



## **Minutes of Board Meeting**

**Held on Friday 14 February 2014**

**At 10.30am in NTA Offices on Harcourt Lane**

**Present:** Mr John Fitzgerald (Chairperson), Mr Gerry Murphy (CEO), Mr Hugh Creegan (Director of Transport Investment and Taxi Regulation), Mr Frank King, Ms Linda Saunders, Mr James Deegan, Dr Berna Grist, Mr Daithí Alcorn.

**Apologies:** Mr Owen Keegan (Dublin City Manager), Mr Damian Usher, Ms Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Ms Valerie O'Reilly.

**Staff in attendance:** Mr Philip L'Estrange (Item 3), Mr Frank McCabe (Item 6) and Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2014 were agreed subject to the replacement of (b) under Item 1 with the following:

(b) *"The Board asked the Chief Executive to convey their appreciation to all NTA staff members for their work in 2013, in particular those who made excellent presentations at Board meetings."*

### **2. CEO Report**

The Chief Executive updated the Board on a number of developments since their last meeting including the Luas Operations Contract, the Public Bikes Schemes for the Regional Cities, the Luas Cross City project and the Rural Transport Programme. The Authority had also participated in the inaugural meeting of a group established by the Minister for Transport, Tourism to drive growth in public transport passenger numbers during 2014.

The CEO advised that the Authority will shortly launch a twitter page. He informed the Board that the Authority had received an award for Best Smart Card Ticketing Consumer Engagement at the 2014 Transport Ticketing Conference and EXPO in London. Finally he provided an update on some staffing issues.

During the discussion that followed the Board discussed the mobilisation of the new rural transport co-ordination units, the development of contactless payment systems for public transport, the interoperability of the Dublin and proposed regional bike schemes, journey planners provided by bus operators and the development of rail freight.

### **3. Financial Report**

Mr L'Estrange outlined the Management Accounts for December 2013. During the discussion that followed it was agreed to provide further information to Board members concerning the Authority's

outsourcing and external service delivery. Mr L'Estrange noted that the Authority is fully SEPA compliant at this stage, including Leap card.

Ms Saunders provided an update on the Audit Committee's activities. She indicated that the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General will be invited to attend the Audit Committee's next meeting.

#### **4. Taxi Regulations Update**

Mr Creegan explained that the Authority had received 242 submissions on the Authority's draft consolidated taxi regulations prior to the deadline of 31 January last. Once the submissions have been reviewed the Authority will finalise draft regulations for the Board's consideration at the March meeting. The Board discussed and agreed arrangements for facilitating and expediting the Board's consideration of the revised draft regulations.

#### **5. Update on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) information meetings with local authority councillors**

Mr Creegan indicated that a public consultation process on the Authority's BRT proposals, which are an important element of the Authority's Integrated Implementation Plan for the Greater Dublin Area, is due to start on 17 February. The Authority was also holding a series of information meetings for local authority members in Dublin. Already presentations had been made to members of Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council, which had been well received.

Mr Creegan outlined the outcome of a tendering process for the award of a major consultancy to develop and complete the detailed design of the Swords/Airport to City Centre Bus Rapid Transit proposal. The Board approved the recommendation to award the contract to Arup following the consideration by the Board of the recommendation for the award of tenders.

#### **6. Transport Model Development**

Mr McCabe outlined the detailed work being done by the Authority on updating the Greater Dublin Area Model, rebuilding 4 Regional City Models and building a National Trip End Model and Corridor prioritisation tool. He noted that the Authority enjoys access to extensive high quality data from a variety of sources including the Central Statistics Office and the transport operators. Most of the work is due to be completed by the end of 2014.

The Board greatly welcomed the progress being made. During the discussion that followed Mr McCabe responded to questions concerning the modelling of light goods vehicles, the National Traffic Model and the rail census.

#### **7. Any other business**

Mr Creegan updated the Board on the status of the Authority's proposals for an off-street bus coach park in Dublin and development of the Phoenix Park rail tunnel. He also outlined the implications of a recent High Court decision in relation the compulsory acquisition of land in respect of the DART Underground project. The CEO confirmed that the Authority is developing plans to encourage visitors to Ireland to use Leap card.

**Next Meeting: Friday 21 March 2013 @ 10.30am in NTA Offices.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**John Fitzgerald, Chairperson**

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