



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 15 April 2016

At 10.30am in the NTA Offices, Dublin 2

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

Apologies: Dr Berna Grist, Ms Ann Fitzgerald, Mr Frank Gleeson.

Staff in attendance: Mr Eoin Farrell (Item 7); Mr Philip L'Estrange (Director of Finance and Corporate Affairs); Mr Tim Gaston (Director of Public Transport Services); Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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1. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 18 March were agreed subject to the following amendments to Item 3 (Finance Report).

- a. in the final sentence, the substitution of "Board" with "Committee".
- b. the addition of the following new final sentence: "It was agreed that the NTA's Audit Charter should be presented to the Board for its consideration."

2. CEO Report

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

- Publication of the Authority's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area;
- Commencement of public consultation on proposals for traffic management changes on College Green;
- Luas Cross City update;
- Planned purchase of additional buses for Dublin Bus;
- Update on proposed new coach parking facility;
- Update on grant scheme for wheelchair accessible taxi vehicles;
- Positive outcome of review of data protection arrangements in the NTA's taxi area by the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner;
- Delays to planned changes to rail services serving Connolly Station due to industrial relations issues;
- Growth on intercity commercial bus services 2012 to 2015;
- New integrated rail map for the Dublin region;
- Approval of NTA Irish Language Scheme by Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht;
- A legal matter.

The Board noted developments in the continuing industrial action by Luas workers and discussed the implications for the operation of the Luas system.

3. Finance Report

Mr L'Estrange outlined the main features of the Management Accounts for March 2016 and noted that overall there was strong performance to budget in Q1 2016. During the discussion that followed Mr L'Estrange outlined the accounting and auditing arrangements for income received in respect of the Leap Card scheme.

Mr L'Estrange gave a detailed presentation concerning the NTA's proposal to acquire the leasehold interest in a building adjacent to the NTA offices in order to meet the Authority's existing and future accommodation needs. Following discussion the Board approved the proposal as presented to it subject to the outcome of the planned building survey.

4. Draft Annual Report 2015

The Board approved the draft Annual Report as presented to it subject to any amendments which may be requested by Board members and any minor changes that may be required prior to publication. The Chief Executive noted that the Annual Report will only be published once the Financial Statements have been approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

5. Taxi Regulation

Mr Creegan gave a short presentation on the background to a proposed technical amendment of the Taxi Regulations. Following that the Board ("the Authority") noted that:-

- a) in accordance with section 3 of the Taxi Regulation Act 2013 (as amended, the "2013 Act") the Authority was proposing to make a regulation entitled Taxi Regulation (Small Public Service Vehicle) Regulation 2016 (the "Proposed Regulation") in connection with small public service vehicles and their drivers and licence holders; and
- b) the Authority has consulted with the Garda Commissioner and the Advisory Committee to the extent required by section 7(3) of the 2013 Act.

Having noted the foregoing and the outcome of such consultations, the Authority resolved that:

- (i) the regulation entitled Taxi Regulation (Small Public Service Vehicle) Regulation 2016 be made in the form of the Proposed Regulation presented to the meeting; and
- (ii) the requirements of the Statutory Instruments Act 1947 be complied with in relation to the making of the Proposed Regulation.

6. DART Underground Property Proposal

Mr Creegan apprised the Board of a proposal by CIÉ/Irish Rail to acquire a site for the purposes of the DART Underground project. He explained that the NTA supports acquisition of the site in view of its importance to the future development of the project, which is currently at design stage. He also confirmed that the NTA would be in a position to find the necessary funding within the existing capital allocation and also that provision would be made for the recoupment of this funding from CIÉ in the event that the project did not proceed. The Board noted the proposal.

7. Galway Transport Strategy

Mr Creegan noted that the NTA has been assisting Galway City Council and Galway County Council since 2015 on the development of a transport strategy for the City.

Mr Farrell outlined the main elements of the proposed Galway Transport Strategy. He explained the traffic and transport issues in Galway which are constraining national, regional and local transport movements, all of which funnel through Galway City, including all movement to and from Connemara. He then outlined the emerging proposals for revised traffic and public transport networks to better meet the City's needs. Mr Farrell noted that completion of the proposed outer orbital road will support and complement implementation of the draft Strategy. He also noted that the issue of light rail had been considered. However, it had been established that there is insufficient demand to justify the significant additional cost of developing a light rail system.

Mr Farrell explained that the proposed Strategy will be presented to Galway City Council's Transport Strategic Policy Committee on 19 April. Following that the general public will be invited to submit their views and comments. The objective is to secure the incorporation of the agreed Strategy into the draft Galway City Development Plan 2017-2023.

Mr Creegan indicated that implementation of the proposed Strategy (excluding the cost of the proposed outer orbital road) would be of the order of €200 to €250 million. However, this cost would be spread over a considerable period of up to 20 years.

8. S2S Rock Road Proposals

Mr Creegan noted that the issue of extending the existing Sutton to Sandycove cycle / pedestrian route southwards through Sandymount and Booterstown has been the subject of extensive analysis previously, with various studies examining proposals and suggesting solutions. However, despite those studies a final scheme wasn't adopted and the proposals never reached construction stage.

In the meantime, environmental legislation and environmental case law has moved on, meaning that previous proposals may no longer be viable. To address the future of this proposed scheme, it was decided by the NTA to carry out a comprehensive assessment that would look at this project in an integrated way with the other elements of the overall transport corridor, and would also address the environmental framework that now applies.

Mr Creegan outlined the emerging preferred option which the Project Team considers is the best option for the delivery of the overall project, addressing the needs on both the Coastal Corridor and the Rock Road / Merrion Road Corridor. It would deliver a complete pedestrian and cycling connection from Ringsend to Seapoint. However, he noted that there are significant issues in relation to property acquisition, cost and environmental issues.

At this stage work has started on preparation of documentation for the purposes of public consultation prior to finalisation of the Study Report. Beyond that Dublin City Council and Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council will have to consider whether they wish to incorporate the proposals into their Development Plans.

9. Any other business

The licensing status of community cars was clarified.

Next Meeting: Friday 20 May 2016 @ 10.30am in the NTA Offices.

Signed: _____
John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____