

Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 15th June 2012

At 10.30am in Hotel Meyrick, Galway

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

Staff in attendance: Ms Anne Graham and Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2012 were agreed without amendment.

2. CEO Report including Finance

The Chief Executive outlined the Authority's financial results for April. He then explained progress on a range of issues since the Board's last meeting including the making of advance PSO payments to bus operators, proposals for changes to some rail services, a public consultation exercise on the subsidised bus market, a proposed marketing campaign for public transport, Leap card and journey planner developments, a proposal to confer additional functions on the Authority as well as staffing and procurement matters.

Following discussion the Board unanimously approved recommendations made by the Chief Executive for the award of contracts for the provision of ICT services and economic advisory services to the Authority. The Board also approved the text of the draft Annual Report subject to any minor corrections that may be required prior to publication. The Chief Executive noted that the Annual Report will be published as soon as possible following completion by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of its audit of the Authority's Financial Statements (already approved by the Board).

3. Taxi Matters update

Mr Creegan outlined progress being made by the Authority on the implementation of the recommendations of the Government review of taxi regulation.

4. Rural Transport progress

Ms Graham updated the Board on the work being undertaken by the Authority on the rural transport programme and integration of rural transport.

5. Galway City Council presentation

Messrs. Joe Tansey, Acting Director of Services, Tom Connell, Senior Engineer and Jim Molloy, Senior Executive Engineer, Galway City Council joined the meeting.

The City Council representatives noted that Galway is the State's third largest city with a significant university student population. There is significant car commuting into Galway City from the immediate hinterland. As a result the public transport share of the City's modal split is currently only around 6%. The capacity of the Council to deliver traffic management improvements is constrained by limited capacity on river crossings in the City.

The City Council representatives made a presentation on role of the Galway Transportation Unit and outlined works already undertaken or in progress and planned or proposed developments. The Unit, which is funded on a 50-50 basis by Galway City Council and the National Transport Authority, is committed to the promotion and support of more sustainable transport solutions comprising pedestrian, cycling and public transport modes as evidenced by the City Council's successful participation in the Smarter Travel Competition.

The Board members and City Council representatives discussed a range of issues including the scope for implementation of a public bicycle hire scheme along the lines of the successful Dublin Bikes scheme, the proposed Órán Mór transport hub, Ceannt Station upgrading and the recent reorganisation of bus services in Galway City. It was also agreed that the City Council and the Authority should work closely together to promote forthcoming initiatives in support of public transport in Galway including the new real-time passenger information system.

6. Any other business

There were no matters raised under this item.

Next Meeting: Friday 13th July 2012 @ 10.30am at NTA Headquarters.

Signed: _____

John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____