



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 25th March 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, Ms. Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Mr. John Tierney (Dublin City Manager), Mr. Daithí Alcorn.

Apologies: Mr. Damian Usher.

Staff in attendance: Mr. Philip L'Estrange, Ms. Anne Graham, Mr. Karl Seeber (Minutes), Ms. Kathleen Doyle (Item 4), Mr. Eddie Fullerton (Item 4), Mr. Keith Anderson (Item 4); Mr. Tim Gaston (Item 5).

* * * * *

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were agreed subject to the addition of the words "and related matters" after the words ".....the Board decided to review vehicles standards..." in the final sentence of Item 4(d).

2. CEO Report

A number of studies are underway into various aspects of the bus and rail services provided under Public Service Contracts. This work is breaking new ground. For example in the case of a pilot study of public transport in the South-East, local authorities and employers were being consulted for the first time ever about the delivery of public transport services in their area.

The Authority has started to draw on the specialist transport planning and analytical skills available within the Authority in its examination and evaluation of major bus licensing applications. This process is continuing and will be developed and expanded over time.

The up-to-date position on the DART underground and Metro North projects was outlined. A Government decision is awaited in relation to the commencement of enabling works for Metro North. The NTA is preparing a comprehensive comparison of the projects, which may be required in the event that a choice has to be made between them at some point.

The Authority has asked Irish Rail to examine the possibility of installing passing loops on the South-East railway line in the near future in order to reduce the impact of this bottleneck on services.

The draft Transport Strategy was published on 28 February and a number of information meetings have been held. The closing date for receipt of submissions is 11 April next.

The roll-out of the Real Time Passenger Information System is continuing. It is anticipated that 90 signs will be active by end March, which is less than anticipated. The main constraint currently is the slow rate at which at which signs are being connected to the electricity network. The Authority is also liaising with the Irish Language Commissioner who has received a complaint concerning the signs.

The proposed online journey planner has now gone out to tender.

Responding to Board members questions, the CEO confirmed that the pilot study of public transport services in the South-East will determine the scope for improvements in bus services in Waterford. The CEO also confirmed that he will address with Irish Rail the issue of planned changes to railway infrastructure which could impact on the Authority's role with respect to the procurement of rail services.

The Board congratulated the Authority's Director of Corporate Policy and Services (Anne Graham) on her recent appointment as Director of Public Transport Services following an open competition managed by the Public Appointments Service on behalf of the Authority. No arrangements have been made yet for the filling of the resulting vacancy.

3. Finance Update

Mr. L'Estrange gave a brief overview of the February Management Accounts.

He also presented the main points of the draft Financial Statements for the 13-month period from 1 December 2009 to 31 December 2010. He confirmed that the draft Statements were in order for transmission to the Comptroller and Auditor General subject to clarification concerning the method of accounting for certain grant payments. However, he advised that the outcome of this issue would not alter the Authority's net financial position.

Mr. L'Estrange then gave the background to a proposed Board Resolution authorising the Authority to be registered as a Direct Debit Plus Originator by the Irish Retail Electronic Payments Clearing Company Limited. He noted that registration is required for the purposes of the Integrated Ticketing Scheme.

The Board agreed both the draft Financial Statements and the Board Resolution.

4. Taxi Regulation – licensing and enforcement

The Director of Taxi Regulation, with other staff, made a detailed presentation on the small public service vehicle industry including a review of developments since deregulation of the industry, the licensing standards that apply and quality checking of those standards and compliance and enforcement aspects.

The representatives responded to questions from Board members concerning demand and supply in the industry, the provision of taxi ranks and enforcement.

5. Integrated Ticketing Update

Mr. Gaston of the Integrated Ticketing Project Team gave a detailed presentation concerning the current status of the project, including the timetable for rollout of the scheme and possible future developments.

6. Any Other Business

The CEO requested approval for the award of a services contract with a value in excess of €1 million to Cork firm Abtran Limited for the provision of business processing services to the Taxi Regulation Directorate.

The CEO explained that the tender process had been initiated and concluded by the Commission for Taxi Regulation to the stage of issuing a letter of intent to award the contract prior to assimilation within the Authority and that it now fell to the Authority to execute the contract. On that basis the Board agreed to the execution of the contract.

Next Meeting: Friday 15th April 2011 @ 10.30am at the NTA's offices.

Signed: _____

John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____