

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY STEERING GROUP (RTSSG)
MINUTES OF THE 25th MEETING
TUESDAY 9 June 2009, 3.00PM - 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)
Bob Cairns	Director, Engineering, Roads Service
Tom Clarke	Planning Service (Department of the Environment)
Ciarán de Búrca	Director, Rapid Transit Division
Catherine Mason	Group Chief Executive, NITHC Translink
Andrew Murray	Director, Network Services, Roads Service
Philip O’Neill	Acting Chief Executive, Translink
Mike Thompson	Director, Regional Planning & Transportation
Brian White	Director, Ports and Public Transport

In attendance:

Frank Clegg	Translink
Graeme Beckett	Rapid Transit Division
John Irvine	Roads Service
Tom McCourt	Roads Service
Gregor Kerr	RTSSG Secretariat

ACTION

1. Apologies

Ciarán de Búrca, Rapid Transit Division
Ciaran Doran, Public Transport Performance Division

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of were agreed.

3. Matters Arising not covered in Agenda – None

4. Public Transport Partnership Board Update

i. Park and Ride

It was noted that capital funding pressures may result in delays to the Park & Ride programme.

It was agreed that a high-level group, including representatives of PPTD, Roads and Translink/NITHCo would be established to re-consider strategic Park & Ride sites. The group to be established by the Summer and to report by Autumn.

**Doreen
Brown (all
to ensure
representat
ion)**

There being no direct road access, it was noted that the Millmount site was not

suitable for a Park & Ride site in advance of Rapid Transit.

It was agreed that a rail-based Park & Ride in Carrickfergus should be established in advance of the A2 road improvements.

ii. Sprucefield / Black's Road

Roads Service is continuing to work with Planning Service and others to secure a permanent site at Sprucefield. The service will continue from the temporary site for the next year.

iii. Quality Bus Corridors

It was noted that the more intensive option for the Saintfield Road QBC would accrue considerable dis-benefit for other road users. The QBC team will progress the alternate programme of improvements.

Tom McCourt said that while the QBC programme could improve public transport access to the edge of the city centre, the centre itself remained problematic. Additional QBCs into the city centre were, therefore, being considered.

iv. City Centre Change

The issue of the timing of the Streets Ahead project and, in particular, the introduction of one way working along Royal Avenue was discussed. It was noted that the original agreed programme stated that one way working would start in 2011. Tom McCourt pointed out that one way working was required by the DSD contractor to ensure the safety of their work force.

While DSD had consulted with Roads Service, Translink had not been consulted in advance of changes from the previously agreed programme. Catherine Mason and Brian White noted that the diversionary routes for public transport had service delivery, cost and safety implications for public transport operators and users. Brian White said that he had received figures from Translink on possible loss of patronage. Doreen Brown said that she had just received (9 June) a letter from DSD requesting a meeting to discuss the works, including funding issues. It was agreed that this would provide the most appropriate forum to take forward the issue.

**Doreen
Brown /
Brian
White**

5. Sub-Regional Transport Partnership Board

Frank Clegg noted that there had been some reduction in services because of re-scheduling, but these had been poorly frequented services.

6. Other RTS Issues

i. Accessible Transport Strategy

Gregor Kerr said that the draft Action Plan had been approved by the Executive and had been published for public consultation. Doreen Brown added that the Regional Development Committee intended to provide input during the consultation.

ii. Rapid Transit

- i. Graeme Beckett said that the RT Team was preparing a City Centre layout which would be agreed with other stakeholders. It was also carrying out a number of surveys, including topographical and car parking surveys, as part of the final route selection and detailed design process
- ii. The team was going to the Regional Development Committee with an interim Rapid Transit Bill which would give the Department powers to purchase vehicles..
- iii. The market testing exercise was approaching completion.

iii. RTS Review

Gregor Kerr said that the Discussion Paper was still in the Executive cycle. Once the Executive approved the Document, the Minister would make a Statement on it in the Assembly.

The Review team will continue to meet with key stakeholders as a draft Revised Strategy is prepared.

7. **AOB**

It was agreed that all members would provide input, through the chairs, for a note of those schemes which may be delayed by a possible financial shortfall. **ALL**

Doreen Brown noted that a new Division was being created in the Department to look more widely at transport. It was currently working to establish a Baseline for transport emissions.

8. **Date for next meeting**

20 October 2009 at 2.00

12 January 2010 at 2.00

Gregor Kerr
Secretary RTSSG
Regional Planning and Transportation Division

June 2009