

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY STEERING GROUP
(RTSSG)
MINUTES OF THE 13th MEETING
TUESDAY 7 MARCH 2006, 2.00PM - Room 601c, Clarence Court.**

Present:

Mrs Doreen Brown	Deputy Secretary, Regional Planning and Transportation – Joint Chairperson
Dr Malcolm McKibbin	Chief Executive, Roads Service – Joint Chairperson
Mr Jim Aiken	Director of Corporate Affairs, Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company (NITHC)
Mr David Orr	Director of Network Services, Roads Service
Mr Keith Moffatt	Chief Executive, Translink
Mr Philip O’Neill	General Manager, Translink
Mr Mike Thompson	Director of Regional Planning & Transportation
Mr Brian White	Director of Ports and Public Transport
Mr David Carson	Director of Ports and Public Transport
Mr Tom Clarke	Planning Service
Miss Mary Carnaghan	Regional Planning & Transportation - Secretary

In attendance:

Dr Andrew Murray	Chairman, Transportation Operations Group
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Apology:

Mr Geoff Allister	Director of Engineering, Roads Service
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ACTION

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- i. The minutes of the twelfth RTSSG meeting of 6 December 2005 were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

i. Review of Public Administration (RPA)

Mr White stated that at this stage it is not clear what the role of councils will be in the planning of (local) bus services.

ii. Translink Communications Programme

It was noted that the Communications Working Group of the Public Transport Partnership Board has taken on this programme.

iii. City Centre Change Working Group

Mr Thompson advised that the Belfast Strategy Group (BSG) has held no meetings since the last RTSSG meeting. Mr Thompson will advise Mr O’Neill of the date of the next BSG meeting when known.

Mike Thompson

iv. DPE and Moving Traffic Offences

Dr McKibbin reported that DPE implementation is still on target for October 2006.

Mr Orr confirmed that the DPE contract would cover on street waiting restrictions and pay and display and off street charged car parks.

It was also noted that under RPA the management of car parks should migrate to local authorities.

3. BMTP

i Public Transport Partnership Board Update

RTSSG 13/02 paper was noted.

□ **Quality Bus Corridors [QBCs]**

Mr O'Neill advised that the QBC programme is broadly on target.

□ **Park & Ride (P&R)**

Mr Orr gave the following update on P&R and other measures on the M1 corridor, in light of the start of the Westlink Scheme:

- Roads Service is providing 2 temporary P&R sites, with Translink providing the dedicated bus service:
 - Black's Road will have 200 spaces. Roads Service already owns the land and has secured planning approval.
 - Sprucefield will have 280 spaces, with the potential for 1,000 if necessary. Agreement has been reached with landowner and planning is at final approval stages. Site clearance has started and P&R is expected to be in operation in May/June, just as the Westlink works are becoming more disruptive.
- Both P&R sites will have an attendant to ensure good security.
- The statutory orders for the extended M1 hard shoulder bus lane is being progressed in two stages:

Stage A – from the site of approved service area to Black's Road (approximately 3km long) and

Stage B – Saintfield Road junction to the service area.

- The Statutory order for Stage A will be made on 1 April 2006. The installation of the necessary detection equipment, ducts and signs is progressing. A contraflow to install these will commence in the last week of March and last for 6 weeks. It is planned to have the Stage A bus lane available for the introduction of the Sprucefield P&R site. Stage B will follow later this year, when matters associated with access arrangements at the service area are clarified.

In relation to rail based P&R on the corridor Mr Moffatt advised:

- Moira – Park and Ride capacity has been extended with expansion at 3 sites. All 3 sites progressing well, with completion of 60 spaces now available in March 2006 and a further 38 spaces due in July 2006, with 70 additional spaces in planning for next year.
 - Lurgan – An additional 49 spaces will be available by August 2006.
- **Impact of ISNI on Strategic Road Schemes**
Mr Orr advised that ISNI envisages £1,371m (at 2005 prices) for Strategic Roads Investments (SRIs) in the 10 year period 2005/06 to 2014/15 (£1,005m for conventionally funded SRIs and £366m for PPPs, although the split may change). Roads Service is currently developing an expanded programme of SRIs that is affordable under the ISNI. The collation and analysis of available data is underway and bilateral meetings with DRMs will be held in the first week of April to agree local priorities. A Draft programme of SRIs will be presented to RS Board meeting on 27 April 2006 and Ministerial approval of the Draft programme and consultation/announcement arrangements will be sought in early May.

- ❖ The Draft SRTP will be published as: Volume 1 – main text describing policy context and proposals NI wide and Volume 2 – technical background and maps for proposals for each town/city. Councils will be given partial Volume 2 drafts in advance of publication.
- ❖ ISNI funding increase has been factored into the Draft SRTP.

5. Other RTS Issues

i. RTS Review

Mr Thompson highlighted that the review would be a focussed review, which examines achievements, notes what still needs to be done, considers the impact of policy developments – here and elsewhere, takes stock of the financial situation in light of ISNI and extends the coverage of the RTS to 2015. Mr Carson pointed out that the RTS review should also factor in the outcome of the “year zero” Comprehensive Spending Review.

The Group is content for 1st review of the RTS to proceed as outlined in RTSSG 13/04 paper.

Mike Thompson

ii. Monitoring of RTS Targets and Initiatives

The Group was asked to advise Mr Thompson within the next 10 days of any amendments they want made to the table (RTSSG 13/05), which lists the lead responsibility and frequency of monitor for RTS/BMTP/RSTNTP targets and initiatives.

RTSSG

iii. Integrated Transportation Stakeholder Steering Group [ITSG]

Mr Thompson advised that the next ITSG meeting is scheduled for 13 June 2006. It is proposed to cover the following key topics at this meeting:

- ❖ Draft Sub Regional Transport Plan – ITSG will be sent a copy and will be asked at the meeting to give views on the draft Plan from their perspective.
- ❖ Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland
- ❖ Review of Public Administration

iv. Promoting Sustainable Modes [PSMs]

The group approved the approach outlined in RTSSG 13/06 paper and endorsed the inclusion of the candidates

listed below, as being likely to further the PSM agenda:

- ❖ Translink (in liaison with Ports and Public Transport Division)
- ❖ Health Promotion Agency/Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety
- ❖ Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Sustrans, Road Safety Division and Department of Education
- ❖ Translink and Roads Service – Eastern Division, M1/Westlink Road Improvement Works

v. A New Start for Public Transport

Mr White advised that a meeting is scheduled with stakeholders on 9 March 2006 to try and obtain agreement on outstanding issues.

vi. Update on latest Public Transport Monitoring results (Autumn 2005) in relation to the effects of traffic congestion on punctuality

Mr Moffatt advised that the customer satisfaction index had reached a 10-year high with levels of customer satisfaction generally improving. However it was noted that the level of punctuality has fallen. Mr Carson stated he would like to gain a better understanding of the figures reported - Greg Campbell to contact Translink to set up a meeting.

**David Carson
Greg Campbell**

vii TOG Minutes and Highlight Report

RTSSG papers 13/07 and 13/08 were noted.

6. AOB

i. Mr Moffatt stated that some thought needed to be given to drawing up an All Ireland Transport vision. Mr Thompson advised that in the context of the British Irish Intergovernmental Conference officials were looking at Spatial planning and infrastructure on the island of Ireland

ii. Mr O'Neill asked about congestion charging. It was noted that the Department is currently monitoring what is happening in GB.

7. Date for next meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 6 June at 2.00pm.**

**Mary Carnaghan
Secretary RTSSG
Regional Planning and Transportation Division
March 2006**

cc Joe Drew, Co-Chair PTPB
Greg Campbell (Public Transport Performance Division)