

Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 18th October 2013

At 10.30am in NTA Office

Present: Mr John Fitzgerald (Chairperson), Mr Gerry Murphy (CEO), Mr Hugh Creegan (Director of Transport Investment and Taxi Regulation), Mr Owen Keegan (Dublin City Manager), Mr Frank King, Mr James Deegan, Dr Berna Grist, Ms Valerie O'Reilly, Ms Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Mr Daithí Alcorn.

Apologies: Damien Usher, Linda Saunders

Staff in attendance: Mr Philip L'Estrange (item 3), Ms Anne Graham (item 6) and Ms Jackie Mullen (Minutes).

* * * * *

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 30th August were agreed. The Chair welcomed Owen Keegan, Dublin City Manager to his first meeting of the board

2. CEO Report

The Chief Executive briefed the Board on developments since the last Board meeting including

- School Transport
- New Signage in key public spaces such as hospitals and key education establishments
- Proposed privatisation of bus routes, the submissions are currently being considered
- Rural Transport
- The reorganisation of commercial bus services operated by Bus Eireann
- Finally, he outlined the status of a number of legal issues.

The Chief Executive responded to requests by Board members for clarification on a number of matters including short train policy of Irish Rail and gross overcrowding on said trains, Rosslare port – proposals to streamline ferry and train times.

3. Financial Report

Mr L'Estrange provided an update on the Authority's management accounts to the end of August 2013 which are in line with projections.

4. Integrated Implementation Plan

Mr Creegan informed the board that a total of 94 submissions had been received from the consultation process. A small number of minor changes concerning environmental issues were made to the plan. The next stage is to submit the plan to the Minister for Transport for approval.

The Minister can either accept, accept with modifications or reject the plan. The board felt they needed more time to consider the plan and would like their feedback / comments to be considered at the November board meeting.

5. Taxi Issues

The Taxi Bill has been passed by the oireachtas and will now be passed to the President to be signed into law. The bill includes a number of sanctions which have been introduced for the first time such as

Non-transfer of licence (from Individuals or companies)

Ability to suspend driver licence

Disqualification if convicted of serious offences

Penalty points for taxi drivers (de-merit system)

Enforcement officers (external recruitment).

6. Leap Card and Fares

The Chief Executive briefed the board on the new fares to be announced on 22nd October. The fare increases were necessary in order to protect services in light of the 7.4% decrease in subsidy to the CIE group. Anne Graham gave a presentation on Leap Card, Fares, Consistency and growing patronage.

7. Services Update

Bus market consultation

45 submissions were received by the Authority on its proposals to enter into another direct award contract with Dublin Bus and Bus Éireann in 2014, to amend those contracts in 2016 to reduce the services within those contracts by approximately 10% and to provide the removed services through separate contracts following an open tender process.

Dublin Bus

A ballot is to take place next week on the latest cost reduction proposals.

Bus Eireann Commercial Strategy

The Chief Executive gave a presentation on the proposed Bus Eireann Commercial Strategy. He highlighted the gaps in service that will arise if Bus Eireann pull out of certain routes. The role of the NTA is to help the Minister to understand the implications of the commercial strategy.

8. AOB

Board members raised a number of issues including Luas operations contract and the luas service to Connolly station

Next Meeting: Friday 15th November 2013 @ 10.30am in NTA Headquarters, Dublin 2.

Signed: _____

John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____