



**Náisiúnta**  
National Transport Authority

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An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

14<sup>th</sup> September 2011

**Re: Children's Hospital of Ireland**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The National Transport Authority (the "Authority") submits the following report on the proposed Children's Hospital of Ireland at Eccles Street, Dublin 7.

The Authority has published a draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (GDA), which has been submitted to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport for his consideration and approval. An integrated implementation plan, which will guide investment decisions over a six year period, will follow the adoption of the Transport Strategy. While the Transport Strategy is currently a draft document, the Authority's comments are based on the policies, objectives and measures contained within the draft Transport Strategy when considering this application.

The draft Transport Strategy promotes the key principle of intensifying and consolidating cities by building on appropriate brownfield sites or reusing underutilised sites, thus facilitating increased movement by walking, cycling and public transport, and addressing urban sprawl. The Authority considers that the site of the proposed Children's Hospital in Dublin City Centre, with its close proximity to existing and proposed public transport (including Luas BXD and Metro North), is consistent with the key principles of the draft Strategy, and that the location is appropriate for the corresponding level of use and trip demand associated with a hospital facility of this scale.

In addition, the Authority has the following comments in relation to the design of facility as presented in the application.

## **Metro North**

Planning approval has been granted for the construction of Metro North (ABP Ref: 06F.NA.0003), a key project of the draft NTA Strategy. The Authority is aware that discussions are ongoing between the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board (NPHDB) and the Railway Procurement Agency (RPA) to resolve all outstanding construction issues. In advance of the completion of these discussions, the Authority recommends that any grant of permission includes a condition which requires suitable mitigation measures to be provided in the design of the hospital, to limit the effect of future metro construction and operation on the functioning of the Children's Hospital of Ireland.

## **Surrounding Road Layout**

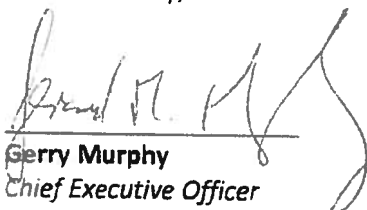
The Authority has a general concern about the provision for cyclists, and other detailed design issues related to the road layout of North Circular Road and Eccles Street as proposed in application. The Authority suggests that any grant of permission includes a condition which requires the applicant to agree the final layout of the surrounding road network with Dublin City Council and the National Transport Authority.

## **Access to car park from North Circular Road**

In addition to the point set out above, the Authority has concerns over the location of a secondary car park access off the North Circular Road. The Authority suggests that, if possible, all private vehicular access to the car parks should be provided via Eccles Street in the interest of maintaining the efficient flow of traffic, pedestrian and cyclists along the North Circular Road.

I trust that the views of the Authority will be taken into consideration in assessing this application.

Yours sincerely,



**Gerry Murphy**  
*Chief Executive Officer*