



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 18 October 2019

At 10.30am in NTA Offices

Present: Mr Fred Barry (Chairperson), Ms Anne Graham (CEO), Mr Hugh Creegan (Deputy CEO), Mr Pat Mangan, Ms Sineád Walsh, Dr Berna Grist, Ms Ann Fitzgerald, Mr Frank O'Connor, Mr Kevin Kelly, Mr Brian McCormick.

Apologies: Mr Owen Keegan (CEO, Dublin City Council); Mr David Gray.

Staff in attendance: Mr Philip L'Estrange, Director, Finance & Corporate Services / Board Secretary; Mr Tim Gaston, Director, Public Transport Services; Dr Declan Sheehan, Chief Information Officer; Mr Stephen Gallagher, Head of Finance, Mr David O'Flynn, Senior Finance Manager, Mr Noel Beecher, Head of Corporate Governance, Mr Gerard McBrien, Risk Manager (Item 5); Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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1. Declarations of Interest

None.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the Board meeting on 13 September 2019 were approved without amendment.

3. Matters Arising & Board Schedule

The Chairperson noted that the Authority's 2020 Business Plan and Budget will be considered at the next Board meeting.

The CEO confirmed that the Executive will be seeking Board approval to execute the new Direct Award Contracts with the CIÉ operators at the next Board meeting.

The Board reviewed the schedule of matters for consideration at future Board meetings.

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: -

- Outcome of recent meeting of Public Accounts Committee to review the Authority's Financial Statements 2018;
- The Authority's emerging budget for 2020;

- Developments arising from the decision by the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly to insert amendments into the Regional and Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019 – 2031;
- Update on the BusConnects Programme including arrangements for the next phase of public consultation on revised proposals for the bus network redesign and developments regarding core bus corridors;
- Update on rural transport developments including the Pilot Designated Local Area Hackney Scheme and the decision not to award a direct award contract to Clare Accessible Transport;
- Commencement of public consultations on taxi fares scheme and Clamping Code of Practice;
- Recent public events including launch of tram extension project for Luas Green Line;
- Planned adjustments to the prices of monthly and annual public transport tickets;
- Progress on the planning of changes to bus services;
- Approval of the Authority's Integrated Implementation Plan by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport subject to some amendments; and
- The implications of the situation at Wrightbus for the purchase of bus fleet by the Authority.

5. Finance & Corporate Governance

- a. Mr Gallagher outlined the main points of the Management Accounts for September and responded to questions from Board members.
- b. Mr O'Connor outlined the main issues discussed at the Audit & Risk Committee meeting which preceded the Board meeting. They included arrangements for a review of the audit of Clare Accessible Transport undertaken by the Authority's internal auditors and plans for a number of "deep dives" on risk issues during 2020. He noted that the Board will be holding a special meeting on risk next January. Mr Beecher outlined the main developments in relation to risk management since the last Board meeting including changes to the Corporate Risk Register.
- c. Mr Gallagher outlined proposals for the Authority to open new deposit accounts with Bank of Ireland and the National Treasury Management Agency in order to facilitate more efficient banking arrangements by the Authority including electronic transactions. Following discussion, the Board authorised the Authority to conduct business with Bank of Ireland and the National Treasury Management Agency in accordance with their standard customer mandate and approved the list of authorised signatories on the new accounts as presented to the Board.
- d. The Board approved a proposal by the Chairperson to (a) extend Mr Mangan's term of appointment to the Audit and Risk Committee until 23 September 2020, and (b) extend Mr John Smith and Mr Brian Hayes appointments as independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee for a period of one year, subject to completion of the necessary formalities.

6. Procurement

Mr Creegan outlined Bus Éireann's requirements for additional single and double deck bus / coach fleet in 2020 to replace older vehicles and to add additional capacity to Public Service Obligation routes. He noted that a framework agreement is already in place for the purchase of single deck fleet and that arrangements are in hand for the procurement of double deck fleet.

Following discussion, the Board approved the placing by the Authority of an order for forty single deck regional commuter buses with Volvo Group UK Limited for delivery in 2020 as provided for under the Authority's existing Framework Agreement for the Purchase of Regional Commuter Buses.

7. MetroLink Governance

Mr Creegan outlined a draft document containing proposed governance arrangements in respect of the MetroLink project having regard to the Public Spending Code. He noted that the document had been prepared by Transport Infrastructure Ireland in collaboration with the Authority. He indicated that it was planned to present the final agreed document to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for confirmation of the governance arrangements prior to its publication.

The Board welcomed the preparation of the draft document, given its importance in establishing clear lines of responsibility and accountability for this major project. Following discussion, it was agreed that the document should be reviewed in advance of the next Board meeting to ensure that it is consistent with the revised Public Spending Code and the role and responsibilities of the Authority. It was also agreed that greater clarity is needed concerning some aspects of the decision making architecture and accountability levels set out in the document including the definitions used. The Board agreed to consider the matter again at its next meeting.

8. NTA taking over Roads Authority functions for BusConnects

Mr Creegan noted that, in accordance with the provisions of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 (as amended, the "Act"), the Authority has, among other things, the function to secure the provision of public transport infrastructure (as defined) and to arrange that the provision of certain identified types of public transport infrastructure be performed on its behalf by persons identified in section 44(2)(a) (the "**section 44(2)(a) infrastructure**").

In the case of interchange facilities or other public transport infrastructure owned or under the control of a public transport authority, such persons identified in section 44(2)(a) include public transport authorities, which, as defined in the Act, includes road authorities (being, local authorities) in the GDA. However, the Act also provides, in section 44(2)(b), that the Authority may decide that the function of providing section 44(2)(a) infrastructure may be performed by the Authority itself "*where the Authority considers it more convenient, more expeditious, more effective or more economical*".

Mr. Creegan outlined the proposals to develop sixteen Core Bus Corridors, organised into twelve Core Bus Corridor Projects, within the overall BusConnects Dublin Programme and identified various considerations as regards any decision to be taken by the Authority in accordance with section 44(2)(b) of the Act. Mr. Creegan also referred to the consultations that had been undertaken in accordance with section 44(2)(c) of the Act and the responses that had been received from the relevant public transport authorities, namely the local authorities.

Following discussion, the Authority decided in relation to the twelve Core Bus Corridor Projects of the BusConnects Dublin Programme consisting of the following sixteen Core Bus Corridors:-

1. Clongriffin to City Centre Core Bus Corridor;
2. Swords to City Centre Core Bus Corridor;
3. Ballymun to City Centre Core Bus Corridor;
4. Finglas to Phibsborough Core Bus Corridor;
5. Blanchardstown to City Centre Core Bus Corridor;
6. Lucan to City Centre Core Bus Corridor;

7. Liffey Valley to City Centre Core Bus Corridor;
8. Clondalkin to Drimnagh Core Bus Corridor;
9. Greenhills to City Centre Core Bus Corridor;
10. Tallaght to Terenure Core Bus Corridor;
11. Kimmage to City Centre Core Bus Corridor;
12. Rathfarnham to City Centre Core Bus Corridor;
13. Bray to City Centre Core Bus Corridor;
14. UCD Ballsbridge to City Centre Core Bus Corridor;
15. Blackrock to Merrion Core Bus Corridor; and
16. Ringsend to City Centre Core Bus Corridor,

to the extent involving section 44(2)(a) infrastructure, that:

- (1) the conditions specified by section 44(2)(b) of the Act are satisfied; and
- (2) the functions specified in section 44(1) of the Act should be performed by the Authority.

9. Transport Strategy for the Cork Metropolitan Area

Mr Creegan recalled that the draft Cork Transport Strategy was published last May. A total of 171 submissions were received during the subsequent public consultation process. Overall, the draft transport strategy, which is a non-statutory document, was very positively received with many submissions acknowledging the necessity of having an overall transport strategy in place for the city region.

Mr Creegan noted that documentation had been circulated to the Board setting out proposed amendments to the draft strategy having regard to the feedback obtained. He confirmed that the amendments do not alter the key elements of the draft strategy as published, and most are relatively minor in nature. It will be a matter for the local authorities in Cork to incorporate the provisions of the final transport strategy into their development plans.

During the discussion that followed it was noted that it will be a matter for Government to decide on the provision of funding for implementation of the transport strategy in due course. It was also noted that the planned Board meeting in Cork next January would provide an opportunity for the Board to discuss implementation of the transport strategy with the Chief Executive of Cork City Council.

The Board approved the amendments to the draft Cork Transport Strategy as presented to it.

10. Cybersecurity & Data Protection Update

Dr Sheehan outlined general cybersecurity trends and risks and the measures being taken by the Authority to protect the Authority's computer systems. He also outlined the status of projects to improve transport operator security and provided an update on data protection arrangements. During

the discussion that followed, Dr Sheehan confirmed that security arrangements are among the key criteria against which potential IT service suppliers are evaluated.

11. Any other business

The CEO confirmed that details of the arrangements for the Board meeting in Cork next January will be circulated in advance of the next Board meeting.

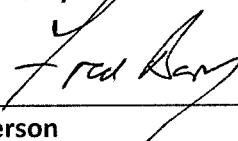
In response to a Board member, Mr Creegan clarified the arrangements being made for the acquisition of additional rail fleet, including intercity rail cars and DART sets.

At this point Mr Gaston, Mr Sheehan and Mr Seeber left the meeting.

12. Meeting with CEO

The CEO briefed the Board on a procurement matter.

Next Meeting: Friday 15 November 2019 @ 10.30am in the NTA Offices.

Signed: 
Chairperson

Dated: Nov. 20, 2019