

**Minutes of Board Meeting**

**Held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

**At 10.30am in NTA Offices on Harcourt Lane**

**Present:** Mr John Fitzgerald (Chairperson), Mr Gerry Murphy (CEO), Mr Hugh Creegan (Director of Transport Investment and Taxi Regulation), Mr Frank King, Ms Linda Saunders, Mr Damian Usher, Mr James Deegan, Dr Berna Grist, Ms Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Mr Daithí Alcorn, Mr John Tierney (Dublin City Manager).

**Apologies:** Ms Valerie O'Reilly.

**Staff in attendance:** Mr Philip L'Estrange (Item 2), Ms Anne Graham (Item 3) and Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

\* \* \* \* \*

**1. Minutes of previous meeting**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012 were agreed.

**2. CEO Report and Finance Update**

The Chief Executive reported on progress on the implementation of public transport reviews in the regional cities, the award of a new PSO contract for the provision of a local bus service between Urlingford and Portlaoise and in relation to the filling of posts through redeployment arrangements. He also reported that the Authority has submitted five-year transport investment plans for the Greater Dublin Area and the regional cities to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. He noted that the Authority is awaiting the response of the Minister of State at the Department to its proposals for revised governance structures in respect of rural transport.

The Board discussed a number of issues including rural transport, the implications of the rationalisation of Expressway bus services and the need to disseminate information concerning the outcome of prosecutions relating to illegal taxi activity.

The C&AG has now approved the Authority's 2011 Annual Report and Financial Statements. Accordingly, the published document will be available shortly. However, the Chief Executive indicated that next year he proposes to publish the 2012 Annual Report as a separate document in view of the difficulty in obtaining timely approval of the Financial Statements.

Mr L'Estrange gave a report on the Authority's management accounts for August/September and the January to September periods.

**3. PSO operators (finances, services and fares)**

The status of subsidised public transport formed the primary item on the Board's meeting agenda. The Chief Executive outlined recent developments with regard to the subvention of public transport including the Government decision to allocate an additional €36 million to the CIÉ companies and

the planned approvals to the requests for increases in public transport fares, including Luas, due to a variety of factors including the impact of falling passenger levels and subvention levels and increased fuel costs. There followed a general discussion concerning a broad range of issues including fare and subsidy levels, steps being taken by the CIÉ companies to reduce their costs, the review of free travel arrangements being undertaken by the Department of Social Protection, the impact of competition between bus and rail services and the marketing of public transport services.

#### **4. Oireachtas Committee and Cabinet Sub-Committee**

The Chief Executive reported that the Authority had attended a meeting of Oireachtas Committee on Communications and Transport on 17 October which was convened to discuss the provision of public transport services. The Authority made a presentation to the Committee outlining its role and responded to questions from Committee members.

The Authority has been asked to make a presentation on the 2014 bus service contracts to a Cabinet Sub-Committee.

#### **5. Taxi update**

Mr Creegan provided a brief update on actions being taken by the Authority to implement the recommendations of the Government Taxi Review and on progress of the Authority's review of taxi fares. He noted that it will not be possible to finalise the consolidation of taxi regulations until proposed new taxi legislation has been enacted by the Oireachtas. He drew attention to a legal action against the Authority, which has been initiated by a taxi representative body.

#### **6. Any other business**

Proposed dates for Board meetings in 2013 were circulated.

The implications for the Authority's role and functions of Government plans to re-organise local government and work being undertaken in Northern Ireland to improve the rail line between Derry and Belfast were discussed.

**Next Meeting: Friday 16 November 2012 @ 10.30am at NTA Headquarters.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**John Fitzgerald, Chairperson**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_