



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 16 October 2015

At 10.30am in the NTA Offices

Present: Mr John Fitzgerald (Chairperson), Ms Anne Graham (Chief Executive), Mr Hugh Creegan (Deputy Chief Executive), Mr Owen Keegan (CEO, Dublin City Council), Dr Berna Grist, Ms Linda Saunders, Ms Fiona Ross, Ms Sineád Walsh, Mr Frank O'Connor, Mr Pat Mangan.

Apologies: Ms Ann Fitzgerald, Mr Frank Gleeson.

Staff in attendance: Mr Tim Gaston; Mr Mark O'Sullivan (Item 4); Ms Siobhán O'Mahoney (Item 6); Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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1. Introductions

The Chairperson welcomed the new Board members. The existing and new members briefly introduced themselves. The CEO advised that a detailed briefing would be provided to all Board members before the next Board meeting with particular focus on information for the new members.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 4 September were agreed without amendment.

3. CEO Report

The Chief Executive updated the Board on developments since the last meeting and responded to issues raised by members. The matters discussed included

- progress on the tendering of bus services;
- the funding of subsidised bus services including rural transport services;
- draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area. It was agreed that Board members should be briefed on the draft Transport Strategy before the next Board meeting.
- taxi developments including grant scheme for wheelchair accessible vehicles and public consultations on roof-signs and driver safety equipment;
- development of Leap Near Field Communications App;
- update on National Journey Planner App;
- details of new promotional campaign for Leap card;
- publication of further statistical bulletins;
- the operation of the public bikes schemes in the regional cities;
- the checks in place to ensure that bus drivers are medically fit to drive;
- review of rail services;
- legislative and staffing issues.

4. Finance Report

Mr O'Sullivan outlined the NTA's Management Accounts for August and responded to requests for clarification on some aspects. He noted that overall the NTA was performing well to budget up to the end of August.

5. Capital Plan

Mr Creegan outlined the main features of the recently announced Capital Investment Plan "Building on Recovery: Infrastructure and Capital Investment 2016 – 2021". He explained that the total value of the public transport programme is €3.6 billion of which €2.2 billion is allocated to the Greater Dublin Area programme. He also noted that discussions are taking place with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the details. The Board highlighted the importance of providing adequate funding for walking and cycling projects.

6. Contracted Operators Performance

Ms O'Mahony explained the results for Q2 2015 of the performance of operators of socially necessary but financially unviable bus and rail services (or Public Service Obligation services) throughout the State. Performance is measured against performance obligations set out in contracts between the NTA and the operators. Performance results are published on the NTA website after the end of each quarter.

Ms O'Mahony outlined the performance obligations and results for each operator. She explained that although there were some minor instances of non-compliance by Dublin Bus and Bus Éireann, they did not warrant the withholding of performance payments.

The Chief Executive noted that Board members had also been circulated with information on the trend in passenger journeys and revenues in respect of subsidised bus and rail services.

7. Fares Proposal

The Chief Executive outlined progress on the setting of fares for 2016 in respect of subsidised bus and rail services (including Luas). She outlined the general context as well as the specific objectives for each operator having regard to their financial position. The Chief Executive explained that the broad goal of the 2016 fare determination process is further rationalisation of fare structures across operators. During the discussion that followed the desirability of keeping fares increases below inflation levels was noted. Board members also felt that more needed to be done to make the travelling public aware of the substantial savings to be made by switching from cash to Leap card.

8. Any other business

Suggested dates of Board meetings in 2016 were circulated.

Next Meeting: Friday 20 November 2015 @ 10.30am in the NTA Offices.

Signed: _____
John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____