



## **Draft Minutes of Board Meeting**

**Held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

**At 10.30am at NTA Offices**

### **Present:**

Mr. John Fitzgerald (Chairperson), Mr. Gerry Murphy (CEO), Mr. Hugh Creegan (Director of Transport Planning and Investment), Mr. Frank King, Ms. Valerie O'Reilly, Dr. Berna Grist, Ms. Linda Saunders, Mr. James Deegan, Mr. Damian Usher, Ms. Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Mr. John Tierney (Dublin City Manager), Mr. Daithí Alcorn.

### **Staff in attendance:**

Mr. Karl Seeber (Minutes), Ms. Regina Gannon (Item 3), Mr. Deborah Flynn (Item 4a), Mr. Peter Fitzsimons (Item 4b), Ms. Anne Graham (Items 4c & d).

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### **Introduction**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. Alcorn to the Board.

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

The minutes were agreed. The CEO confirmed that the Authority is making good progress in dealing with the backlog of bus licensing applications made under the Road Transport Act 1932.

#### **2. CEO Report**

Bus Éireann has decided not to seek a fare increase at this time.

A list of the measures included in the €240m capital programme for 2011 was circulated. Mr. Creegan responded to issues raised by Board members concerning the proposed purchase of new buses for PSO services in the GDA, the Marlborough Street Public Transport Bridge, Metro North enabling works and the Northern Line resignalling project. The Board will be updated at regular intervals on the status and rollout of the programme.

The draft Transport Strategy will be published on 28 February.

The Authority will be represented on RPG Implementation Groups being established by the Regional Authorities to advise them on implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines. The Board indicated the importance of coordination between the Authority's various representatives on the Groups in order to ensure that the Authority adopted a consistent position on common issues.

Good progress is being made on the Integrated Ticketing project, which is on target to be launched in late August or early September.

### **3. Finance Update**

Ms. Gannon responded to questions concerning the Management Accounts for December 2010. It was noted that the Authority had an accumulated deficit of just €8k at the end of 2010.

### **4. Current Issues**

#### **a. Public Transport Database**

Ms. Flynn gave a presentation explaining the data and mapping sources being exploited by the Authority in support of the development of integrated public transport information systems. It was noted that the Authority has the power to require public transport operators to provide it with relevant data. The Board indicated its support for the detailed technical work being undertaken.

#### **b. New Contract Schedules for Operators Contracts**

Mr. Fitzsimons gave a presentation outlining new, more demanding performance obligations that have been agreed with Bus Éireann and Dublin Bus for their public service contracts with the Authority. Discussions with Irish Rail are ongoing. Board members discussed a number of aspects of the revised obligations including punctuality targets for regional city services, customer service arrangements, anti-social behaviour and fare evasion.

#### **c. Real Time Passenger Information (RPTI) Update**

Ms. Graham gave a presentation on the rollout of the new system, which is currently being tested on the Malahide / Howth Roads corridor but will ultimately be extended throughout the Greater Dublin Area and to the regional cities. Commercial bus operators will also be able to join the system. RTPI is also the first project to make use of the new *Transport for Ireland* brand. Board members indicated their full support for the project, which they noted has the potential to transform the bus commuting experience.

#### **d. Taxi 9-Year Rule**

The CEO noted that the Director of Taxi Regulation was unable to attend for this item due to a prior commitment. The CEO gave a presentation concerning the rule change, which came into force on 1 January last. That change imposes a maximum age limit of 9 years for all taxi (excluding wheelchair accessible taxis) and hackney vehicles that entered the fleet prior to 1 January 2009. The change is to apply as licences are being renewed during 2011. The CEO explained the background to the rule change and outlined arguments for and against its introduction as well as the recent advice of the Advisory Committee on Small Public Service Vehicles in the matter before presenting options and a recommendation for consideration.

Having discussed the options the Board decided to review vehicle standards and related matters in the taxi industry, and while carrying out this review, to revoke the aspect of the "nine-year rule" for those renewing their vehicle licence in 2011 who had applied for their first vehicle licence prior to 1 January 2009.

### **5. Any Other Business**

None.

**Next Meeting: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011 @ 10.30am at the NTA's offices.**

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

**John Fitzgerald, Chairperson**

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