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February 9th, 2024

Deputy Matt Shanahan,
Dáil Éireann, Leinster House,
Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Dáil Question No: 18

To ask the Minister for Transport if the DAA is contemplating spending over €250 million on a tunnel at Dublin Airport for a handful of vehicles per hour; if so, if this project has received approval through the public spending code; and what public money including EIB borrowing has been made available to DAA since 2020.

Dear Deputy Shanahan,

Dublin Airport is developing the Underpass of the crosswind runway to maintain vital connectivity for airport operations between its east and west campuses. The number of vehicles is not comparable to that of a public road as that is not its purpose, being as it is for airfield operational vehicles. In addition, both the Safety Regulation and Compliance division of the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA), as well as the air traffic control authority AirNav Ireland, have fully endorsed the project on safety grounds.

As a semi-state company, Dublin Airport has a comprehensive capital appraisal process which seeks to apply where appropriate the relevant aspects of the public spending code.

Dublin Airport receives no funding from the exchequer. It is fully funded from passenger charges, aeronautical and non-aeronautical commercial revenue streams. The passenger charge element is independently regulated by the IAA, of which only a proportion funds capital projects. The IAA reviews this charge approximately every five years, with the last being undertaken in 2022.

As part of these reviews, the IAA considers a number of elements, including investment in infrastructure (the capital investment programme) from both a need and cost efficiency perspective, and approved the proposed Underpass as part of both the 2019 and 2022 reviews following a consultation process with stakeholders.

daa funds its debt from a number of sources including the EIB. To date no funding from the EIB borrowing has been spent on the Underpass.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des O'Connor', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Des O'Connor,
daa plc

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