

Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 18th May 2012

At 10.30am at NTA Offices

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.

Apologies: Mr John Tierney (Dublin City Manager).

Staff in attendance: Mr Philip L'Estrange (Agenda Item 3), Ms Anne Graham (Agenda Items 3, 4, 5), Mr Peter Cranny (Agenda Item 3), Mr Michael Warnock Smith (Agenda Item 5) and Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th April 2012 were agreed subject to the addition of the following new paragraph under Item 2 (CEO Report):

During a discussion that followed it was agreed that the Board should be provided with information on the Quarterly Monitoring of PSO services.

2. CEO Report

The Chief Executive outlined developments since the decision to agree to alter the payment schedule for the public service obligation subsidy.

The proposed new marketing strategy to grow the use of public transport has been presented to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and a response is awaited.

The Chief Executive outlined the current state of play concerning the draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area which was the subject of a meeting with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport the previous day.

The Chief Executive explained the actions taken by the Authority in response to the recent public controversy surrounding the use of green lights on taxis. He also drew attention to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport's public intervention on the matter.

The Chief Executive outlined the progress that has been made on the transfer of staff from other public bodies to the Authority.

The Chief Executive noted the observations of Board members on these issues and Hugh Creegan responded to questions on Kishogue Station and Luas BXD.

The Chief Executive noted that since taking on responsibility for rural transport a significant volume of work has been undertaken and a presentation would be made to the Board on the emerging issues.

The Director of Finance and Corporate Affairs presented the Management Accounts for March and drew attention to the main points. In particular he drew attention to lower than budgeted administration (including consultancy) costs and higher than budgeted income from taxi licensing and other sources. The Director noted that the reduction in administration costs was mainly due to tight cost control. Concluding, he noted that the Accounts are in good shape overall and did not contain any major issues of concern.

3. Journey Planner Demonstration

Mr Cranny gave a presentation on, and a live demonstration of, the national intermodal journey planner, which is undergoing testing at present in advance of a public launch. The Chief Executive prefaced the presentation by noting that the journey planner was supported by the only available national digital road model, originally developed for car navigation. As a result it had been necessary to adapt the product in certain situations. This is a painstaking task that will most likely continue after the system goes into operation and as feedback is obtained from customers.

The Board welcomed the considerable progress that has been made and looked forward to the launch of the project in the near future.

4. Rail infrastructure and EC Directives

Ms Graham gave a presentation on issues arising from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport's decision not to renew in 2013 Ireland's derogation from the EU requirement to separate the provision and maintenance of rail infrastructure from the provision and operation of rail services.

Already the Authority is to be given the task of monitoring the performance of Irish Rail's management of rail infrastructure on behalf of the Minister pending the ending of the derogation and decisions on the new arrangements that will apply at that stage including the Authority's role.

5. Network Direct Preliminary Outcomes

Mr Warnock Smith gave a presentation outlining the financial and operational impacts of the changes implemented on some of the main bus corridors operated by Dublin Bus under the PSO contract. The Board discussed the results.

6. Corporate Matters

The Chief Executive outlined changes in the Authority's senior management structure which he proposed to implement with effect from today. In accordance with section 41(3)(b) of the Public Transport Regulation Act 2009, the Board designated Mr Hugh Creegan to exercise the Authority's regulatory functions under the Taxi Regulation Act 2003.

7. Any other business

An issue concerning the assets of the Limerick-Waterford rail line was discussed.

Next Meeting: Friday 15th June 2012 @ 10.30am at Meyrick Hotel, Galway.

Signed: _____
John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____