



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 17th June 2011

At 10.30am at the Portlaoise Heritage Hotel

Present: Mr. John Fitzgerald (Chairperson), Mr. Gerry Murphy (CEO), Mr. John Tierney (Dublin City Manager), Mr. Frank King, Ms. Valerie O'Reilly, Dr. Berna Grist, Mr. James Deegan, Mr. Damian Usher.

Apologies: Mr. Hugh Creegan (Director of Transport Planning and Investment), Mr. Daithí Alcorn, Ms. Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Ms. Linda Saunders,

Staff in attendance: Mr. Karl Seeber (Minutes), Mr. Tim Gaston.

* * * * *

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were agreed subject to the addition of the following text to the final paragraph under item 2: "The Board, noting that many vulnerable people such as the elderly rely on taxi transport, considered that appropriate measures to ensure customer safety were essential for the taxi industry."

2. CEO Report & Finance Updates

CEO Report

The Authority has completed detailed financial exercises relating to the Authority's capital and current budgets and the results have been furnished to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The Board discussed the position at length. The Board considered that all options for reducing the cost of providing public transport services must be evaluated before service reductions are considered. The CEO advised that the outcome of the Government's consideration of the public capital programme is not expected to be known until September. The CEO will update the Board at its next meeting on a number of reports prepared as inputs to the capital spending review.

With regard to transport strategy, the Board noted that the Executive Summary has been updated. The Draft Strategy will now be submitted to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport for approval. The Strategic Environmental and Habitats Directive Assessments may require updating in the event that the Minister decides to request modifications to the Draft Strategy.

Details of the Authority's input into the Government's Jobs Initiative were circulated. The Authority prepared and will now oversee the delivery of a programme of traffic management measures in the Greater Dublin Area and the regional cities of Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford. The total value of the programme is over €10 million.

The CEO drew attention to the importance of the Authority's role with regard to land use planning. He noted that while this was a vital function although it is not a "big budget" area. The CEO confirmed that the Authority recently made a submission concerning the Grangegorm Draft Masterplan.

Implementation of the Real Time Passenger Information system is proceeding satisfactorily. The rate of connection of displays to the electricity network has improved. The website and text messaging service are expected to go live in August.

Minister Alan Kelly recently announced details of the Government's review of the taxi industry. The Authority will be represented on the review by Ms. Kathleen Doyle. The Board indicated that the Authority, through its participation in the Review, should highlight the need to ensure safety for customers.

Finance Update

The May Accounts will be presented at the Authority's next meeting. The Audit Committee will meet in July.

The CEO indicated that the Authority proposes to move funds on deposit at AIB to a new Bank of Ireland account in order to avail of a better interest rate. The Board supported this proposal.

The Board approved the outcome of the tendering process for a National Intermodal Journey Planner. The CEO noted that a response is awaited from the Department of Finance to the Authority's business case for the Planner. The Board indicated the importance of ensuring that the Planner has the capacity to cater for walking trips.

3. Annual Report, Integrated Ticketing

The Board approved the draft Annual Report subject to any minor textual amendments deemed appropriate by the CEO during the finalisation of the Report for publication. The Board also agreed a proposal by the CEO to add an Appendix to the Report detailing the projects supported by the Authority in 2010 under the Traffic Management Grants Programme.

Mr. Gaston made a detailed presentation concerning progress on the Integrated Ticketing Project for the Greater Dublin Area. All of the elements required to deliver the project are now in place. Accordingly, the project has now entered the testing phase. The first round of testing involving staff drawn from the transport agencies has just commenced. Customers will be invited to participate in the next round of testing. A detailed marketing plan is in preparation. At this stage it is expected that the project will be delivered within budget. Mr. Gaston responded to questions from Board members, who welcomed the good progress that is being made.

4. Midlands Regional Authority presentation

Mr. Martin Daly, Regional Director and Ms. Aoife Moore, Regional Planner at the Midlands Regional Authority (MRA) made a presentation concerning the preparation of a Coordinated Sustainable Transport Plan (CSTP) for the Midlands Region. The Midlands Region, which comprises 6% of the national population, is the State's second most rural region. The MRA's Gateway towns comprise Athlone, Mullingar and Tullamore. While the Midlands Region is well served by national transport routes and services, local transport routes and services are less developed.

In common with all Regional Authorities, the MRA has recently acquired a statutory role in securing consistency between the policy contained in the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) and lower level plans. The preparation of a CSTP is an objective of the RPGs for the Midlands Region and the CSTP is

being developed in consultation with local authorities in the MRA who will be responsible for its implementation. The CSTP, which is due for completion in 2012, will be a comprehensive plan covering all transport modes including walking and cycling. The MRA representatives indicated that the Authority had been very helpful in providing advice and expertise to them.

The Chairman thanked the MRA representatives for their presentation. He noted the importance to the Authority of establishing and maintaining strong links to the MRA and other Regional Authorities. The MRA representatives noted the challenge of providing public transport in rural areas and towns with low density development and the importance of a collaborative approach with local authorities given their responsibility for implementation.

5. Any other business

Mr. Deegan advised the Board that he had accepted an invitation to address a seminar organised by the Nenagh Rail Partnership, which was taking place over the weekend.

Next Meeting: Friday 15th July 2011 @ 10.30am at NTA Offices.

Signed: _____

John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____