

**Minutes of Board Meeting**

**Held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2013**

**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 James Deegan, Dr Berna Grist, Ms Valerie O'Reilly, Mr Damian Usher, Mr Daithí Alcorn.

**Apologies:** Ms Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Mr Philip Maguire.

**Staff in attendance:** Mr Philip L'Estrange & Mr Declan Sheehan (Item 3), Mr Aidan Gallagher & Mr Eoghan Forristal (Item 4), Ms Anne Graham (Items 4 & 5), Ms Gráinne Mackin and Ms Jennifer Gilna (Item 6) and Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

\* \* \* \* \*

**1. Minutes of previous meeting**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013 were agreed.

The Chairperson indicated that the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Transport was unable to attend the Board meeting due to other commitments. The Minister will now attend the July meeting instead.

**2. CEO Report**

The Chief Executive updated the Board on recent developments. The official opening of Hansfield rail station will take place on 28 June while preliminary works for the Luas Cross City line will commence next week. The Authority's proposals for the extension of suburban rail services serving Heuston Station in Dublin to the City's southern business district via the Phoenix Park rail tunnel have been submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. An integrated implementation plan for public transport infrastructure and services in the Greater Dublin Area (which is required under section 13 of the Dublin Transport Act 2008) is being prepared for public consultation.

The Department of the Environment will shortly issue a circular to local authorities concerning the Authority's report on the planning and development of large scale residential developments in the Greater Dublin Area. A pilot contract for the provision of dispatch operator for wheelchair accessible taxis in Cork has been awarded to ABC Cabs. The National Journey Planner now incorporates transport services in Northern Ireland. The last of the Authority's staff based in Fitzwilliam Square have moved to Harcourt Lane. The Fitzwilliam Square premises will now be sub-leased to another organisation resulting in a substantial saving on the Authority's accommodation costs.

The Chief Executive responded to requests by Board members for clarification on a number of points arising from the Chief Executive's report and additional issues including the new timetable for rail services to Rosslare Europort which is being trialled over the summer and the state of passenger facilities at that rail station; the status of the proposed public bike scheme for Waterford; the

possible reintroduction of a northbound Luas stop on Dawson Street as part of the Luas Cross City project; the introduction of zonal ticketing as part of the roll-out of Leap card on Bus Éireann services; and CIÉ's financial position.

The Chief Executive noted that he had circulated Board members with details of the proposed award of a contract for the provision of compliance support services in the taxi area. Mr Creegan outlined the purpose of the proposed contract, the services to be provided under the contract and the outcome of the tender process. Following a short discussion the Board approved the award of the tender to Applus.

### **3. Finance Report and ICT strategy**

Mr L'Estrange provided an update on the Authority's management accounts to the end of April 2013 which are in line with expectations.

Mr Sheehan gave a detailed presentation of the Authority's ICT Strategy for the period 2013-2017. As the Authority was formed through the amalgamation of a number of organisations or parts of organisations it has inherited a variety of ICT systems and solutions. The priority up to now has been to secure reliable ICT management and some limited consolidation. The Authority's ICT Strategy will focus on maximum consolidation of current assets in order to provide a secure and reliable IT Infrastructure and achieve costs savings through increased efficiencies including a reduction in suppliers. The Authority will also consider the exploitation of new and emerging technologies.

Mr Sheehan then responded to questions from Board members concerning a number of issues including the security of the Leap card systems and the Authority's websites.

### **4. Serving Swords by Bus Rapid Transit**

Mr Gallagher outlined the work currently being undertaken by the Authority to upgrade the existing Quality Bus Corridor between Swords and Dublin City Centre, which is one of the busiest bus corridors in Dublin. An outline business case has been completed and is very positive. Detailed planning work, including the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement will now be progressed in preparation for the submission of an application to An Bord Pleanála under the Strategic Infrastructure Act.

Mr Gallagher and Mr Forristal responded to questions concerning a number of issues including the provision of a bus/rail interchange at Drumcondra rail station and passenger capacity.

### **5. Rural Transport, consolidation and contracting**

Ms Graham outlined details of the proposed restructuring of the rural transport programme which is due to be announced shortly. The objective of the restructuring is to improve the rural transport programme by streamlining its administration and structures and placing it in the appropriate regulatory structure while at the same time strengthening the contributory role of local authorities and, critically, by preserving the existing local and voluntary involvement in the planning and provision of rural transport services.

Board members welcomed the considerable work which had been achieved in the short period since the Authority had taken on responsibility for the rural transport programme and expressed confidence that the new arrangements will benefit rural transport groups and their customers.

## **6. Websites and apps**

Ms Gilna explained the features of the new Luas Cross City website. Ms Mackin (who was recently appointed as the strategic communications manager for the Luas Cross City project) outlined the broad communications strategy for the project.

The impact of Luas construction works on bus services serving the south city suburbs was raised. Mr Creegan outlined the arrangements that are planned to minimise the level of disruption to bus passengers.

In view of time constraints it was decided to postpone a planned presentation about the Authority's new real time passenger information app until the July meeting.

## **7. Any other business**

It was agreed that the Authority should hold its August meeting in Cork.

**Next Meeting: Friday 12 July 2013 @ 10.30am at NTA Headquarters.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**John Fitzgerald, Chairperson**

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