

Minutes of Board Meeting

**Held on Friday 21st May 2010
at 10:30am at NTA offices**

Present:

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

Apologies:

Dr. Berna Grist, Ms. Linda Saunders

1. Minutes of previous meeting

It was agreed to amend minute to include that a protocol would be set up for the use of the credit card. The amended minutes of the Board's meeting of April 21st 2010 were proposed by Mr. King, seconded by Mrs. O'Shaughnessy and agreed.

2. CEO Report and Finance Update

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 fares structure for the proposed replacement bus service. The South East Regional Authority have requested that they be allowed to submit a business case for the retention of the service. The NTA has agreed to defer the decision until mid-July to allow for that submission. C.I.É. have advertised their notice of intention to close the Waterford-Rosslare line having sought the NTA's approval to do so.

An update was given in relation to some of the projects receiving Capital Funding. The CEO explained that there had been some confusion in relation to the date for completion of the DART Underground which had moved from 2015 to 2018. The NTA had kept the Department of Transport informed of all changes to the programme and these changes are being evaluated at present. Iarnród Éireann advertised the PPP contract on 125th May.

The European Investment Bank has approved a loan of €500m for the Metro North project. The CEO has some concerns over spending the NTA's full capital allocation this year. NTA is actively assessing a number of projects to take up the remaining funds.

On Integrated Ticketing the CEO said that good progress continued to be made.

The CEO reported that the NTA is finalising the National Cycling Manual. It is proposed to pilot it initially with designers in the summer and a wider launch in the Autumn.

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

Under Finance Update, 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.

3. Presentation by Bus Éireann

Mr. Tim Hayes, CEO, Bus Éireann and his colleagues Vincent Sheehan and Andrea Keane joined the meeting. Tim gave a powerpoint presentation on the operation of Bus Éireann and answered a number of subsequent questions from board members.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Hayes and his colleagues for their excellent presentation and they left the meeting.

4. Transport Strategy Update

Mr. Jeremy Ryan of the NTA joined the meeting and gave a brief presentation of the progress on the Transport Strategy.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Ryan for his presentation and Mr. Ryan left the meeting.

5. NTA submissions on Draft Development Plans

Mr. Eoin Farrell and Mr. Owen Shinkwin of the NTA, joined the meeting to make a presentation on the key points in the NTA submissions on the following:

- 1) Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2011 -2017
- 2) Draft Fingal County Development Plan 2011 - 2017

The Board agreed to make the submissions as outlined in the presentations.

It was noted by the board that the NTA submissions for the South West and Border Regional Planning Guidelines had been agreed by written procedure since the last board meeting.

6. Any Other Business

The Chairperson agreed to allow a further decision item to be considered namely the award of the tender for legal services. Gerry Murphy left the meeting for this presentation and decision (due to a potential conflict of interest). Ms. Anne Graham gave a report on the tender process for the legal services for the NTA. The tender assessment committee for the legal services contract recommended that McCann Fitzgerald be awarded the contract. Mr. King proposed that the recommendation be accepted and the Board agreed.

Next Meeting Friday 18th June at 10:30am at the NTA's offices

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

John Fitzgerald, Chairperson