

**Minutes of Board Meeting**

**Held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 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, Mr Damian Usher, Mr Daithí Alcorn, Ms Margaret O'Shaughnessy.

**Apologies:** None.

**Staff in attendance:** Mr Philip L'Estrange (Item 3), Mr Michael Warnock Smith and Ms Anne Graham (Item 6) and Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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**1. Minutes of previous meeting**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013 were agreed.

The Chairperson noted that the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport may attend the Board's next meeting. The Board vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr John Tierney as Dublin City Manager is expected to be filled in the near future.

**2. CEO Report**

The Chief Executive briefed the Board on a range of issues including the recent industrial action at Bus Éireann, the restructuring of rural transport groups and procurement of rural transport services, proposed initiatives to extend the availability of taxi and hackney services to those with mobility impairments or living in isolated areas, proposals by Wexford Bus to extend Leap Card to their Wexford town services, an agreement with Google to enable them to access national journey planner data in order to provide public transport information on their mapping products, sponsorship of the proposed new public bike scheme for the regional cities and contracting arrangements for the Green Schools programme.

The Chief Executive also responded to a number of issues raised by Board members including the need for an integrated approach to the provision of bus stops and shelters, the provision of car parking at the new rail station at Hansfield, the works being undertaken at Reilly's level crossing on the Maynooth rail line, the transfer of taxi licences and repair works on the Authority's leased premises on Fitzwilliam Square.

The Board approved the draft Annual Report 2012 subject to consideration of the need for a separate headed section on rail services and any minor changes that may be required during the design phase which is about to commence.

### **3. Finance Matters**

Mr L'Estrange provided an update on the Authority's management accounts to the end of March 2013 which are in line with expectations. He drew attention to implications for the Authority's finances of the continuing decline in the number of SPSV vehicle and driver licence holders and the increased costs of regulation and enforcement of the taxi sector arising from implementation of the Government review of taxi regulation. As a result the Authority's funding surplus is being eroded at a faster rate than anticipated. The Chief Executive indicated that the Authority is preparing proposals to address the situation for the consideration of the Board.

### **4. Phoenix Park Tunnel**

Mr Creegan outlined a proposal to operate a number of passenger services on the Kildare rail line, which currently terminate at Heuston Station, through the adjacent Phoenix Park rail tunnel in order to provide improved access to the North Inner City, the City Centre and the South East business district during peak commuting times. The Authority's analysis of the proposal suggested that the modest investment required (approx. €12m) would generate a significant net increase in patronage levels and would be economically very positive. However, the project cannot be implemented until major re-signalling works currently being implemented in the City Centre area are completed in late 2015.

It was proposed that the Authority should look at the feasibility of providing passenger services on the Navan-Drogheda rail line.

### **5. Residential Density Guidelines**

M Creegan outlined the outcome of the study to assess the future delivery of rail-based medium and large scale residential developments in Dublin given the current economic and funding conditions and the current lack of new residential development delivery of any scale. The Department of the Environment propose to formally issue the report to the Dublin local authorities under an accompanying circular which will require the local authorities to take the report into account in their planning processes and report back to the Department after 6 months.

### **6. Bus review 2012**

Mr Warnock Smith reported on the Authority's management of (a) its contracts with Dublin Bus and Bus Éireann for the provision of public bus services in the 3-year period between end 2009 and end 2012, and (b) its licensing of commercial bus operators since late 2010. He noted that bus services account for 70% of the public transport market in the State. He explained that the major reorganisation of Dublin Bus (Network Review) is largely complete while the Bus Éireann reorganisation is approx. 26% complete. He also outlined the key financial and operational results achieved as a result. While the reorganisation processes are still on-going the revised networks are already proving to be better integrated, better functioning, more attractive and, critically, more efficient and better value for money.

### **7. Any other business**

None.

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

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

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