

I am making this submission on behalf of Aontú Louth in relation to Alteration 91 viz:

91	<b>Amendment to Policy Objective MOV 14</b> To secure, in co-operation with Iarnród Éireann and the National Transport Authority, improved rail services for the mid and South Louth areas County Louth, and in particular to seek to examine the feasibility of re-opening the rail station in Dunleer and providing additional new rail stations for south Dundalk, north Drogheda, and the mid Louth area including the possibility of additional rail stations.	MOV 14	089
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Aontú are of the opinion that the removal of specific locations in the Development plan and in particular the removal of the stated aim of reopening Dunleer Railway station is a regressive step for public transport in County Louth. Rather than scaling back the ambition for public transport in the County the Council should embrace the opportunity the rail network affords.

In a post Covid economy not every train journey needs to begin or end in Dublin or Belfast and the reopening of Dunleer will lead to a better commuter service within Louth. Additional train facilities in both Dundalk and Drogheda will allow for greater use of the rail line and a reduction in private car transport.

As a minimum the Council should restore the previous objective and put a time line on it so that the feasibility of reopening Dunleer should be completed with a two year period (max) within the lifetime of this plan.