



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 18 March 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), Dr Berna Grist, Ms Fiona Ross, Mr Frank O'Connor, Mr Pat Mangan, Ms Ann Fitzgerald, Ms Linda Saunders, Ms Sineád Walsh, Mr Frank Gleeson.

Apologies: None.

Staff in attendance: Mr Barry Dorgan (Item 5); Mr Philip L'Estrange (Director of Finance and Corporate Affairs); Mr Tim Gaston (Director of Public Transport Services); Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

* * * * *

Ms Geraldine Fahy and Mr David Gray of the Authority's internal auditors (RSM McClure Watters) made a brief presentation on the scope and nature of their work on behalf of the Authority. They noted that their role is to provide assurance to Senior Management and the Board concerning the Authority's financial and other control measures and to inform the Statement of Internal Financial Control.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 19 February were agreed subject to the following amendments:-

- a. Replacement of the penultimate sentence of the first paragraph on page 2 with "It was agreed that the Audit Committee would make recommendations and support the Board in meeting its obligation to provide reasonable assurance over the Authority's Financial Statements and its system of internal financial control.";
- b. Deletion of the penultimate sentence of the third paragraph on page 2.

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

- the decision of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to approve the Authority's draft Transport Strategy;
- planned public consultation on proposals for traffic management changes on College Green;
- funding for sustainable transport projects in the Greater Dublin Area;
- Luas Cross City developments;
- public consultation on changes to taxi secondary legislation arising from the commencement of the Public Transport Act 2016;
- industrial action by Luas workers and emerging industrial relations issues in Dublin Bus and Irish Rail;

- contractual arrangements in respect of contracted public services;
- update concerning the proposal for changes to rail services serving Connolly Station;
- prosecutions of commercial bus operators for failure to comply with licence conditions;
- update on Leap Card promotions;
- progress of Transport for Ireland brand refresh;
- performance of subsidised bus and rail services in Period 1 2016;
- public transport arrangements for St Patrick's Day and 1916 commemoration events;
- staffing and legislation matters;
- extension of Luas to Bray.

3. Finance Report

Mr L'Estrange outlined the main features of the Management Accounts for February 2016 and noted that overall there was strong performance to budget for the month.

Ms Saunders, Chairperson of the Audit Committee, reported on the main issues discussed at the Audit Committee meeting which preceded the Board meeting. These included data protection, cyber security and rural transport.

Ms Saunders also indicated that the Audit Committee had decided to recommend that the Authority should not alter the Authority's existing contract award approval thresholds and this was accepted by the Board.

Finally, Ms Saunders indicated that the Audit Committee propose to proceed with the engagement of a qualified accountant to support the Committee members in fulfilling their obligations in respect of the Authority's accounts. It was agreed that the NTA's Audit Charter should be presented to the Board for its consideration.

4. Dublin City Centre Cordon 2015 Results

Mr Creegan outlined the results of the 2015 cordon count, which surveys the number of people travelling inbound to the City Centre in the 7am to 10am peak period, for a one day "snap-shot" survey in November each year. In 2015, the number of people crossing the canal cordon increased by 5% over 2014 to 199,943 of which public transport accounts for half. While the mode share for bus was largely unchanged (-0.5%), the mode share for rail was the highest since 2008 (14.7%). In 2015 car numbers were virtually unchanged from 2014 but car mode share fell from 33.3% to 32.6%.

5. Leap Update

Mr Dorgan gave a comprehensive overview of Leap Card developments. Since its launch in December 2011 more than 1.5 million cards have been issued and the 2 million mark is likely to be reached later in 2016. The Leap Card has been successfully integrated into the Department of Social Protection's new Public Services Card. Leap Card has been adopted by both State-owned and privately owned public transport operators. Leap Card has replaced cash as the main source of fares revenue for the State-owned public transport operators.

Considerable effort has gone into developing new products including the new NFC top-up app for Android smartphones, which has proved hugely successful. However, the need for improvement to the Autoload facility was noted. NTA is working with its contractors to implement new IT systems and servers to ensure Leap Card is running on up-to-date hardware and to provide greater flexibility and improved disaster recovery capability.

Mr Dorgan outlined the international trend towards account based travelling project, which enables customers to use contactless payment cards in place of smart cards such as Leap Card.

6. Taximeter Survey

Mr Creegan noted that a report commissioned as part of the Taxi Regulation Review 2012 had recommended that potential entrants should have accurate information about possible earnings in the sector. In furtherance of that recommendation, the Authority had collected relevant data from owner/drivers in Dublin, Cork and Athlone with their agreement. Mr Creegan briefed the Authority on the data obtained. He advised that it is intended to publish the data in anonymised form in due course.

7. Any other business

None.

Next Meeting: Friday 15 April 2016 @ 10.30am in the NTA Offices.

Signed: _____
John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____