



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held by video conference on Friday 15th October 2021

Board Members in attendance

Mr Fred Barry (Chairperson), Ms Anne Graham (CEO), Mr Hugh Creegan (Deputy CEO), Mr Owen Keegan (CEO, Dublin City Council), Mr Pat Mangan, Ms Ann Fitzgerald, Mr Frank O'Connor, Mr Brian McCormick, Mr David Gray.

Apologies from Board Members

None.

Others in attendance

All Items: Mr Philip L'Estrange, Director, Finance & Corporate Services / Board Secretary; Mr Tim Gaston, Director, Public Transport Services; Dr Declan Sheehan, Chief Information Officer; Mr Bernard Higgins, Director, Transport Technology; Ms Margaret Malone, Head of Corporate Services; Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

Item 4: Mr Stephen Gallagher, Head of Strategic and Business Planning.

Item 6: Ms Freda Quinlan, Senior Capital Finance Manager.

Item 6: Ms Tamara Vazquez, Senior Programme Manager.

Item 7: Mr Barry Dorgan, Head of Transport Technology Systems; Mr Barry Colleary, Head of Transport Modelling.

Item 9: Ms Naomi Rooney, Transport Accessibility Manager.

Items 11 – 13: Mr David O'Flynn, Financial Controller; Mr Noel Beecher, Head of Governance; Mr Gerard McBrien, Risk Manager.

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1. Declarations of Interest

The Chairperson indicated that he would not participate in discussions under agenda item 7(a) due to a conflict of interest.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 17 September 2021 were approved without amendment.

3. Matters Arising & Board Schedule

The Chairperson provided an update on the progress of the process for the appointment of new Board members by the Minister for Transport. He indicated that it was hoped to return to in person Board meetings by December.

4. CEO Report

The Chief Executive outlined developments since the last meeting and responded to matters raised by Board members.

The Board noted the position in respect of the Authority's Business Plan for 2021 as outlined by Mr Gallagher.

5. Major Capital Projects

Mr Creegan outlined current arrangements for the reporting of major capital projects. During the discussion that followed, it was agreed that the current monthly reporting arrangements would continue, but with a more detailed report to be provided at quarterly intervals, together with a briefing on those major projects to be presented at the associated meeting.

6. Cork Commuter Rail Strategic Assessment Report (SAR)

Following introductory remarks by Mr Creegan and subsequent discussion, the Board granted its approval in respect of the Strategic Assessment Report (Decision Gate 0) for the Cork Area Commuter Rail Programme, subject to the requisite amendments / enhancements identified in the review process being made to the Report in advance of formal approval being issued. Once complete, the approval of Decision Gate 0 will permit Iarnród Éireann to proceed to complete a Preliminary Business Case for the programme.

The Chairperson left the meeting at this point. Mr Mangan chaired the discussion of item 7a in his absence.

7. Procurements

- a. Following introductory remarks by Mr Creegan and Mr Colleary and subsequent discussion, the Board gave its approval to the Authority to award the contract for the provision of transport modelling support services to Jacobs Engineering (Ireland) Limited on the basis of their tender submission for a fixed period of three years, with an option for the Authority to extend the term once for a further one year.
- b. The Chairperson re-joined the meeting at this point. Following introductory remarks by Mr Dorgan and subject discussion, the Board gave its approval to the Authority to negotiate and, subject to reaching agreement on terms, to sign a contract with NXP Semiconductor Inc. to utilise their Mifare2Go platform to complete the Proof of Concept work and if proven, to proceed to develop a Virtual Leap Card.

8. Cork Bus Network public consultation

Mr Creegan recalled that the process to develop a new metropolitan area bus network in Cork commenced earlier this year. A "Choices Report" was issued for public feedback in July, setting out the types of trade-offs that have to be considered when designing a large metropolitan bus system.

That consultation elicited 1,085 responses and that feedback was then considered during the network design process.

Mr Creegan explained that the design of the revised network was undertaken in collaboration with Bus Éireann, Cork City Council and Cork County Council, through a series of design workshops managed and led by Jarrett Walker and Associates. Through those design workshops, a draft revised network was developed, service by service, across the metropolitan area. This is now being assembled into a comprehensive design report and associated maps for public consultation and feedback.

Following discussion, the Board gave its approval to initiate a public consultation process in respect of the draft redesigned bus network for Cork.

9. Transport Accessibility Update

Ms Rooney outlined projects already undertaken and currently underway to improve the accessibility of public transport nationally. The Board thanked Ms Rooney for her comprehensive report and welcomed the progress being made. During the discussion that followed, the Chairperson noted the Board's support for the allocation of additional capital funding, where possible, for the retrofitting of older public transport infrastructure to make it more accessible for people with disabilities. He indicated that the Board would review progress on the implementation of public transport accessibility measures again in due course.

10. Board Effectiveness Review

The Board noted the contents of the agreed action list to enhance the Board's effectiveness arising from the recent review process.

11. Finance Update

Mr O'Flynn summarised the main points of the Management Accounts for September 2021 and the emerging financial position for 2021 as a whole and responded to questions from Board members.

12. ARC Report

The Board noted Mr O'Connor's report of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 1 October 2021.

Noting that Mr O'Connor will shortly complete his term of office as Chairperson of the Committee, the Board and the Executive team expressed their deep appreciation for his leadership of this critical area of the Board's activities in recent years. The Chairperson noted that Mr Gray will take over as ARC Chairperson during November.

13. Risk Update

Mr Beecher summarised the up-to-date position on risk management issues and responded to questions from Board members.

14. AOB

None.

15. Meeting without Executive

None.

Next Meeting: Friday 19 November 2021 @ 10.30am.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Dated: _____