



**Minutes of Board Meeting**

**Held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March 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, Dr Berna Grist, Mr Daithí Alcorn, Mr John Tierney (Dublin City Manager), Ms Margaret O'Shaughnessy.

**Apologies:** Ms Linda Saunders

**Staff in attendance:** Mr Philip L'Estrange (Agenda Item 3), Ms Kathleen Doyle (Agenda Item 4), Ms Anne Graham (Agenda Items 6, 7), Ms Marian Wilson (Agenda Item 7) and Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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**1. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012 were agreed.

**2. CEO Report**

The Chief Executive advised that Leap Card is continuing to grow in popularity. Approximately 75,000 cards have been issued to date. The Authority recently received two awards from the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport for Leap Card developments. The Authority has also been invited to make a presentation on Leap Card to a forthcoming eGovernment conference.

Discussions will take place during April with Ministers on the Authority's draft Transport Strategy.

The Authority recently re-launched its corporate website following an overhaul to make it more attractive and user friendly.

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has decided to give the Authority responsibility for sea passenger rights. The Department is in the process of preparing the necessary secondary legislation for this purpose.

The Oireachtas Transport Committee has recommended to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport that the Authority should be given responsibility for the regulation of vehicle clamping in the State. Primary legislation will be required for this purpose.

In response to Board members, the Chief Executive and Mr Creegan provided clarification concerning a number of issues including the Metro North enabling works at the Mater Hospital, the Design Manual for Urban Streets, Kishogue rail station and the Authority's pension scheme.

### **3. Finance update**

The Director of Finance and Corporate Affairs presented the Management Accounts for February. The figures are broadly in line with targets and do not issue any issues of concern. Mr Tierney gave an update on the work of the Audit Committee including completed and planned audit activity and issues arising.

### **4. Taxi Review Report**

The Chief Executive and Ms Doyle gave a detailed presentation on the outcome of the Government Taxi Review. The review has recommended 46 actions for implementation in the short and medium term. The majority of the actions are for the Authority to progress. The proposed timetable for implementation of the actions was outlined. Already, the Authority has implemented 6 actions. Of the remaining actions some will require the enactment of new legislation by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport. Many actions require the implementation of new supporting business processes and IT systems by the Authority. This work is already in train. Details of planned engagement with the Advisory Committee on Small Public Service Vehicles and the taxi industry were also outlined.

The members of the Authority welcomed the outcome of the Government Taxi Review and endorsed the implementation work being undertaken by the Authority. The Chief Executive and Ms Doyle responded to questions from Board members across a range of issues including multiple licence holders, despatch operators, vehicle branding, taxi ranks as well as enforcement issues including extension of the fixed charge penalty system, action to weed out taxi drivers with serious criminal convictions and the use of CCTV evidence for prosecution purposes.

### **5. Taxi Regulations for new Vehicle Standards**

The Chief Executive outlined a proposal for changes to standards for small public service vehicles. He recalled that the Authority had engaged in an extensive public consultation exercise in this regard during 2011. The results of that exercise were subsequently considered by the Taxi Review Group which made recommendations in the matter (Actions 10 and 11 of the Review Group report). The Advisory Committee on Small Public Service Vehicles recently indicated its support for implementation of the recommended changes. After a brief discussion the Authority unanimously approved the changes for implementation by regulation.

### **6. Dublin Bus Contract in 2014**

The Chief Executive and Ms Graham gave a presentation concerning the implications of the expiry in 2014 of the Authority's existing direct award contracts with Dublin Bus and Bus Éireann. She indicated that the same presentation had recently been made to the Minister and Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. She gave a broad outline of the discussion with Ministers. The Board discussed issues raised by the presentation and next steps.

### **7. Rural Transport**

As the Authority will formally assume responsibility for Rural Transport Programme on 2 April, Ms Wilson gave a presentation explaining the origin and history of the Programme, which is administered by Pobal. Ms Wilson noted that the immediate task facing the Authority was the

implementation, in conjunction with Pobal, of the recommendations of a recent Value for Money review of the Programme. The Authority has also been mandated to chair a committee to examine ways to integrate the rural transport programme with the school transport programme and HSE non-ambulance patient transport services as well as giving local authorities a more active role in the process of better serving local demand for integrated local and rural transport. Ms Wilson concluded by outlining the challenges and proposed action programme.

**8. Any other business**

The Board decided to hold a forthcoming Board meeting in a regional location in which the Authority is active and requested the Chief Executive to make the necessary arrangements.

**Next Meeting: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012 @ 10.30am at NTA Offices.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**John Fitzgerald, Chairperson**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_