



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 5 September 2014

At 11am in Clarion Hotel, Limerick

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, Mr James Deegan.

Apologies: Ms Valerie O'Reilly.

Staff in attendance: Mr Philip L'Estrange, Ms Anne Graham, Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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1. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2014 were agreed subject to the replacement of the text under Item 9 with the following:-

“Figures on the Leap Visitor card were sought – these will be sent on following the meeting. Some points were raised regarding the current works at Waterford rail station and these are to be examined.”

2. CEO Report

The Chief Executive updated the Board on the major issues since the last meeting including

- signing of the new Luas Operations Contract;
- implementation of a new PSO contract for bus services between Cavan and Longford;
- novation of rural transport bus operator contracts to the Authority;
- arrangements for structured engagement in relation to the tendering of bus services involving Dublin Bus, Bus Éireann, unions and the National Transport Authority;
- Leap card promotions to encourage greater use of public transport by children particularly for school travel;
- meeting between Chairperson/CEO and the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport;
- organisational matters.

During the discussion that followed the Chief Executive responded to points raised by Board members concerning these matters and a number of other issues including the level of compliance by commercial bus operators with their licence conditions, the operation of the real-time passenger information system by Bus Éireann, planned improvements to Busáras bus station and the report of the Housing Supply Co-ordination Task Force.

3. Financial Report

Mr L'Estrange outlined the Authority's Management Accounts for July 2014 which are in line with projections. He informed the Board that the Authority has established a new bank account to support the operation of the Regional Bike Scheme. The new account will receive subscription and usage revenues from scheme users. The account is subject to same controls and signatories as other bank accounts which the Authority maintains.

Mr L'Estrange explained that the Authority's existing contract with Abtran for contact centre and business services is due to expire at the end of the year. Earlier this year the Authority decided to advertise separate tenders for project management resources and contact centre services in order to facilitate a greater number of prospective tenderers for the services and secure better value for money.

Mr L'Estrange explained the tendering and evaluation process in respect of the contract for project management resources and indicated that the recommendation was that this contract be awarded to Abtran. Following a short discussion the Board approved the award of the project management resources contract to Abtran.

4. Bus stop designation

The Chief Executive referred to the resolution adopted by the Board at its last meeting to designate all Dublin Bus bus stops and stands in the Greater Dublin Area as shared facilities for the use of bus operators generally. However, it had since been noted that there are locations where bus stops and stands are on private lands (e.g. Blanchardstown Shopping Centre and University College Dublin) and that the Authority has no powers to mandate the sharing of facilities that are owned by those landowners.

After a brief discussion the Board agreed to amend the resolution adopted at its last meeting by the addition of "and privately owned lands" after "...except for those bus stops on Dublin Airport Authority lands".

5. Rail Update

The Chief Executive updated the Board on the recent 2-day rail strike. He outlined the plans implemented by the Authority to assist people to explore alternative ways of making their journey by public transport. He circulated the terms of the agreement brokered by the Labour Relations Commission and the role of the National Transport Authority under it.

The Chief Executive noted that the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport has asked the Authority to undertake a national consultation on rail policy. He outlined the emerging conclusions of a comprehensive review exercise of the financial challenges facing Iarnród Éireann that has been carried out over the summer by the Authority in conjunction with Iarnród Éireann. The Chairperson noted that this work was continuing and that it was ultimately a matter for Government to decide on the funding envelope for public transport services.

6. Luas Cross City Update

Mr Creegan provided an update on land acquisition matters.

7. Limerick City and County Presentation

Mr Conn Murray, CEO, Limerick City and County Council and Mr Paul Crowe, Director of Services gave a presentation on the major change programme being implemented following the merger of the City and County Councils with a view to providing the best possible service to citizens and

communities. They also provided an update on the implementation of sustainable transport projects in Limerick City including the Smarter Travel Initiative, Regional Bike Scheme, Ballinacurra Road Bus Corridor and Metropolitan District Movement Framework Study.

During the discussion that followed it was noted that the recent reorganisation of Limerick city bus services had achieved a 4% growth in passenger numbers. The Board thanked Mr Murray and Mr Crowe for their presentation.

8. Any other business

Mr Creegan confirmed that the Authority is actively looking into the possibility of users of the Dublin and regional bike schemes using the Leap card for subscriber identification.

Next Meeting: Friday 17 October 2014 @ 10.30am in NTA Offices.

Signed: _____
John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____