

## **Minutes of Board Meeting**

**Held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010  
at 10.30am at NTA offices**

### **Present:**

Mr. John Fitzgerald (Chairperson), Dr. Berna Grist, Mr. Frank King, Mr. Gerry Murphy (Chief Executive), Ms. Linda Saunders, Mr. John Tierney, Mr. Damian Usher, Ms. Valerie O'Reilly, Anne Graham (Secretary to Board)

### **1. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the Board's meeting of February 19th 2010 with an amendment in the last paragraph from 16<sup>th</sup> April to 21<sup>st</sup> April were proposed by Mr. King, seconded by Ms. Saunders and agreed.

### **2. CEO Report**

A written report had been circulated to Board members in advance of the meeting. The CEO highlighted a few key items in his report.

Under the Public Service Transport Contracts, Bus Éireann had sought changes to their contract in relation to reductions in services. The NTA has refused permission for three of the amendments proposed. A request will be coming to the NTA to approve the suspension of the Rosslare – Waterford service operated by Irish Rail under their public service transport contract. Alternative uses for the line are being considered such as a Heritage Railway or for the transport of freight.

An update was given in relation to some of the projects receiving Capital Funding. The Railway Order application for Dart Underground is delayed slightly for Irish Rail to include a second entrance into Docklands Station at the request of An Bord Pleanála. This won't affect the overall programme as the procurement will run in parallel.

The car park adjacent to the Cherrywood LUAS station will not be completed in time for the opening of the LUAS extension due to planning and site difficulties.

The issue about the location of the proposed Navan Railway Line Phase 2 at Dunshaughlin will be clarified after the CEO meets Irish Rail on this issue.

The CEO clarified that the Dart Underground tunnel is not designed to take freight trains as alternative routes were considered more appropriate and only electric units can use the tunnel.

The position in relation to Bus Licensing coming to the NTA as a function in summer 2010 was clarified.

On Integrated Ticketing the CEO expressed concern at slow progress in getting operating contract agreed and completed.

The CEO highlighted the NTA work under Smarter Travel Workplaces. The objective was to have 100 of the top employers supporting the programme by 2012. Three companies signed charters with the NTA in the last fortnight including the ESB.

Under Staffing and Budget, the CEO advised the Board that the NTA will face a significant challenge to retain the seven temporary staff given the ban on recruitment and the Employment Control Framework being negotiated with the Department of Finance.

### **3. RPA presentation**

The CEO of the RPA, Frank Allen joined the meeting with his colleagues Rory O'Connor and Jim Kilfeather for this item. They gave a power-point presentation on the LUAS operations and the planned extensions to the system. Following the presentation Mr Allen and his team dealt with a number of questions from Board members. The RPA were complimented for the very successful operation of the existing LUAS system.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Allan and his team for their excellent presentation and they left the meeting.

### **4. NTA submissions on Draft Development Plans & RPGs**

Two submissions were discussed as follows:

- 1) Draft RPG for the Greater Dublin Area 2010 -2022
- 2) Draft RPG for the West Region 2010 - 2022

In relation to 1) Joe Horan, County Manager South Dublin County Council and Deirdre Scully, Planning Officer, Regional Planning Guidelines Office, joined the meeting to discuss the draft Regional Planning Guidelines. Mr. Horan & Ms. Scully then left the meeting. An amended submission was tabled which contained the same overall objectives but had been reworked address, in particular, development consolidation and the treatment of Transport 21 projects. It was agreed to send the amended submission..

In relation to 2) it was agreed to forward the submission but following a consultation meeting with the West Region.

## **5. NTA Current Budget and DTO 2009 Accounts**

The CEO clarified that the accounts for the DTO would have to be approved by the NTA Board. They would be certified by the former CEO and Chairman of the DTO. Mr John Tierney proposed and Mr. King seconded that the DTO accounts be approved subject to certification. In relation to the budget for 2010 the CEO noted that the current budget shortfall would have to be met from the Commission for Taxi Regulation funds, as always envisaged by the Department of Finance.

The Chairman requested that members of the Board consider whether they would like to participate in the Audit Committee which should be set up at the next meeting. The terms of reference for the Committee were included in the Corporate Governance document agreed at the January Board meeting.

## **6. Premises**

A short presentation of the proposed new office accommodation for the NTA was given by Mr. James Muldowney, Head of Legal Affairs in the NTA. Approval was given by the board to conclude agreements any on one of the three properties presented to the Board.

## **7. Co-operation Agreement with Competition Authority**

The Board agreed to the signing of the agreement with the Competition Authority as recommended by the CEO.

## **8. Any Other Business**

The assimilation of the Commission for Taxi Regulation into the NTA was discussed by the Board. The CEO referred to the report to the Department of Transport on the assimilation of functions into the NTA which was included in the Board papers.

**Next Meeting Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 9.30am at the NTA's offices**

Signed:   
John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: 21. 4. 2010