

Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 22nd March 2013

At 10.30am in NTA Offices on Harcourt Lane

Present: Mr John Fitzgerald (Chairperson), Mr Gerry Murphy (CEO), Mr Hugh Creegan (Director of Transport Investment and Taxi Regulation), Mr Frank King, Ms Linda Saunders, Mr James Deegan, Dr Berna Grist, Ms Valerie O'Reilly, Mr Damian Usher, Mr Daithí Alcorn.

Apologies: Mr John Tierney (Dublin City Manager), Ms Margaret O'Shaughnessy.

Staff in attendance: Mr Philip L'Estrange (Item 3), Mr Frank McCabe (Item 4), Ms Anne Graham (Items 5 & 6), Ms Marian Wilson (Item 6) and Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

Others in attendance: Ms Sonya McGuirl and Ms Laura Hartmann of Millward Brown (Item 4).

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1. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2013 were agreed.

The Chief Executive is not aware of any interest among third parties in exploiting the Leap Card system. He noted that in common with similar systems elsewhere Leap Card is customised to meet local requirements.

Mr Creegan gave an update on the status of judicial review proceedings taken by a taxi representative group on the grounds that certain legislation relating to the taxi sector is not available in Irish.

The Board discussed the format of the minutes of its meeting and decided to leave the current format unchanged.

2. CEO Report

The Chief Executive provided an update on the main developments since the last Board meeting including the launch of an anti-racism campaign covering public transport and taxi services which was developed in conjunction with the Immigrant Council of Ireland; the installation of new real-time information displays and public transport maps at Connolly and Heuston rail stations; the proposed design of the on-street units in which the new public transport maps will be displayed; the resolution of difficulties that have arisen in respect of the widening of the road at St Patrick's College, Drumcondra to accommodate a new bus lane; progress on the re-tendering of the Portlaoise-Urlingford bus service; progress on the Luas Cross City project and a threatened legal action. He also drew attention to the impact on the Authority of Government proposals for further reductions in staff numbers and the continuing delay in finalising the Authority's pension scheme.

Board members raised a number of points including the need for the Authority to secure the replanting of trees to be removed in Drumcondra, to ensure that and to consider the visibility of the

new taxi branding on vehicles as part of the planned review of the brand later in 2013. The Chief Executive responded to questions concerning the extension of the remit of the Ombudsman to the Authority, the action being taken by the Authority in respect of unlicensed bus services and the status of the review of the national rail timetable. He also confirmed that it is a legal requirement that information on real time passenger information signs erected on footpaths must be displayed in Irish.

The Chief Executive indicated that the group reviewing the free travel scheme will reconvene in due course. He noted that the new public service card being introduced by the Department of Social Protection will incorporate a Leap card chip to facilitate access to public transport services (e.g. at automated barriers). Following a discussion about the usage of public transport services by free travel pass holders it was agreed that the Chief Executive should prepare a report setting out the relevant issues for the Board's consideration.

3. Finance Matters

Mr L'Estrange outlined the main features of the Authority's Management Accounts for January 2013. He also outlined progress on the implementation of the Authority's new financial management system (Agresso) which will provide a faster, paperless process for most financial processes. The Authority is also considering the possibility of hosting the Authority's HR system on Agresso.

The Authority approved the draft Financial Statements for 2012. The Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General will begin its audit of the Financial Statements in April.

The Board briefly discussed the Authority's bank deposits in the context of the removal of the Government guarantee for large deposits.

4. National Household Travel Survey

Ms McGuirl and Ms Hartmann of Millward Brown gave a presentation on the National Household Travel Survey which was undertaken by their Company on behalf of the Authority. The Survey will provide trip input into a nationwide transport model to be produced in conjunction with 2011 Census data based on an update of the 2006 Greater Dublin Area Study. Of the more than 6,000 households which participated in the household survey almost 5,000 returned valid travel diaries resulting in over 10,000 completed diaries and over 61,000 trips.

Ms McGuirl, Ms Hartmann and Mr McCabe responded to questions from Board members.

5. Rural Transport Developments

Ms Graham outlined the outcome of discussions with the County and City Managers' Association and the Rural Transport Network concerning options for the proposed restructuring of the rural transport groups to reduce the cost of service delivery and improve the quality and range of rural bus services.

Ms Graham alluded to the possibility that the legislation relating to the procurement of public passenger transport services may be required. She also indicated that it will be necessary to extend the existing contracts with rural transport groups, which will expire on 30 June next, until the end of the year. Work on the preparation of a database of rural, HSE and school transport services is ongoing as is work on the preparation of guidelines in respect of HSE and other health related transport services.

Ms Graham and the Chief Executive responded to issues raised by Board members.

6. Western Rail Corridor

Ms Wilson gave a presentation on a review of the Western Rail Corridor commissioned by the Authority with the objective of identifying measures to increase rail patronage and examine the incremental costs and benefits of these.

Following a detailed discussion it was agreed that the Authority would engage with Irish Rail on all the issues raised following which the Board will consider the matter again.

7. Any other business

None.

Next Meeting: Friday 19 April 2013 @ 10.30am at NTA Headquarters.

Signed: _____

John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____