Dear Representative.

As some of you may be aware, Transport Infrastructure Ireland plan to open a station for the Metro North project in the grounds immediately in front of Our Lady of Victories church, opposite the school. This project will take several years, (up to 9 years as we have been advised). The construction and enabling works ( re-alignment of drainage etc) that this will require will have a significant long term effect on the access to drop off / pick up area that is safe for the children in OLV schools. This site will be only a matter of metres from the gates of the school.

The works will involve the following:

* Closure of the central traffic island in the construction phase and narrowing of footpaths.
* Closure ,by way of hoarding, the vehicular access off Ballymun Road to the back of OLV church.
* The excavation of a volume of earth and rock from the area in front of the church that will be a comparable size to that of Croke Park, with all of the consequential dust, noise and displacement of vermin etc that blasting and boring will require to construct the tunnel.
* Significant construction traffic- dumper trucks etc.
* Closure of the vehicular access from Ballymun Road into the Albert College estate, forcing all traffic down Collins Avenue into the back of the church.

All of these issues will have a significant and long-lasting effect on ability of the schools to operate as normal during this extremely disruptive and onerous process.

Despite the best efforts of residents groups in the area and of the combined school boards, alternative siting of the station is not being given fair or active consideration by TII- the decision has been presented as a “done-deal”.

In the context of the agreement to move another station from Na Fianna in the last couple of years after pressure from the GAA Club, residents and schools in the area, this approach seems to me to be disproportionate and manifestly unfair-possibly because there is belief that the parents of children in OLV won’t be as vocal as those a couple of kilometres down the road.

In advance of TII’s application for a “Railway Order”-which is effectively a planning permission with additional powers, I, as your constituent and concerned parent of an OLV pupil, respectfully request that you use your position to express concerns at the highest level about this development. I would add that many technical queries around the site footprint, access and traffic management etc remain unresolved at this time.

This development has been ill conceived and is being pushed onto the school without any regard for the welfare and long term sustainability of our school campus as a pillar of this community.

Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Yours Sincerely

Name & address etc.