

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY STEERING GROUP (RTSSG)
MINUTES OF THE 23rd MEETING
TUESDAY 9 December 2008, 2.00PM - Room 601c, Clarence Court.

Present:

Geoff Allister	Chief Executive, Roads Service – Joint Chairperson
Doreen Brown	Deputy Secretary, Regional Planning and Transportation – Joint Chairperson
Jim Aiken	Director of Corporate Affairs, Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company (NITHC)
Tom Clarke	Director of Strategic Planning, Planning Service, Department of the Environment
Ciaran Doran	Director, Public Transport Performance Division
Catherine Mason	Group Chief Executive, NITHC Translink
Philip O'Neill	Interim Senior General Manager, Translink
Mike Thompson	Director, Regional Planning and Transportation Division
Brian White	Director, Ports and Public Transport Division

In attendance:

John Irvine	Head of Transportation and engineering Policy Unit, Roads Service
Gregor Kerr	Regional Planning & Transportation Division – Secretariat
Tom McCourt	Divisional Roads Manager, Roads Service Eastern Division

ACTION

1. Apologies

Bob Cairns, Frank Clegg, Andrew Murray

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The note of the 22nd RTSSG meeting was agreed with one amendment (to include a date of September 2008)

Gregor Kerr

3. Matters Arising not covered in Agenda None

4. Public Transport Partnership Board

Sprucefield and Black's Road Park and Ride

The paper RTSSG 23/02 on future options for Sprucefield and Black's Road Park and Ride sites were discussed. The initial appraisal indicated Benefit Cost Ratios of around 1.0. Given the success of these park and ride sites, the high levels of customer satisfaction, and the opportunity they present to encourage motorists out of the private car for parts of their journeys, it was agreed that the continuance of the Park and Ride sites would be supported by RTSSG in principle.

Further consideration is to be given to:

1. vesting powers which may be available to the Department if required for Park and Ride;
2. non-monetary benefits of the schemes and other appraisals which may

**Tom
McCourt /
Philip O'Neill**

- be required; and
3. the service specification for the operator.

Cairnshill Park and Ride

Brian White reported once the timescale for completion of the site had been agreed, the Department would go to tender for the service.

City Centre Ring – Southern Section

The City Centre Ring – Southern Section was discussed. The scheme is progressing to Gateway 0.

Geoff Allister noted that possible future economic pressures may have implications for the implementation of the Roads Service works programme.

5. Sub-Regional Transport Plan Partnership Board Highlight Report

The paper RTSSG 23/04 was discussed. The good working relationship between Roads Service and Translink on operational issues was noted.

John Irvine highlighted safety concerns over parking at / near well used Goldliner stops. It was agreed that potential safety enhancements would be considered through the SRTPPB.

**John Irvine /
Bernard
Clarke**

Jim Aiken noted that Translink faced the same financial pressures as the Department which could constrain their ability to deliver Park and Ride sites.

6. Other RTS Issues

i. Rapid Transit

Mike Thompson updated the group on Rapid Transit. The Executive had given approval for a pilot bus-based rapid transit network. The project had also received a green light at Gateway 0 and a new, dedicated Rapid Transit implementation team would be in place by January 2009. Ciaran DeBurca had been appointed as Director for the project.

ii. ATS Action Plan

The paper RTSSG 23/05 was discussed and the good progress noted.

iii RTS Review

- . The paper RTSSG 23/06 was discussed. Catherine Mason advised that Translink / NITHC were unlikely to be in a position to offer substantive comment before the New Year.

It was agreed that the RTS Review Team would await comments from Translink / NITHC and Roads Service before submitting the discussion document and proposed approach to the Minister.

7. AOB None

8. Date for next meeting

10 March 2009 at 2.00 pm

Gregor Kerr
Secretary RTSSG, 15 December 2008