

Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 18th January 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 John Tierney (Dublin City Manager), Mr Frank King, Ms Linda Saunders, Mr James Deegan, Dr Berna Grist, Ms Valerie O'Reilly, Ms Margaret O'Shaughnessy.

Apologies: Mr Damian Usher, Mr Daithí Alcorn.

Staff in attendance: Mr Philip L'Estrange (Item 3), Ms Anne Graham (Item 5) and Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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1. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2012 were agreed.

On matters arising from the minutes, the Chief Executive informed the Board of his discussions with Irish Rail management concerning the use of the Waterford – Rosslare rail line for “special” passenger services and the role of the Railway Safety Commission in that regard.

2. CEO Report

The Chairperson reported that he and the Chief Executive had recently met the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to discuss matters relating to the Authority. He noted that such meetings are usually held at six monthly intervals. He indicated that he and the Chief Executive had used the opportunity to outline the Authority's plans for 2013 to the Minister. He advised that the Minister had expressed a wish to meet the Board during the year. This was welcomed by the Board. The Chief Executive then outlined the presentation given to the Minister.

Board members raised a number of points including enforcement of licenced and unlicensed bus operators, prosecutions in respect of small public service vehicles and analysis of public transport usage. The Chief Executive undertook to provide an update on the Authority's participation in an inter-departmental review of the Free Travel Scheme at the next meeting.

3. Finance Update, Budget

Mr L'Estrange outlined the main features of the Authority's Management Accounts to end November 2012 and the Authority's draft Budget for 2103. During a discussion that followed, the Board emphasised the need for the Authority to continue to exercise strong control over costs in view of the projected increase in the Authority's deficit in 2013. The Chief Executive outlined proposed arrangements in 2013 in respect of the payment of subvention to the CIÉ companies. The Board then approved the draft Budget.

The Chief Executive indicated that the Authority has been called to attend a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee on 24 January to consider the Authority's 2011 Accounts. The Authority will be represented by the Chief Executive and members of the senior management team.

4. Luas BXD and Luas Operations Contract

Mr Creegan gave a detailed presentation on the status of the Luas Cross City project (formerly called Luas BXD). Preliminary works are due to get underway in May. Mr Creegan indicated that the Authority is putting in place strong arrangements to ensure that the city centre area could continue to function effectively during the project. The main focus of the project planning was to minimise the inconvenience to businesses and their customers and on the travelling public.

The Chief Executive updated the Board on the Authority's consultations with the Railway Procurement Agency concerning the possible performance by the Authority of functions relating to the operation and maintenance of the Luas system. He noted that a procurement notice in respect of the Luas operations and maintenance contracts has been published without prejudice to the outcome of the on-going considerations. He indicated that he would bring a recommendation in the matter to the Board in due course.

5. Bus Éireann, Irish Rail updates

Ms Graham updated the Board on the status of the proposed industrial action at Bus Éireann. She explained that while the Authority is assisting the Company to identify key corridors to be served in the event of industrial action it is a matter for the Company to organise alternative arrangements for their customers.

Ms Graham also provided an update on the revision of Irish Rail's intercity timetables. The revised timetables take effect on 20 January. The Board generally welcomed the improvement in journey times on many important rail services. Responding to issues raised by Board members concerning the need for further measures to maintain and improve rail services including regional services, Ms Graham noted that the planned rail review would be key in relation to the planning and organisation of rail services. The Chief Executive noted that the Authority is also actively engaging with Irish Rail in relation to the marketing and promotion of rail services.

6. Any other business

Mr Creegan responded to questions about the Authority's submission to Kerry County Council in relation to the Kerry Hub Local Area Plan and to An Bord Pleanála in relation to the Monard Special Development Zone in County Cork.

The Chief Executive reminded the members of their obligation to comply with the requirements regarding the furnishing of annual statements of interests under the Ethics Acts for 2012, as outlined in correspondence already sent to them.

Next Meeting: Friday 15 February 2013 @ 10.30am at NTA Headquarters.

Signed: _____
John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____