



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 27th January 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 James Deegan, Mr Damian Usher, Ms Linda Saunders, Dr Berna Grist.

Apologies: Mr Daithí Alcorn, Mr John Tierney (Dublin City Manager), Ms Margaret O'Shaughnessy.

Staff in attendance: Mr Philip L'Estrange (Agenda Item 3), Ms Anne Graham and Mr Tim Gaston (Agenda Item 4); Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2011 were agreed.

On matters arising from the minutes, the Chief Executive outlined new arrangements in discussion between the Authority and Dublin City Council with respect to the role of the Council's Cycling Officer.

The Chairperson advised that he and the Chief Executive had attended a meeting prior to Christmas with the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to discuss the work of the Authority.

2. CEO Report

The existing Public Service Contracts between the Authority and Dublin Bus and Bus Éireann are due to expire in December 2014. Accordingly, the Authority has commenced work on reviewing further direct award contracts. A new operating contract for Luas also needs to be put in place by 2014.

A decision by An Bord Pleanála regarding the Luas BXD project is expected shortly. Work has started on a new public transport bridge over the River Liffey at Marlborough Street. The bridge will facilitate bus services, pedestrians and cyclists as well as Luas BXD.

The Authority is examining the scope for public bicycle schemes in Dun Laoghaire and Tallaght as well as further extension of the Dublin Bikes scheme.

Grants for wheelchair accessible taxis will be offered again shortly. The 2011 scheme was undersubscribed due to difficulties experienced by operators in raising finance. The work of the

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's Taxi Review Group has been completed and publication of the Group's report is awaited.

The Board discussed a number of issues including implementation of the Dublin-Galway rail review, goods deliveries within Dublin city centre and integration of bus and rail services.

3. Finance update

The Director of Finance and Corporate Affairs outlined the November Management Accounts. He noted that the Authority's deficit for the period between January and November was almost €0.5 million under budget. This was attributable to tight financial management. The Authority's capital budget to end year was fully discharged.

Following discussion it was decided that the Director should make a presentation at the next meeting concerning financial reporting including the accounting arrangements for the integrated ticketing project.

4. Current Issues

Leap card update: Mr Gaston made a presentation to the Board outlining developments and issues since the launch of the card in December and planned enhancements for 2012.

Realtime information: Ms Graham outlined the planned work programme to end June. The Cork launch has been deferred for a number of weeks. The Authority will continue to conduct surveys in order to monitor the accuracy of information displayed at bus stops.

Transport Strategy: The Chief Executive outlined the contents of a letter received today from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport concerning the draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area. The Authority will now proceed to carry out the required work which will be brought to the Board for approval in due course.

Legal Challenges: The Chief Executive outlined a number of legal challenges involving the Authority.

Fares: The recently announced restructuring of intercity rail fares will come into effect on 4 February. Dublin Bus prepaid products will be increased on foot of the recent increase in cash fares.

Corporate Matters: The Authority is finding it difficult to fill staff vacancies through the redeployment process, which is a matter of concern. Board members expressed concern about the on-going delay in finalising a pension scheme for the Authority and requested that its concerns be brought to the attention of the Department.

5. Any other business

None.

Next Meeting: Friday 17th February 2012 @ 10.30am at NTA Offices.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

John Fitzgerald, Chairperson