



## **Minutes of Board Meeting**

**Held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010  
at 9:30am at NTA offices**

### **Present:**

Mr. John Fitzgerald (Chairperson), Dr. Berna Grist, Mr. Frank King, Mr. Gerry Murphy (Chief Executive), Ms. Linda Saunders, Mr. John Tierney, Mr. Damian Usher, Ms. Valerie O'Reilly, Mrs Margaret O'Shaughnessy.  
Anne Graham (Secretary to Board)

### **1. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the Board's meeting of March 26th 2010 were proposed by Mr. King, seconded by Mr. Usher and agreed.

### **2. CEO Report**

A written report had been circulated to Board members in advance of the meeting. The CEO highlighted a few key items in his report.

Under the Public Service Transport Contracts, a request has come to the NTA to approve the suspension of the Rosslare – Waterford passenger service operated by Irish Rail under their public service transport contract. NTA is seeking further information on the withdrawal of the service. It should be noted that there is no provision for a public consultation process under the service contracts and the supporting legislation. Any approval given for changes to services for PSO operators would be subject to them having followed all other statutory procedures.

An update was given in relation to some of the projects receiving Capital Funding.

The CEO has some concerns over spending the NTA's full capital allocation this year. NTA will look at other small capital schemes in conjunction with the local authorities in the next few weeks.

There is a lot of technical work ongoing on the Transport Strategy and this will come before the Board in the early summer.

On Integrated Ticketing the CEO said that good progress had been made since the last meeting.

Under Planning Matters, a very positive response was received from the West Region to the NTA submission on their Regional Planning Guidelines. The CEO recently met the Directors of the Regions and they requested that the NTA be represented on their steering committees, a request which was agreed by the CEO.

In the CEO's report, he outlined four discrete areas of work that the Traffic Management & Mobility team will address in order to meet our statutory remit. Further details will be presented at future Board meetings.

Under Staffing and Budget, the CEO advised the Board that the NTA be in discussion with the Department of Transport on the Employment Control Framework being negotiated with the Department of Finance.

In addition to the General Information in the report, the CEO advised the Board that the Chairperson of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Transport had written to John Fitzgerald inviting the NTA to the committee in June on discuss issues around taxi regulation. The Chairperson responded that while the NTA would be happy to attend the meeting and listen to the members' concerns, he would not be in a position to respond until the statutory functions had been transferred to the NTA.

### **3. Finance Update**

Ms. Regina Gannon, NTA Head of Finance joined the meeting. The management accounts for January to March 2010 were presented to the Board. The items to note were a small under-spend on the revenue account against the budget. There was also an under spend against budget on the capital account that needs to be monitored.

Mr. Tierney gave a report on the outcomes from the earlier Audit Committee meeting. The Audit Committee agreed to the proposal for a corporate Credit Card facility for the NTA to accommodate payments that can only be made by card (e.g. bookings, specialist book purchases, access to transport databases) subject to the card being in the control of the CEO with the records of payments to be noted by Chairperson (John Fitzgerald). A protocol for use of the credit card is to be drawn up. The Board agreed to the proposal.

### **4. Integrated Ticketing Scheme (ITS) presentation**

The Chairman of the ITS Project Board, David O'Callaghan and the ITS Project Director, Tim Gaston joined the meeting for this item. Tim gave a power-point presentation on the ITS. Following the presentation, Mr. O'Callaghan and Mr. Gaston dealt with a number of questions from Board members.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. O'Callaghan and Mr. Gaston for their excellent presentation and they left the meeting.

**5. NTA submissions on Draft Development Plans & RPGs**

Two submissions were discussed as follows:

- 1) Draft RPG for the Midlands Area 2010 -2022
- 2) Draft RPG for the South East Region 2010 - 2022

In relation to 1) Ms. Saunders queried the NTA response in relation to cycling provision and to the population growth and suggested re-wording.

In relation to 2) Ms. Saunders questioned the use of the term 'sequential' where 'hierarchical' was meant. It was noted that 'sequential' is the planning term used.

It was agreed to forward both submissions subject to the above clarification on the Midlands Area RPG.

**6. Any Other Business**

It was agreed that the NTA submission on the two remaining RPGs would be completed by written procedure as the closing date for submissions is before the next Board meeting.

**Next Meeting Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 10:30am at the NTA's offices**

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

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

John Fitzgerald, Chairperson