

Ireland

Luas Cross City



TYPE OF TOOL:
Project



MAIN SECTOR:
Transport



INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNANCE PILLARS:
Efficient and effective public procurement

In a nutshell:



OBJECTIVE: The project aimed to construct a significant extension of the existing Luas Green Line railway and integrate the new service into the public transport network.



Agency in charge
National Transport Authority (NTA)



Levels of government
National



Year of implementation:
2013



Current status:
Operation



Value:
€382.5 million

Overview:

Luas Cross City (LCC) was a railway line extension of the existing Luas Green Line from its original terminus at St. Stephen's Green through the commercial centre of Dublin city to a new terminus at Broombridge train station. Luas Cross City linked the two existing Luas lines (Green Line and Red Line) and provided new interchanges with commuter rail and bus at different points along its 5.86km route. Construction work commenced in June 2013 following a competitive public procurement process and Government approval of the Business Case.

The contracting and procurement strategy used on the project drew upon lessons learned from previous Luas projects. It contained control measures to address the main identified risks. One such measure included a dispute avoidance process under the guidance of an experienced arbitrator of international standing. This process involved the deployment of additional resources by the contractor which added significant cost to the civil construction contract but succeeded in meeting the commitment made to the city in the Business Case of 2012, i.e. that the LCC extension of the Luas Green Line would be carrying passengers by December 2017.

Challenges: The project faced particular challenges as the construction took place in some of the busiest streets in the country. The arrangements put in place to ensure that Dublin kept moving provided the contractors with limited access to certain sections of the site for limited periods.

Lessons learned: The project team successfully overcame the challenges of delivering a new tramline across the heart of a busy capital city. City residents and businesses experienced inconvenience during the construction period but would be repaid through the significant benefits that the LCC brought.

REFERENCES:

- Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (2021), Project Ireland 2040 - Investment Impact Case Studies, <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/77fe2-national-development-plan-phase-1-report-2021/>