

**Minutes of Board Meeting**

**Held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

**At 11am in Fota House, Co. Cork**

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

**Apologies:** None

**Staff in attendance:** Mr Philip L'Estrange, Ms Anne Graham and Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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**1. Minutes of previous meeting**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2013 were agreed.

**2. CEO Report**

The Chief Executive briefed the Board on developments since the last Board meeting including

- the Authority's meeting with rural transport groups regarding the Authority's plans for the restructuring of the Rural Transport Programme and attendance at an Oireachtas Committee meeting on the same issue;
- publication of the Authority's draft Integrated Implementation Plan;
- the recent industrial action at Dublin Bus;
- the reorganisation of commercial bus services operated by Bus Éireann.

He also outlined planned initiatives on a number of fronts including the proposed strategic cycling network for the Greater Dublin Area, public bike schemes for the regional cities, Leap card and the future procurement of bus services. Finally, he outlined the status of a number of legal issues.

The Chief Executive responded to requests by Board members for clarification on a number of matters including proposed rail developments in the Greater Dublin Area, the availability of rail tax saver tickets on Leap cards and the need for shared bus and rail tickets at key stations on the rail network.

**3. Financial Report**

Mr L'Estrange provided an update on the Authority's management accounts to the end of June 2013 which are in line with projections. Arising from discussions at the last Board meeting he explained how the Authority has managed to negotiate reductions in its merchant fees and bank charges notwithstanding a large increase in the level of transactions. The Board welcomed the steps taken in this regard.

#### **4. Taxi regulations**

Mr Creegan explained the rationale for proposed new taxi regulations to:-

- a. remove age limits for wheelchair accessible vehicles,
- b. introduce new licensing arrangements in respect of offshore islands,
- c. amend the existing requirements in respect of tinted windows, and
- d. amend the time limit for notification of rental agreements.

Following a brief discussion the Board approved the draft Taxi Regulation Act 2003 (Vehicle Licensing and Standards) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.

#### **5. Any other business**

The Chief Executive advised that the Authority has asked Irish Rail to bring forward proposals to improve arrangements for rail passengers at Rosslare rail station. The Authority plans to undertake a review of passenger carryings on the Rosslare line over the summer period.

The Chief Executive has identified a suitable rental premises within the Royal Hibernian Way adjacent to Dawson Street in which to locate the Luas Cross City Communications Team. The new premises will assist effective communication with city centre businesses during the construction period.

#### **6. Presentation by Cork City Council**

Mr Tim Lucey, Cork City Manager, who was accompanied by Mr Gerry O'Beirne, Director of Services and Ms Liz Kidney, Senior Executive Officer, gave a presentation on transport developments in the Cork City area.

Mr Lucey noted that that the Authority's 5-year investment programme for Cork is delivering important transport and economic benefits. Projects implemented to date had proven successful and he commented that the pace at which changes are being made has proven acceptable to citizens and businesses.

Mr Lucey noted that land use and transport planning is well established and regarded in Cork through the Cork Area Strategic Plan. He outlined planned future growth areas in Cork City and the proposed public transport strategy. He explained that the City Council had recently adopted a City Centre Movement Strategy which will facilitate transport planning and investment in the city centre area. He pointed out that planning permission for the proposed major redevelopment of Kent rail station has been granted. Mr Lucey noted that there is scope to increase walking and cycling in Cork but that work will be needed to encourage people to transfer to these modes.

There followed a discussion on various issues including car parking, freight transport, pedestrianisation and taxis.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Lucey and his colleagues for their attendance and indicated that the Authority looks forward to continuing its engagement with Cork City Council in support of the development of an integrated and sustainable transport network in Cork.

**Next Meeting: Friday 20 September 2013 @ 10.30am in NTA Headquarters, Dublin 2.**

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

**John Fitzgerald, Chairperson**

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