



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 20 June 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 Owen Keegan (Dublin City Manager), Dr Berna Grist, Mr Damian Usher, Ms Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Ms Linda Saunders, Mr Daithí Alcorn, Mr Frank King.

Apologies: Ms Valerie O'Reilly, Mr James Deegan.

Staff in attendance: Mr Mark O'Sullivan (Item 3), Mr Pdraig O'Ruairc, Mr Colin O'Hara (Item 4), Ms Anne Graham (Items 4 to 7) and Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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1. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2014 were agreed.

The Board extended its condolences to Mr Deegan on his family bereavement.

2. CEO report

The Chief Executive provided the Board with updates on developments since the last meeting including the recently published Vehicle Clamping Bill 2014, the Authority's forthcoming attendance at a meeting of the Oireachtas Transport Committee to discuss the Luas Cross City project, the rail review, public bike schemes for the regional cities and the sharing of bus stops by operators. He noted that the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has confirmed the continuation of the Green Schools Programme. Finally, he outlined the proposed distribution of additional capital funding of €7 million among a number of public transport projects.

During the discussion that followed the Chief Executive responded to questions concerning these and other issues including the winding up of Lough Swilly Bus Company, the preparation of new Public Service Contracts for bus services and the tendering of contracts by the Authority for the provision of real time passenger information equipment for commercial bus operators and for project management services.

Following a short discussion the Board approved the draft Annual Report 2013 subject to a number of changes requested by the Board and any other minor changes that may be required during the design phase.

3. Financial report

Mr O'Sullivan outlined the Authority's Management Accounts for April 2014 which are in line with projections. He responded to questions concerning taxi licensing income and the timeframe for the presentation of management accounts to the Board.

4. Rural Transport Update plus National IT Dispatch System

Ms Graham updated the Board on the restructuring of the Rural Transport Programme. Overall progress is good although there have been delays in establishing some of the new (Rural) Transport Co-ordination Units and securing suitable office accommodation for the Units. Those issues are being actively addressed.

Mr Pdraig O'Ruairc and Mr Colin O'Hara explained the work already undertaken by the Authority to select a national IT dispatch system for use by the new Transport Co-ordination Units. The new system became live earlier this year and is being gradually rolled out to the new Units. It will facilitate the integration of the different rural transport service providers, improve customer experience when booking a rural transport service and will facilitate administration by Units. It will also enhance the Authority's governance of rural transport.

The Board welcomed developments and noted the importance of the dispatch systems for users of the rural transport services. In particular the need for user friendly telephone and text services was noted.

5. Taxis and Wheelchair Accessibility

Mr Creegan outlined details of a new grant scheme for wheelchair accessible taxis which will be introduced next month. He noted that previous grant schemes for wheelchair accessible vehicles had not been fully availed of due the cost of vehicles, the difficulty of finding finance and the availability of transferred standard licences. He anticipated that the new scheme will attract greater interest among taxi operators on this occasion, due to the new vehicle specifications and the ability to "freeze" the standard licence in order to take up a wheelchair accessible vehicle licence.

Mr Creegan also provided an update on progress in the development of a smartphone app to allow automated ordering of a wheelchair accessible vehicle as recommended by the Government Taxi Regulation Review.

6. Luas Cross City Developments

Mr Creegan outlined progress on the Luas Cross City project and outlined issues that had arisen recently in relation to fencing of works and land acquisition and which are being addressed. The Board noted the importance of clarifying the latter issue as a matter of urgency.

7. Latest Statistical Bulletins

Ms Graham outlined emerging trends in public transport passenger carryings and revenues on subsidised bus, light rail and rail services.

8. Any other business

None.

Next Meeting: Friday 11 July 2014 @ 10.30am in NTA Offices.

Signed: _____
John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____