



Minutes of Board Meeting

**Held on Friday 18th June 2010
at 10:30am at NTA offices**

Present:

Mr. John Fitzgerald (Chairperson), Mr. Frank King, Mr. Gerry Murphy (Chief Executive), Mr. Damian Usher, Mrs Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Dr. Berna Grist, Ms. Linda Saunders, Mr. Jim Deegan.

Anne Graham (Secretary to Board)

The Chairperson welcomed the new member of the Board, Mr. Jim Deegan.

Apologies:

Ms. Valerie O'Reilly, Mr. John Tierney

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Board's meeting of May 21st 2010 were proposed by Mr. King, seconded by Ms. Saunders and agreed.

Matters arising: A discussion was held in relation to the closure of the Waterford-Rosslare line and the sequence of the advertising by CIE of the closure ahead of the formal approval of line closure by NTA. Members of Board expressed concern on the issue which will be discussed at a future Board meeting.

The board requested that the CEO write on their behalf to Mr. John Henry, former CEO of the Dublin Transportation Office, to wish him well in his retirement.

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.

The Public Service Transport Contracts were presented in detail later in the meeting. The Bus Licensing guidelines will shortly be examined by our legal advisor prior to going to public consultation.

Under Capital Funding, the CEO reported that with the approval of the Department of Transport, a number of Irish Rail projects amounting to a €40m spend have been transferred to the NTA capital programme as they are projects in the GDA.

The Bord Pleanála decision on the Railway Order for Metro North is expected in August this year. The NTA is continuing to work with local authorities to identify new projects particularly cycling infrastructure which can be delivered by the end of the year. Good progress is being made on the Real Time Passenger Information. Work has commenced on the National Intermodal Journey Planner.

On Integrated Ticketing the CEO said that the VAT issue has been resolved. The transfer of the integrated ticketing project to the NTA will not result in a VAT cost on the construction stage of the project.

Under Planning Matters, dialogue continues between the NTA and local and regional authorities during the development of their plans. Two submissions were presented later in the meeting.

In Traffic Management and Mobility, the Minister for Transport launched the Smarter Travel Workplaces programme at a Business in the Community event and the role of the NTA in delivery of this programme was acknowledged. The CEO also reported that the NTA is finalising the National Cycling Manual and a briefing note which is available on our website was provided in the Board papers.

Under Corporate Matters, the CEO advised the Board that the NTA were unable to enter into a lease with owners of Wilton Terrace due to an intervention by Dept of Finance through the OPW. The NTA is obliged to take a government property and the OPW is now working to provide the NTA with the required accommodation in reasonable proximity to the Commission for Taxi Regulation.

Ms. Regina Gannon joined the meeting for the Finance Update by the CEO. The items to note were a small under-spend on the revenue account against the budget particularly on administrative expenses and salaries due to staff continuing on career break and the delay in filling of approved posts. There was also an under spend against budget on the capital account that continues to be monitored. Performance payments for the transport operators had not gone through in May and these will be shown in the June accounts.

Internal auditors to be appointed shortly will also externally audit PSO transport operators in relation to the appropriate costs included within their public service contracts. Ms. Gannon left the meeting.

3. Quarterly Performance Reports of PSO Contracts

Mr. Michael Warnock-Smith, Head of Public Transport Contracts Division of the NTA, gave a presentation on the first Quarterly Performance reports of the Public Service Contracts.

A discussion took place in relation to the complaints procedure employed by the operators and whether it is sufficient for the customer. The NTA are working with the operators to

make improvements in this area. In relation to cross-border train services, the full data for that service is provided but the operator is assessed only on the elements of the service within this jurisdiction. The NTA can alter the performance targets that are set in the contract. To ensure independent verification the NTA will employ consultants to carry out appropriate auditing of the data that is presented quarterly by the operators.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Warnock-Smith for his presentation and he left the meeting.

4. Smarter Travel Presentation

Ms. Finola O'Driscoll of the NTA joined the meeting and gave a presentation on the Mobility Management Initiatives being undertaken by the NTA.

The Chairperson thanked Ms. O'Driscoll for her presentation and Ms. O'Driscoll left the meeting.

5. Any Other Business

Under this item the Board considered the NTA submissions on two Draft Development Plans

Mr. Owen Shinkwin, Muireann O'Donovan and Conor O'Donovan of the NTA, joined the meeting to make a presentation on the key points in the NTA submissions on the following plans:

- 1) Draft Naas Town Development Plan 2011 -2017
- 2) Draft South Dublin County Development Plan 2011 - 2017

The Board agreed to make the submissions on the basis outlined in the presentations. Mr. Shinkwin and his colleagues left the meeting.

The CEO circulated the proposal on the new Mayor for the Dublin area which was recently published by the Dept of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the explained the implications for the Board of the NTA.

The CEO brought to the attention of the Board a letter from Swords Express in relation to the status of staff assigned to the NTA from the Dept of Transport and the assertion of a possible conflict of interest. The Board noted the legislative provision for the Minister to make staff available to the Authority and did not consider that the conflict of interest existed and asked the CEO to respond on that basis.

Next Meeting Friday 9th July at 10:30am at the NTA's offices

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

John Fitzgerald, Chairperson