



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 18 May 2018

At 10.30am in NTA Offices

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

Apologies: Mr Frank Gleeson.

Staff in attendance: Mr Tim Gaston, Director, Public Transport Services; Mr Philip L'Estrange, Director, Finance & Corporate Services / Board Secretary; Mr Stephen Gallagher, Head of Finance (Agenda Item 5a-d); Mr Noel Beecher, Head of Corporate Governance and Mr Gerard McBrien, Risk Manager, (Agenda Item 5a-d); Mr Declan Sheehan, Chief Information Officer (Agenda Item 6); Mr Ian Byrne, Business Director (Ireland), SYSTRA (Agenda Item 8); Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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1. Declarations of Interest

None of the Board members present indicated any conflicts of interest with respect to matters due to be discussed at the meeting.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 20 April 2018 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

The Chairperson reported that the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport was unable to accept an invitation to meet the Board as of now.

The Chairperson indicated that the timescale for filling the existing vacancy on the Board was not clear.

The Board agreed that it would be desirable if, in future, the Chairperson was involved in the review and selection of candidates who are to be nominated to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to fill vacancies on the NTA Board.

The Chairperson noted that he and the CEO had recently had a positive and constructive meeting with the Chairperson and CEO of Bus Éireann, which operates most of the network of PSO bus services outside the Dublin area.

Mr Creegan noted that a special committee meeting of councillors from Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and Dublin City Council had expressed support for the NTA's proposal for partial

implementation of the Emerging Preferred Scheme in respect of the Sandymount / Merrion to Blackrock Corridor. The matter will now be considered at meetings of the full Councils.

The Board Secretary indicated that the review of board effectiveness being undertaken by the IPA will be completed and a report presented to the Board in June.

The Chairperson advised that a review of Matters Reserved had been added to the June Board meeting.

The Chairperson asked Board members to submit their comments on the draft risk register and risk appetite statement to the Audit & Risk Committee.

It was noted that a detailed presentation on the DART Expansion for Board members would take place following the Board meeting.

The Board members, noting that today was Ms Ross's final Board meeting, congratulated Ms Ross on her recent appointment as Chair of CIÉ and thanked her for her significant contribution to the NTA.

4. CEO Report

The Chief Executive outlined developments since the last meeting and responded to issues raised by Board members. The principal matters covered included:-

- New reporting format, which is closely aligned to business plan and strategic objectives;
- Department approval for the filling of 12 key posts by the NTA. The Board noted that while the filling of these posts was welcome, it only went part of the way to addressing the NTA's staffing needs having regard to the NTA role in the delivery of major public transport projects under the National Development Plan. The Board noted that an updated strategic resourcing plan will be made available during June;
- Attendance by NTA officials at meeting of Oireachtas Committee on Transport, Tourism and Sport on 16 May concerning traffic congestion in Dublin and the proposed College Green plaza;
- CEO's participation at a round table on public transport policy being hosted by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport on 21 May next;
- Progress of MetroLink public consultation process. Approximately 7,000 submissions were received by the closing date on 11 May. They will now be examined and a report on the public consultation will be concluded within 3 months. It was agreed that when reverting to the Board on the public consultation that the Executive would address the cost and schedule implication of mooted changes;
- Imminent publication of the results of Dublin Canal Cordon Count 2017, which shows the modal split for commuters travelling into the city centre area in the morning peak. The results show that more than 50% of commuters used public transport;
- Update on mobilisation activities by Go-Ahead in preparation for the commencement of bus services in September / October;
- NTA role in respect of the enforcement of passenger rights as a result of the cancellation of ferry services by a ferry operator.

5. Finance & Corporate Governance

- a. Mr Gallagher outlined the management accounts for April and progress against budget. He also outlined progress on finalising the Financial Statements for 2017 and some required changes relating to the recording of fixed assets in the Financial Statements. The Board noted that the matter will be considered by the Audit & Risk Committee at its next meeting. Mr Gallagher indicated that the objective is to submit the Financial Statements to the Board for approval at their next meeting.

- b. Mr Beecher gave a broad outline of the structure and content of the NTA's draft strategic risk register, which is a requirement of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. He noted that the register has been prepared having regard to the eight priorities shown in the NTA Statement of Strategy 2018-2022 and he explained the various risk categories. Following discussion, the Chairperson noted that the document will now be considered by the Audit and Risk Committee with a view to it being presented to the Board in July.
- c. Mr Beecher provided an update on risk management and key risks. In particular he outlined changes to the status of some key risks. Following discussion the Board agreed to amend the risk rating in one case.
- d. The Board expressed its appreciation of the comprehensive nature of the first six monthly report measuring progress on the implementation of the objectives and milestones set out in the NTA's Statement of Strategy 2018 - 2022. The CEO agreed to examine issues raised by Board members during the discussion that followed.
- e. Mr Sheehan updated the Board on IT security issues including threats and vulnerabilities (internal and external), resources, security incidents, management of contractors / suppliers, staff training and incident management. He indicated that the NTA focus is not only on preventing intrusion but on detecting, responding and recovering quickly in the event of an incident. Mr Sheehan noted that Iarnród Éireann and possibly NTA may be designated as operators of essential services later this year for the purposes of the new EU Directive on Security of Network and Information Systems. He provided an analysis of the state of readiness of both organisations to undertake that role. Mr Sheehan then responded to questions from Board members.

6. Bus Fleet Procurement

Following discussion, the Board approved a proposal to award the Single Supplier Framework Agreement for the supply of single deck regional commuter buses to Volvo Group UK Limited and the placement of an order under that framework for up to 52 buses.

Mr Creegan noted that the new buses will provide a significantly enhanced service to wheelchair users on the routes where they will be deployed as users will no longer need to book a wheelchair space in advance of travelling.

7. BusConnects Infrastructure Consultation Proposals

Mr Creegan outlined the proposal to publish a report during June setting out the BusConnects infrastructure concepts, identifying the relevant corridors and the types of intervention necessary to achieve the BusConnects objectives on each corridor. This would be a status report intended to assist understanding and discussion on the nature of the BusConnects infrastructure proposals.

Mr Creegan noted that this publication would be followed by major public consultations on the proposed revised bus services (July) and the detailed infrastructure proposals (September/October) which represent key components of the full BusConnects programme.

Following discussion it was agreed that the BusConnects document should be revised to provide an improved introduction, explaining the overall context more clearly and clarifying that there will be a major consultation in September/October to provide ample opportunity for feedback on the infrastructure proposals. The need for accompanying media and stakeholder communication strategies was also noted.

8. Presentation on Draft Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Area Strategy

Mr Creegan noted that while the NTA has a statutory role in the development of a transport strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (GDA), the NTA has worked successfully on a non-statutory basis to assist local authorities in the regional cities in preparing transport related strategies or implementing transport related projects and that the National Planning Framework also proposes that the NTA's statutory role in the GDA will be extended to other cities.

Mr Creegan indicated that SYSTRA and Jacobs had been awarded the contract for the development of a Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy.

Mr Ian Byrne of SYSTRA then outlined the overall methodology used in developing the Cork Transport Strategy, the growth assumptions and the emerging proposals. In particular, he noted that the population of Cork is expected to grow by approx. 140,000 by 2040. Mr Byrne explained that the proposed integrated public transport network would comprise significantly expanded and enhanced bus and suburban rail networks as well as a new cross city light rail line. The objective would be to achieve a significant increase in the use of public transport modes as well as cycling and walking. The estimated cost of the Transport Strategy is €3.1 billion and it has a very positive benefit to cost ratio of 2.9. However, Mr Byrne cautioned that the adoption of a complementary Land Use Strategy would be the single most important factor in ensuring the successful implementation of the measures contained in the Transport Strategy. This would ensure that development would occur in areas which could be well served by public transport.

Following discussion it was agreed that a detailed briefing session on the Transport Strategy should be arranged for Board members before the matter is presented to the Board for approval.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Byrne for his presentation.

9. Any other business

The Board considered a proposal by a Board member that the NTA's plans for a uniform livery for PSO bus services including Dublin Bus and Bus Éireann should be the subject of a further public consultation process, in which persons with disabilities would be actively involved. The Board concluded that the matter was one for the Executive rather than the Board and the proposal was not adopted.

The CEO informed the Board of the recent sudden death of John Malone who was a key member of the NTA's integrated ticketing team. The Board expressed its sincere condolences to John's family and colleagues.

Next Meeting: Friday 15 June 2018 @ 10.30am in NTA Offices.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Dated: _____