



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 21 March 2014

At 10.30am in NTA Offices on Harcourt Lane

Present: Mr John Fitzgerald (Chairperson), Mr Hugh Creegan (Director of Transport Investment and Taxi Regulation), Mr Owen Keegan (Dublin City Manager), Ms Linda Saunders, Mr James Deegan, Dr Berna Grist, Mr Daithí Alcorn, Mr Damian Usher, Ms Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Ms Valerie O'Reilly.

Apologies: Mr Gerry Murphy (CEO), Mr Frank King.

Staff in attendance: Mr Philip L'Estrange (Item 3), Ms Anne Graham (Items 1- 8), Ms Gráinne Mackin (Item 7) and Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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1. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2014 were agreed subject to the insertion of *park* after *bus coach* in the first line under Item 7.

The Board extended its condolences to the CEO on his recent family bereavement.

2. CEO Report

Mr Creegan and Ms Graham provided updates on the main developments since the Board's last meeting including the threat of industrial action at Iarnród Éireann, the proposal to seek tenders for a bus service between Cavan and Longford following the recent decision by the operator concerned to cease providing services, the extension of Leap card to Cork, the introduction of an autoloading facility for Leap card customers, the recent launch of the Authority's twitter service and the signing by the European Investment Bank of a loan agreement with NTMA to invest €150 million in Luas Cross City.

Mr Creegan and Ms Graham responded to issues raised by Board members concerning these matters as well as the roll-out of (Rural) Transport Coordination Units and the coordination of the rail and ferry timetables at Rosslare.

3. Financial Report

Mr L'Estrange outlined the Management Accounts for January 2013, which are in line with projections.

He explained that the Comptroller & Auditor General is due to begin his audit of the Authority's draft 2013 Financial Statements by 31 March next. During the discussion that followed Mr L'Estrange responded to questions concerning the contents of the draft Statements and the Board agreed to some additions to the Notes to the Statements. Mr L'Estrange confirmed that the draft Financial

Statements do not raise any issues of material concern that have not been brought to the Board's attention. The Board approved the draft Financial Statements subject to the additions agreed by it.

The Board noted its satisfaction with the management of the Authority's finances.

4. Taxi Regulations

Mr Creegan outlined the background to the proposed consolidation of all secondary legislation relating to small public service vehicles. A consultation process in respect of the draft consolidated regulations was undertaken during December and January. This process had involved consultations with An Garda Síochána, the Legal Metrology Service, the Advisory Committee on Small Public Service Vehicles as well as the general public and Mr. Creegan confirmed that the prescribed requirements in relation to publication and consultation had been complied with. He also noted that while the proposed consolidated regulations mainly restate the existing secondary legislation they also contain some important changes which he outlined.

After discussion the Board agreed to approve the draft Small Public Service (Consolidation and Reform) Regulations 2014, inclusive of the maximum fares order set out in Schedule 10, in the form circulated to the Board subject to the following amendments:

- The insertion at the end of Regulation 33 of an additional sentence stating: *"In any case where there is a conflict between this prohibition and Regulation 32, this prohibition shall prevail."*
- The replacement of the words *"of signs"* in Regulation 48(6) with *"signs"*.
- The insertion of an additional paragraph to Regulation 48 stating: *"The holder of a taxi licence shall not display, or permit the display of, any sign or advertisement on the side doors (other than the front doors) of the vehicle associated with the licence –*
 - (a) where the sign or advertisement is greater than 1,600 square centimetres in area, or*
 - (b) where, in the case of more than one sign or advertisement on a door, the combined area of such signs or advertisements is greater than 1,600 square centimetres in area."*
- The insertion of the words *"for stretched vehicles"* after *"tyre load rating"* in paragraph 3 of Schedule 5.
- In Schedule 8, in the row with *"18."* in the first column, the replacement of the penalty amount of *"€60"* in the third column with *"€40"*.
- The insertion of *"7th April 2014"* in Regulation 2 as the commencement date of the regulations.

Mr Creegan indicated that the commencement of the Regulations is linked to the commencement of relevant sections of the Taxi Regulation Act 2013 and that it is understood that the relevant sections of the Act will be commenced during April.

5. Public Transport Growth

Ms Graham recalled that the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport has set a 2% target for growth in public transport passenger numbers on subvented services during 2014. She explained that the Minister chairs regular meetings of public transport bodies to co-ordinate the implementation of the necessary supporting actions and to monitor progress in meeting the target. The Authority is among the bodies represented at those meetings.

Ms Graham took Board members through a presentation already given to the Minister concerning the performance of public transport operators since 2010 in order to identify the challenges involved in growing public transport numbers as well as the opportunities for achieving the necessary growth. The Board agreed to review progress again on this item at a later date.

Ms Graham confirmed that the Authority is monitoring the operation of shorter DART trains with a view to ensuring that sufficient capacity is available to cope with passenger demand

6. Canal Cordon Count

Mr Creegan outlined the results of the 2013 count which is undertaken each November by Dublin City Council and provides a breakdown of the share of the different modes (including rail and light rail) during the morning peak. He also outlined the emerging trends.

Mr Creegan noted that there was an increase of 6.9% between 2012 and 2013 in the number of public transport passengers and that all three modes of public transport (bus, rail and light rail) showed increases on 2012. However, the number of passengers is still 10.2% below the equivalent 2006 numbers.

7. Luas Cross City

Ms Mackin updated the Board on the progress of the Luas Cross City project and outlined the actions being taken to ensure that all interested parties are kept informed of developments in a timely manner. Ms Mackin and Mr Creegan then responded to questions concerning works on O'Connell Street and the arrangements being made to ensure that the project will not interfere with the planned commemoration of the 1916 Rising.

8. Any other business

Mr Creegan outlined the outcome of the Authority's recent public tender process for the supply, installation, maintenance and on-going operation of public bike share schemes in the regional cities. He indicated that it was proposed to award the contract to An Rothar Nua Consortium, subject to the approval of the Board in accordance with the Authority's procedures.

Following a brief discussion the Board approved the award of the contract to An Rothar Nua subject to confirmation by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport of funding arrangements in respect of the contract.

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

Signed: _____
John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____