sustainable, low-carbon transit network that alleviates road congestion, supports economic growth, and strengthens connectivity. DART+ West's integration with Luas and the proposed MetroLink stations will offer improved multimodal connections, creating a more accessible, efficient, and climate-friendly urban transportation system for Dublin's future. However, with any infrastructure project, there is the potential for environmental impacts.

The project will also incorporate the closure of level crossings and necessary bridge replacements to accommodate electrification, alongside various substations, electrical buildings, and other essential facilities.

SOLUTION

AWN Consulting Ltd., a Trinity Consultants team, provided essential environmental services for the DART+ West project, conducting baseline monitoring, detailed 3D modelling, and offering expert witness services at the oral hearing. Working as a sub-consultant to Roughan & O'Donovan on the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), AWN focused on noise & vibration, air quality, and climate impact assessments, crucial for understanding and mitigating potential impacts on the environment and surrounding communities.

RESULT

The EIAR was submitted in July 2022 to An Bord Pleanála and an oral hearing was held in October 2023. In July 2024, a decision to grant the Railway Order for the project was made by An Bord Pleanála. DART+ West was the first step in a wider expansion of the DART, which aims to significantly increase the provision of a renewable energy powered transportation network.

Further Text: dartplus.ie/en-ie/projects/dart-west

ABOUT TRINITY CONSULTANTS

Trinity Consultants, a leading global environmental consulting firm, provides services and solutions in the EHS Regulatory Compliance, Built Environment, Life Sciences, and Water & Ecology markets. Founded in 1974, Trinity has the technical expertise, industry depth, and capabilities to help clients achieve their goals across the natural and built environments.