



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 21st October 2011

At 10.30am at NTA Offices

Present: Mr John Fitzgerald (Chairperson), Mr Gerry Murphy (CEO), Mr John Tierney (Dublin City Manager), Ms Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Mr Frank King, Ms Valerie O'Reilly, Mr James Deegan, Mr Damian Usher, Mr Daithí Alcorn, Ms Linda Saunders.

Apologies: Mr Hugh Creegan (Director of Transport Planning and Investment), Dr Berna Grist.

Staff in attendance: Mr Philip L'Estrange (Item 3), Ms Anne Graham, Ms Marian Wilson (Item 4), Mr Tim Gaston (Item 5), Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2011 were agreed subject to the substitution of "public transport" for "bus" in the title of Agenda Item 4.

On matters arising from the minutes, the Chief Executive confirmed that the Authority is undertaking additional work to take account of commuter rail services south of Athenry in its review of public transport in Galway.

2. CEO Report

The Authority is in discussion with the operators of subsidised public transport services on fare levels in 2012. However a Government decision on the level of subvention in 2012 is still awaited. The introduction of integrated ticketing in late 2011 will involve setting a cash differential between fares paid in cash and fares purchased with smart cards. The Board expressed regret that increases in fares on subsidised public transport services may be required having regard to the important role that those services play in supporting Government policy on achieving a sustainable transport system.

Minister of State Alan Kelly T.D. will host symposiums in the main regional cities with a view to examining the potential introduction of public bike schemes in those cities. The Chief Executive advised that he will be participating in the symposiums. Inevitably the main issue is funding.

The recent decision by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to suspend the planning process for Metro West was taken following consideration of the advice of the Authority. While the suspension of the project is regrettable, it is important that local authorities generally should

continue to protect public transportation reservations for this and other major public transport schemes in accordance with the Authority's Draft Long Term Transport Strategy which is awaiting approval by the Minister.

The Authority's *Toolkit for School Travel* which outlines actions to promote sustainable travel for the school trip has been widely circulated to schools nationally and is now available on the Authority's website. Work on a similar toolkit for workplace travel is continuing. In relation to the National Cycle Manual we are awaiting a formal response from the National Roads Authority in accordance with the DTA Act 2008. It is proposed to formally launch these documents in due course.

The Chief Executive noted the comments of Board members with regard to fare levels, the proposed regional bike schemes and Bremore Port.

3. Audit Committee & Finance update

Audit Committee

Mr Tierney provided a detailed update on the work of the Audit Committee including the results of audits completed recently by RSM McClure FGS.

Finance Update

The Management Accounts for August were presented to the Board. The variance for the year to end August was better than anticipated due mainly to the earlier than anticipated receipt of funding arising from the Authority's participation in an EU project. The Authority is still on course to meet projected income and expenditure targets for the 12 month period to end December.

The integration of taxi functions into the Authority at the start of 2011 resulted in the Authority having two contracts for IT services. The Authority intends to replace them with a single contract. The Authority plans to invite tenders before the end of the year.

The Finance Director responded to questions concerning trends in small public service vehicle sector licensing renewals which are an important source of revenue.

4. Presentations on South East Region public transport review and anti-social behaviour

Ms Wilson made a detailed presentation to the Board on the outcome of a major review of public transport services in the South East Region including a review of Waterford City bus services. Based on the results of the review a series of proposed interventions to improve public transport in the Region and the City had been identified and these are currently being implemented in partnership with Bus Éireann.

Board members welcomed the comprehensive nature of the review. During a general discussion on the review recommendations it was suggested that the Authority might give consideration to the provision of a shuttle bus service between the bus and rail stations in Waterford City as well as increased services on the Limerick Junction to Waterford and Rosslare-Dublin railway lines in order to encourage greater commuting by rail.

Ms Graham made a presentation concerning anti-social behaviour on public transport. She outlined recent measures implemented by Dublin Bus, Irish Rail and Bus Éireann at the requirement of the Authority to encourage reporting of anti-social behaviour by members of the public. These include telephone numbers to facilitate such reporting. Board members welcomed the measures but noted the need for effective follow-up of complaints. In response to questions, Ms Graham advised that

the number of complaints of anti-social behaviour is low but said that the Authority is monitoring the situation closely.

5. Update on Integrated Ticketing and its marketing

Mr Gaston made a presentation to the Board on the status of the integrated ticketing project and marketing plans for the initial launch of the project. Mr Gaston noted that the initial launch of the project before the end of the year will involve Dublin Bus, Commuter Rail and Luas services which together account for approx. 95% of public transport journeys. However, the project will continue to be rolled-out during 2012 as other bus operators, additional functions and products, etc. are added. The launch schedule is subject to continued successful testing of the ticketing equipment.

The Board welcomed the good progress being made. In response to questions, Mr Gaston confirmed that Annual Travel Pass holders renewing their passes before the end of this year will not be issued with integrated tickets and he confirmed that robust arrangements are in place to ensure that the new brand will be protected and used by participating agencies and operators.

6. Update on Taxi Matters

The Chief Executive outlined developments in relation to Judicial Review proceedings in the High Court arising from the decision of the Authority to suspend certain taxi licences.

7. Any other business

Nothing was raised.

Next Meeting: Friday 18th November 2011 @ 10.30am at NTA Offices.

Signed: _____
John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____