An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902.



Re: Section 177AE Application - An Bord Pleanála - Development at Drogheda, County Louth to Mornington, County Meath- Boyne Greenway

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) wishes to draw attention to:

- The "whole of Government" National Disability Inclusion Strategy (NDIS) 2017-2021, which is aimed at improving the lives of people with disabilities, and
- 2. The ratification by Ireland in 2018 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). The UNCRPD puts obligations on State Parties, including Local Authorities, to ensure access for, and consultations with, persons with disabilities to, inter alia, the physical environment and transportation in both urban and rural areas.

To make transport fully accessible to people with disabilities requires a 'whole journey approach' which refers to all elements that constitute a journey from the starting point to destination via the built (physical) environment. For example, from a person's home to public transport (eg Drogheda train station) and onwards to place of employment, or recreational and leisure facilities (eg Greenways).

Local Authorities are a key stakeholder in this regard in the context of ensuring a universal design approach to the built environment, including footpaths, roads, pedestrian crossing points and bus stops/shelters, and greenways as proposed in this application.

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DTTAS can assist with appropriate text in the application regarding integrated, accessible public transport.

Yours sincerely,

Reform Communications and Emergency Planning

An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport