



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 15 June 2018

At 10.30am in NTA Offices

Present: Mr Fred Barry (Chairperson), Ms Anne Graham (CEO), Mr Hugh Creegan (Deputy CEO), Mr Pat Mangan, Ms Sinéad 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-c); Mr Noel Beecher, Head of Corporate Governance (Agenda Item 5a-c); Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

* * * * *

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 18 May 2018 were approved subject to the replacement of the first paragraph under item 9 (Any other business) with the following:-

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.

3. Matters Arising

The Chairperson advised that the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has completed the process of shortlisting candidates for a number of Board vacancies in organisations under its aegis including the NTA. The Chairperson indicated that the Department had clarified that while it is usual to involve a representative of the receiving organisation in any shortlisting process, it was not possible to do so in the case of these Board vacancies as the process involved consideration of appointments to a number of organisations.

The Chairperson noted that he and the CEO will arrange to meet the Chairperson and CEO of Transport Infrastructure Ireland. The Chairperson and CEO also expect to have a meeting with officials of Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport over the summer.

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:-

- NTA participation at Oireachtas Committee meetings on 20 June to discuss BusConnects and rural transportation;
- NTA sponsorship of Transport Ireland Conference to be held in Dublin on 4 July next;
- Planned Ministerial launch of his department's section of National Development Plan on 25 June next;
- Reaction to NTA's recently published BusConnects bus corridor project discussion document;
- Trends in PSO passengers numbers and revenue;
- Preparation by NTA of transport plan for papal visit to Dublin in August;
- Public transport arrangements in respect of major public events;
- NTA role arising out of the decision by Irish Ferries to cancel certain ferry services due to delays in the delivery of a new vessel.

5. Finance & Corporate Governance

- a. Mr Gallagher noted that the Financial Statements have been finalised and he outlined the changes made since the Board approved the draft Financial Statements last February. Mr O'Connor noted that the Financial Statements had been considered by the Audit & Risk Committee and that the Committee was recommending their approval by the Board. Following discussion the Board approved the Financial Statements. Mr Gallagher indicated that the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General is expected to forward the necessary audit certificate shortly while the management letter is expected to be forwarded during July. The Board thanked the staff concerned for their efforts in completing this major exercise in a timely fashion. Mr Gallagher indicated that the management accounts for May and June would be presented to the Board in July.
- b. Mr Beecher noted that the strategic risk register had been circulated in advance of the meeting. He indicated that work is proceeding on the preparation of a corporate risk register which will replace the key risks register. Proposed changes to the risk appetite statement will be presented to the Board for consideration later in the autumn. Mr Beecher noted that good progress is being made on the development of assurance mapping.
- c. Mr O'Connor outlined the main issues considered by the Audit & Risk Committee meeting which preceded the Board meeting. They included bank accounts, fixed asset review, bus market opening, internal audit reviews and plans, other assurance provider reports, assurance mapping and the contract for the provision of internal audit services.
- d. The Board discussed the recommendations contained in the IPA's review of the Board's effectiveness and it was agreed that an action list reflecting the outcome of that discussion should be prepared for further consideration.
- e. The Board discussed proposals for changes to the list of "matters reserved for the Board" having regard to various factors including the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. It was agreed that a revised document should be prepared for Board approval on the basis of the views expressed and conclusions reached during the discussion.
- f. The Board noted the conclusions of the NTA strategic resource review. The Board requested that consideration should be given to the adequacy of the existing number of directorates. The Board also expressed its view that the NTA cannot continue to undertake all of its current work programmes in the absence of additional staff resources.

6. BusConnects Network Consultation

Mr Gaston noted that BusConnects programme for Dublin includes the redesign of the existing bus network in order to develop a simpler, more user friendly network which can better meet the needs of the travelling public and better respond to the growth in travel demand and congestion.

Following discussion, the Board approved the proposal to seek public views on the proposed network redesign through a public consultation process commencing in July 2018.

7. Draft Cork Metropolitan Transport Area Strategy

Mr Creegan noted that work had commenced in late 2017 on the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy which is being developed by the NTA on a collaborative basis with the City Council and the County Council. He noted that the National Planning Framework 2040 sets ambitious growth targets for Cork City, effectively increasing its population by about 50%. Accordingly, it is essential that there is a well-thought out transport strategy to guide transport development across the region.

Mr Creegan indicated that the NTA had applied a robust methodology and a clear approach to developing the overall transport strategy. The proposed strategy seeks to positively integrate land use and transport provision through the intensification of development in areas that will be well-served by public transport. It also focusses on increasing usage of sustainable modes and decreasing reliance on car commuting. The NTA's Southern Regional Model was used to test and evaluate scenarios.

Mr Creegan outlined the key elements of the transport strategy which include major improvements to bus and rail services including continuous bus lanes, new rail stations and park & ride, the provision of a new east-west light rail line, a full cycling network, road projects and demand management measures. The overall cost of the transport strategy is approximately €3.1 billion.

Following discussion, the Board approved the commencement of the public consultation process for the Draft Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy, subject to some changes to the draft document presented to the Board following discussion with Cork City and County Councils.

8. MetroLink Update - Procurement Strategy

Mr Creegan noted that the MetroLink project has been included in the National Development Plan 2018-2027 for delivery during the period of the Plan. The delivery programme envisages the commencement of construction in 2021 and completion in 2027.

Mr Creegan outlined the proposed procurement strategy to deliver the civil engineering aspects of the MetroLink project and responded to questions from Board members. Mr Creegan indicated that it is intended to commence the initial prequalification process next month subject to discussions with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

9. Any other business

None.

Next Meeting: Friday 20 July 2018 @ 10.30am in NTA Offices.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Dated: _____