



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 17 October 2014

At 10.30am in the NTA Offices

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

Apologies: None

Staff in attendance: Mr Philip L'Estrange (Item 3), Ms Anne Graham (Items 4 & 7), Mr David King (Items 5 & 6), Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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1. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2014 were agreed without amendment.

2. CEO Report

The Chief Executive updated the Board on a range of developments since the last meeting as well as responding to other issues raised by members. The matters covered included

- the bus market process;
- current and capital funding for subsidised bus and rail services;
- Leap card developments including award of contract for Near Field Communications;
- cycling developments including launch of regional bike schemes and the proposed Sutton to Sandycove cycle route;
- the Authority's engagements with the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport on transport issues;
- taxi developments including wheelchair accessible grant scheme and taxi fare review;
- *Transport for Ireland* People Awards Scheme;
- organisational matters;
- the provision of bus shelters.

3. Financial Report

Mr L'Estrange outlined the Authority's Management Accounts for August 2014 which are in line with projections. He also noted that the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General had completed its audit of the Authority's 2013 Financial Statements at the end of September. He confirmed that the audit did not require any material changes from the draft Financial Statements approved by the Board earlier in the year. He outlined the planned methodology for capitalising costs associated with projects.

Ms Saunders updated the Board on discussions at the Audit Committee meeting, which preceded the Board meeting. Ms Saunders outlined the results of audits recently undertaken by the Authority's internal auditors and the status of the Authority's risk register. She noted that by the end of 2014 the Audit Committee's work programme is expected to be fully up-to-date. Ms Saunders noted the Audit Committee's concern that the Authority is unable to recruit permanent staff for its finance area.

The Board noted the importance of the work being undertaken by the Audit Committee and thanked Ms Saunders for her comprehensive report.

4. Passenger, Revenues and Promotions

Ms Graham updated the Board on recent and planned Leap card developments. Ms Graham noted that the recent Leap card initiatives for children, tourists and trainees had been successful and the results had exceeded expectations. She also pointed out that Leap card has been extended to Cork and Galway and an auto top-up facility has been implemented for Leap card customers. Finally, the Authority will shortly implement a discount arrangement for Leap card customers who take two journeys by bus or rail within a 90 minute period.

The Chief Executive outlined the latest passenger journey and revenue results for subsidised bus and rail services operated by Dublin Bus, Bus Éireann and Iarnród Éireann. The Board noted that while the overall results are positive there is scope for improvement on the rail side in particular. Also, the bus fleets will need to be expanded to meet the growth in bus passenger numbers.

5. City Centre Transport Plan and BRT update

Mr Creegan gave a broad outline of the proposed Dublin City Centre Transport Plan, which is being developed jointly between Dublin City Council and the Authority. The Plan is being prepared on a fully collaborative basis with a joint steering group from the Council and the NTA in place to guide its development. It is well advanced in its development with the intention that a draft for public consultation will be finalised next month. Mr Creegan explained that the proposed Plan is needed to manage the significant anticipated growth in commuting over the next decade as well as the implementation of Luas Cross City and to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. He also noted that the Plan is a necessary precursor to the development by the Authority of a strategic traffic management plan for the Greater Dublin Area. The Board noted the detailed work undertaken with a view to securing support for the Plan from all stakeholders.

Mr David King recalled that the Authority had undertaken a public consultation process earlier in the year on emerging preferred route corridors for 3 possible Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) schemes. The Authority received 550 submissions of which 67% were in favour and 12% against. Of the 3 possible schemes the scheme between Swords/Dublin Airport and the City Centre is being developed first. Since the public consultation process the Authority has undertaken a route options assessment and has now selected a preferred route. The preferred route differs from the emerging preferred route in two main respects viz.

- Route at north Swords now avoids link through small park;
- Route is retained on Dorset Street instead of Denmark Street.

At this stage a second public consultation process is underway in relation to the preferred route of the Swords/Dublin Airport route. Mr Creegan noted that the preferred route will also cater for standard bus services and will incorporate extensive off-road cycle lanes.

The Board noted these developments and discussed arrangements for interchange between BRT and rail at Drumcondra rail station and the extent to which properties along the route will be affected. It

was noted that only two vacant properties will need to be demolished for the purpose of the project.

6. Fingal & North Dublin Transport Study

Mr David King explained that the overall objective of the study is to identify the optimum medium/long-term public transport solution for key destinations in the General Scheme Corridor, including, in particular, Dublin Airport and Swords. The horizon year for the study is 2035. Mr David King noted that following consultations with key stakeholders an initial sketch appraisal had considered 24 public transport scheme options covering heavy rail, light rail, Bus Rapid Transit or a combination of these. Following the sketch appraisal, 6 of the remaining 19 options are being brought forward to the next stage of detailed appraisal. Mr David King described each of the options. Mr David King indicated that the Study is expected to be completed in early 2015.

The Board briefly discussed the options under consideration and the requirements of the Aarhus Convention.

7. Consultations - Bus Accessibility; Mayo Bus Services

Ms Graham explained that the Authority will shortly initiate a public consultation process for the purposes of a regulatory impact analysis (RIA) on the transition to a wheelchair accessible bus fleet by the licensed bus sector, which is among the commitments contained in the Department of Transport Tourism & Sport's 2012 document entitled *Access for All*. Ms Graham described the issues and options for consideration. The aim is to prepare a report on the consultation process and any recommendations for changes to regulatory control of licences by the end of 2014.

During the discussion that followed, the importance of training for bus drivers in the use and operation of wheelchair accessible equipment was highlighted.

Ms Graham outlined the outcome of the Authority's review of requests for fare increases submitted by operators of subsidised public transport services. Ms Graham noted that although the level of subsidy to the CIÉ companies in 2014 will be maintained in 2015, this follows on from substantial cuts in previous years; operators will have higher costs due to increases in staff costs, increased maintenance costs due to ageing fleets as well as additional contracting and operating costs due to higher demand at peak times. In the case of Luas the changes are modest with a phased move to only having an all zone multi-period ticket and the introduction of off-peak discounting via Leap card alone (cash fares at peak and off-peak to be merged). The Board noted the Authority's fares determinations for each operator. The results of the determinations will be announced soon.

In view of time constraints, the Board decided to defer the presentation on bus services in Mayo.

8. Any other business

The Chairperson outlined the present position regarding the filling of the Chief Executive post.

Next Meeting: Friday 21 November 2014 @ 10.30am in the NTA Offices.

Signed: _____
John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____