

## Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013

At 10.30am in NTA Offices on Harcourt Lane

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

**Apologies:** Mr John Tierney (Dublin City Manager)

**Staff in attendance:** Mr Philip L'Estrange (Item 3), Mr Michael Aherne (Item 5) and Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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### 1. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2013 were agreed.

### 2. CEO Report and update on Public Accounts Committee

The Board discussed the Authority's recent appearance at the Public Accounts Committee in relation to the Authority's 2011 Accounts. The Chief Executive drew attention to additional written information provided by the Authority to the Committee including a joint response with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to the purchase of railcars by Irish Rail.

The Chief Executive noted that the Authority is among the bodies appointed to a group to conduct a review of the Free Travel Scheme. He outlined the terms of reference of the review and issues under consideration. During the discussion that followed, Board members indicated a need for vigorous action by transport operators to tackle anti-social behaviour and abuses of free travel passes on public transport services. The CEO undertook to pursue this matter with transport operators and update the Board in due course.

The Chief Executive drew attention to the increase in passenger numbers on Bus Éireann services in the regional cities in Q3 2012 over Q3 2011, which contrasted with a fall in passenger numbers on Bus Éireann's Stage Carriage and Dublin Commuter services over the same periods. He noted that the increase in the regional cities was attributable to the impact of changes to bus services made as a result of reviews of public transport services in those areas undertaken by the Authority. He indicated that the Authority is in the process of finalising similar reviews for all other areas throughout the State.

### 3. Finance Update

Mr L'Estrange outlined the main features of the Authority's Management Accounts to end December 2012. He noted that the accounts were in line with expectations. He indicated that the Authority's draft Financial Statements for 2012 will be presented to the Board in March for approval. The Office

of the Comptroller and Auditor General has advised that it expects to begin its audit of the Financial Statements in April.

The Chief Executive undertook to clarify an issue regarding the commercial exploitation of the integrated ticketing system.

#### **4. Taxi Regulations and update**

Mr Creegan outlined the necessity for the Authority to make the tabled new Regulations in relation to small public service vehicles and their drivers and licence holders. Following discussion of the matter the Board approved the Regulations.

Mr Creegan informed the Board that Judicial Review Proceedings are being taken against the Authority, the Attorney General and the State arising from the unavailability in Irish of primary and secondary legislation relating to the regulation of the small public service vehicle sector.

Mr Creegan outlined the main features of a new consumer app developed by the Authority for taxi customers. The purpose of the “Taxi Driver Check” app is to enable taxi customers with smartphones to check that the driver of the vehicle is the authorised driver associated with that vehicle and to report any discrepancy to the Authority.

#### **5. Transport projects in Regional Cities and in Greater Dublin Area**

Mr Aherne gave a run through some of the 255 pedestrian, cycling and public transport projects to be funded by the Authority in 2013 for the Greater Dublin Area at an estimated cost of almost €44 million under the Sustainable Transport Measures Programme. Mr Aherne noted that the 2013 Programme takes account of the five-year investment frameworks drawn up by the Authority last year in order to provide a more coherent basis on which to plan and implement the Programme.

Mr Creegan then gave a similar run through the programme of public transport measures to be implemented in the regional cities of Cork, Galway, Limerick and Galway in 2013. The estimated cost of the 23 measures included in the programme is almost €6.8 million.

#### **6. Any other business**

The Chief Executive and Mr Creegan responded to points raised with respect to the Western Rail Corridor and the study commissioned by the Authority concerning the planning and development of large scale residential development areas in Dublin.

**Next Meeting: Friday 22 March 2013 @ 10.30am at NTA Headquarters.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**John Fitzgerald, Chairperson**

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