

Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 20th April 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. John Tierney (Dublin City Manager), Mr. Daithí Alcorn, Mr. Damian Usher.

Apologies: Ms. Margaret O'Shaughnessy.

Staff in attendance: Mr. Philip L'Estrange, Ms. Anne Graham, Mr. Simon Conry (Minutes), Ms. Jennifer Gilna (Item 4), Mr. Michael Warnock Smith (item 5).

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1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were agreed.

2. CEO Report

The Authority has approved a fares increase for prepaid tickets from 1st May 2011. The increase will be inline with the increases already granted for cash fares.

Bus licensing continues to reduce the number of licence applications on hand.

Capital funding for 2011 is under review as part of the forthcoming Government decision. It is understood that cuts in the region of €40 million are being examined. The Authority is undertaking detailed analytical work to assist the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.

The CEO outlined the Authority's recent engagement with the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.

Responding to the Board members' questions, the CEO:

- explained the rationale behind the planned engagement in the South East region – the CEO indicated that the current approach is open to review as the studies are pilots and consideration will be given to increased consultation with public transport users;
- highlighted that the Authority hopes to recruit 7 people under the Fás Work Placement Programme;
- confirmed that the Authority will provide details regarding the allocation of funding under the Sustainable Transport Measures programme in the Greater Dublin Area;

- noted the Board's concern that the Authority's pension scheme for some staff is still unresolved.

To support the commencement of operations for integrated ticketing, the Board approved a text (attached) circulated by the CEO regarding the Authority's powers.

3. Finance and Audit Committee Update

Mr. John Tierney provided an update on the recent Audit Committee meeting, which covered:

- internal audit
- the awarding to PWC of the contract for a security review of the integrated ticketing scheme
- risk register
- consolidation of the Authority's bank accounts.

4. Update on wheelchair accessible taxi subsidy scheme

Ms. Jennifer Gilna gave a presentation on the proposed wheelchair accessible taxi subsidy scheme, the proposed funding allocation, the operation of the scheme, and anticipated deliverables of the subsidy.

Ms. Gilna responded to questions from Board members concerning taxi tariffs, the physical modifications to be made to taxi vehicles and the likely outcome of the scheme.

The Board approved the subsidy scheme.

5. Initial review of Dublin Bus Network Direct on Stillorgan corridor

Mr. Michael Warnock Smith outlined the work to date on the Stillorgan corridor as part of Network Direct.

Mr. Warnock Smith responded to questions from Board members concerning the relevance of 2006 census data.

Mr. Warnock Smith undertook to respond at a later date on specific concerns relating to the No. 84 bus.

6. Transport Strategy update

Mr Hugh Creegan provided an update on the development of the Transport Strategy and the issues raised in the 208 submissions received.

It is envisaged that the final draft strategy will be circulated to the Board in advance of the May meeting. The Transport Strategy will then be submitted to the Minister for final approval.

7. Information presentation on Bus Rapid Transit

Mr. Hugh Creegan provided a short information presentation on the capabilities of bus rapid transit (BRT) and its current use internationally.

The Board noted the presentation and expressed an interest in further presentations on BRT as developments happen.

8. Any other business

In line with its national remit, the Board agreed that the June Board meeting would take place on 17th June in Portlaoise.

In the context of the current work being undertaken on taxi vehicle standards, and in response to questions from the Board, the CEO undertook to provide a review of taxi vehicle standards internationally.

Next Meeting: Friday 20th May 2011 @ 10.30am at the National Transport Authority's offices.

Signed: _____
John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____