



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 19 December 2014

At 10.30am in the NTA Offices

Present: Mr John Fitzgerald (Chairperson), Mr Hugh Creegan (Deputy Chief Executive), Mr Owen Keegan (CEO, Dublin City Council), Dr Berna Grist, Ms Linda Saunders, Ms Valerie O'Reilly.

Apologies: None.

Staff in attendance: Mr Philip L'Estrange, Ms Anne Graham, Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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1. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2014 were agreed without amendment.

The members of the Board welcomed Ms Graham to her first Board meeting in her new capacity as the Authority's Chief Executive Officer

2. CEO Report

Mr Creegan and Ms Graham updated the Board on developments since the last meeting and responded to issues raised by members. The matters discussed included

- Recent public consultations concerning Bus Rapid Transit, wheelchair accessibility in the licensed bus sector, public transport services in Mayo and taxi fares/regulations.
- New Direct Award contracts with Dublin Bus and Bus Éireann.
- Funding of subsidised bus and rail services.
- Developments regarding rail services.
- Progress on restructuring of rural transport groups.
- Leap card and real time passenger information developments.
- Luas Cross City developments.
- Launch of bike schemes in regional cities.
- Proposed North Dublin & Fingal Transport Study.
- Organisational matters.

3. Financial Report

Mr L'Estrange outlined the Authority's Management Accounts for October 2014 and responded to issues raised.

The Board approved a proposal to add the Authority's Head of Ticketing and Integration Measures (Mr. Tim Gaston) to the NTA's list of authorised bank signatories.

4. Taxi Fares and Regulations

Mr. Creegan outlined the background to the Authority's recent review of taxi fares. He noted that taxi fares, which are reviewed every two years, were last increased in 2008. Mr. Creegan explained the objectives of the review, the existing fare structure and the Authority's proposed fare proposal. Following discussion the Board agreed to the making of a new Maximum Fares Order in the form presented to it, which represents an average increase of approximately 4%, with this Maximum Fares Order to take effect from 30 April 2015.

Mr. Creegan outlined the background to the proposal to amend the consolidated taxi regulations which came into effect last April. He explained that the Authority had sought submissions regarding the draft revised regulations from the public as well as An Garda Síochána and the Advisory Committee on Small Public Service Vehicles. Following discussion the Board approved the draft Taxi Regulation (Small Public Service Vehicle) Regulations 2015 as circulated to the Board. Mr Creegan indicated that it is intended to bring the new regulations into effect on 31 January 2015.

5. Bus tendering and LRC

Ms Graham updated the Board on the NTA's recent meetings at the Labour Relations Commission with Bus Éireann and Dublin Bus and trade unions at those companies concerning issues related to the forthcoming tendering of approximately 10% of the subsidised bus services operated by the companies under contracts with the NTA. She indicated that a further meeting will take place next month.

6. Public Transport Revenues

Ms Graham outlined the latest passenger journey/revenue results for subsidised bus and rail services operated by Bus Éireann, Dublin Bus and Irish Rail. She noted that there had been an increase of 4% in passenger journeys (6.8 million additional passengers) between 1 January and 1 November 2014 compared to the same period in 2013. The Board welcomed the improvement.

7. Any other business

Ms Saunders noted that the Audit Committee's 2014 Annual Report to the Board had been circulated to Board members. She noted that the efforts of the Audit Committee and the Authority's internal auditors had resulted in a steady improvement in the Authority's assurance ratings. The Board recorded its appreciation of the important work undertaken by the Audit Committee and the Authority's Finance Unit during 2014.

The Board approved the appointment of Mr Fitzgerald to the Audit Committee to fill a vacancy on the Committee that had arisen following recent changes to the Board. It was agreed that Mr Fitzgerald would fill the vacancy on a temporary basis pending the appointment of further Board members when the situation will be reviewed.

Next Meeting: Friday 23 January 2015 @ 10.30am in the NTA Offices.

Signed: _____
John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____