



Draft Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 20th May 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. Daithí Alcorn, Mr. Damian Usher, Ms. Margaret O'Shaughnessy.

Apologies: Mr. John Tierney (Dublin City Manager).

Staff in attendance: Mr. Philip L'Estrange, Ms. Anne Graham, Mr. Karl Seeber (Minutes), Ms. Kathleen Doyle and Mr. Neill Anderson (Item 4).

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1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were agreed subject to the insertion of the replacement of "and consideration will be given to increased consultation with public transport users" at the end of the first bullet point in the fifth paragraph.

2. CEO Report & Finance Updates

Finance

The Board approved a resolution relating to the Authority's banking arrangements.

CEO Report

At the request of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, the Authority is currently conducting detailed financial exercises relating to the Authority's capital and current budgets, including its administrative budget. The deadline for completion of this work is very tight.

The Authority has exercised its statutory powers in order to give directions to public transport operators in respect of integrated ticketing. The system came into operation on a pilot basis on 16 May and is on target to be launched later in 2011.

Responding to Board members, the CEO confirmed that the viability of the proposed Marlborough Street Bridge as a public transport only bridge is not dependent on Luas BXD proceeding. Ms. Graham explained that the Chief Executive will be writing to his counterpart at ESB Electric Ireland regarding arrangements for the connection of real-time passenger information signs to the electrical supply network.

With regard to taxi matters, the Board discussed RTÉ's Prime Time programme of 16 May concerning the taxi industry.

The CEO outlined the reasons why the Authority had taken the decision not to appear on the programme. In particular he indicated that the programme makers had refused to provide any details regarding the matters to be covered in the interview. He noted that the Authority had supplied detailed background information to the programme makers as well as responding to their questions.

The CEO advised that he met with Mr. Alan Kelly, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on 17 May. Following the meeting the Minister announced that the Department will be conducting a comprehensive review of the taxi industry. The CEO confirmed that the Authority will cooperate fully with that process.

Following a detailed discussion the Board noted the importance of maintaining public confidence in the taxi industry and will allocate appropriate Board time to review those issues raised by the programme which come within the Authority's remit. The Board, noting that many vulnerable people such as the elderly rely on taxi transport, considered that appropriate measures to ensure customer safety were essential for the taxi industry.

3. Transport Strategy

Mr. Creegan gave a detailed presentation outlining the proposed amendments to the Draft Transport Strategy based on the Authority's analysis of feedback received during the course of the public consultation process.

The Chairperson noted that the purpose of the Transport Strategy is to provide a high-level, long-term strategic plan for the development of transport in the Greater Dublin Area that is underpinned by detailed transport modelling. As the plan was looking at a 20+ year horizon it had to look beyond the current economic climate. He also noted that, subject to the approval of the Transport Strategy by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, the Authority will then proceed to prepare a detailed Implementation Plan to identify the measures that can be implemented in the short-term (i.e. within 6 years) having regard to the available funding.

The CEO and Mr. Creegan responded to detailed comments by Board members concerning the content and presentation of the Draft Strategy and a range of clarificatory amendments were agreed. The Board then unanimously approved the following minute (proposed by Ms. Saunders and seconded by Ms. O'Shaughnessy), subject to the outcome of the SEA and HDA processes in relation to the additional amendments:

The Draft Transport Strategy 2011 – 2030 for the Greater Dublin Area has been completed in accordance with the statutory requirements set out in section 12 of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 (as amended).

The Draft Strategy has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the relevant EU Directives (as transposed into National Law) and special emphasis was placed on compliance with the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) the Strategic Impact Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) and the Public Participation Directive (2003/35/EC).

A comprehensive public awareness campaign was undertaken and consultation with the various statutory consultees as set out in Section 12 (8) of the Dublin Transport Act 2008 (as amended) were also completed. This process generated numerous submissions, which were considered by the Authority. These submissions constituted an integral part of the iterative development of the Draft Strategy that is hereby adopted for submission to the Minister for his approval in accordance with Section 12 (9) of the 2008 Act.

Copies of the Draft Transport Strategy shall also be sent to the Regional Authorities within the GDA and to the Joint Oireachtas Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Sub Section (10) and (11) of the 2008 Act.

Should any changes to the SEA or HDA reports be required the matter will be brought back to Board by written correspondence. If there are no changes to those reports the Draft Strategy will be submitted to the Minister in accordance with the minute.

The members of the Board requested the CEO to convey their appreciation to all of the staff concerned for their detailed work over the last 2 years in the preparation of the Draft Strategy.

4. Vehicle Standards Consultation

Ms. Doyle and Mr. Anderson gave a presentation concerning the proposed public consultation exercise for the purpose of setting revised standards for small public service vehicles (taxis, hackneys and limousines). They then responded to detailed questions from Board members concerning various issues arising from the presentation including vehicle age, standardisation of vehicle type(s), vehicle branding, emissions standards and inspection and enforcement arrangements.

Following discussion, the Board approved the public consultation proposals subject to the addition of vehicle branding to the list of matters for consultation.

5. Any other business

None.

Next Meeting: Friday 17th June 2011 @ 10.30am in Portlaoise.

Signed: _____
John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____