

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY STEERING GROUP
(RTSSG)
MINUTES OF THE 14th MEETING
TUESDAY 6 JUNE 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 Planning Service
Mr Tom Clarke	Planning Service
Miss Mary Carnaghan	Regional Planning & Transportation - Secretary

In attendance:

Mr Ronnie Wilson	Roads Service
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Apologies:

Mr Geoff Allister	Director of Engineering, Roads Service
Mr David Carson	Director of Ports and Public Transport

ACTION

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- i. The minutes of the thirteenth RTSSG meeting of 7 March 2006 were agreed.

2. Matters Arising not covered in Agenda

i. Review of Public Administration (RPA)

- **Role of Councils in planning local bus services**

- Mr White stated that at present the Department is considering this in the context of the Review of Bus Regulation. It was noted that a paper dealing with the Review issues and recommendations is currently with the Minister.

Brian White

- **Roads Service** – Dr McKibbin reported that there is now a greater degree of clarity about the likely future structure to deliver Road Service services. In summary:

- Staff involved in local roads will move to

relevant district council;

- Staff involved in motorway trunk roads will remain at centre;
- Some functional areas such as Blue Badge, DPE etc. may be managed from a few shared service centres;
- TUPE will apply to staff moving out of Department.

Dr McKibbin advised the group that he is going to DFP on secondment from 12 June to September to take up the post of Director of Central Procurement. In his absence Geoff Allister will be Acting Chief Executive of RS until 1 August; David Orr will then be Acting Chief Executive until Dr McKibbin's return. Dr McKibbin will, however, continue to be involved in RPA issues.

3. BMTP

i Public Transport Partnership Board Update RTSSG 14/01 paper was noted.

□ City Centre Bus Routings

Following a series of workshops a high level appraisal of 2 options has been completed. Recommendations for future bus routings in the City Centre will be made and presented at the next PTPB meeting for approval. Mr O'Neill advised that it was very important that Public Realm views were factored in to City Centre Bus Routings and that City Centre Bus Routings were factored into the Public Realm plan. Mr Thompson agreed to speak to DSD (Jackie Johnston) about this.

Mike Thompson

□ Tillysburn Park & Ride

Mr White pointed out that Tillysburn Park & Ride is envisaged in the BMTP as a bus-based P & R scheme. Mr Orr advised that this P & R is not top of Roads Service priority list as they wish to concentrate on getting Cairnshill P & R up and running. Roads Service is however, progressing an initial economic appraisal and has a good idea of the most suitable site location, which is in the Department's ownership. The location is shown in Fig. 5.15 of BMTP and can accommodate a maximum of 400/500 cars. Mrs Brown suggested that if PPTD is embarking on some initial work in

relation to a new railway halt in the vicinity of the airport they should liaise with Roads Service to ensure each are aware of what is being done.

Brian White
Stephen Pollock

□ **Priority of Motorway Busway Schemes**

While the original intention was to extend the current M1 Hardshoulder Busway by a further 3km (Phase 2) the Board has agreed to a proposal to divert resources into the provision of a 2 km Busway on the M2 on the approach to Sandyknowles. Mr Orr stated Roads Service is content with this approach and agrees that there is significant merit in providing the M2 bus lane.

□ **QBC Programme**

The QBC WG has updated the original delivery programme. The main change is to allow for completion of the QBC Masterplan and will result in delivery of the “Super” QBCs on most corridors moving back by approximately 6 months. RTSSG expressed concern about this delay. It was agreed that David Orr will see what can be done to accelerate the completion of the VISSIM model and Mr O’Neill will see what can be done to accelerate the QBC Masterplan.

David Orr

Philip O’Neill

ii. Metro

Mr Moffatt reported that in the first year of Metro service there was a 10% increase in patronage and since then a 5% growth. Proposals for Metro 2, enhancing frequency by up to 50% over a number of years, have been put to the NITHC Board. Mr Moffatt also advised that a major project for an off-bus ticketing system is currently being considered for possible delivery in the next couple of years.

iii. Impact of ISNI on Strategic Road Schemes

Mr Orr advised that a Draft programme of SRIs has been drawn up and presented to the RS Board. The next stage is to seek ministerial approval of the Draft programme and consultation/announcement arrangements.

iv. Lack of enforcement of new taxi arrangements at Central Station

Mr Moffat reported that this matter is still a problem. Mr Orr stated that, while Roads Service has no control over police enforcement, it has tried to exert as much influence as possible with the police on this matter.

v. **Development of dedicated Park & Ride bus services within BMTP area:**

- **Cairnshill** – Mr White advised that the Public Transport Partnership Board has agreed to the setting up of a joint RS/PPTD/Translink project Board. A Planning application for this P & R is to be lodged in June.
- **Sprucefield** – This P & R will be ready in June. It has, however, been agreed to delay the commencement of the dedicated bus operation until mid-August.
- **Blacks Road** – This P & R was officially opened on 17 May 2006. Uptake has started slowly but is increasing with a regular usage of around 50 vehicles. Patronage will be constantly monitored prior to six-month review.
- **Rail-based Park & Ride** - The 3 sites in Moira are progressing with completion of 60 spaces due in May 2006, a further 38 spaces due in July 2006 and 70 spaces in planning.

vi. **EWAY**

Mr Thompson advised that a meeting with the Minister has been arranged for next week to discuss EWAY and the possibility of carrying out an economic appraisal.

vii. **Titanic/City Airport rapid transit**

Mr Thompson confirmed that rapid transit has featured in a number of meetings held to look at the needs of Titanic Quarter.

viii. **Maze Stadium**

Mr Thompson advised that the latest position on the stadium is as outlined in the Maze Master Plan and Implementation Strategy launched on 30 May 2006.

ix. **Consideration of public transport input to strategic projects**

Mr White stated that he hopes to get a paper defining how input on public transport is made to major projects, circulated to RTSSG as soon as possible.

Brian White

4. **Sub Regional Transport Plan (SRTP)**

i. **Progress**

The draft SRTP was published on target at the end of

March 2006. It was noted that Stephen Wood (SRTP Project) is preparing a paper with Roads Service and Translink to address issues relating to infrastructure improvements in 2006/07.

Stephen Wood

ii. Ulsterbus Review

Mr Moffatt emphasised the importance of making sure that the Ulsterbus Review Plans are linked to SRTP. Mr O'Neill advised that Stephen Wood is in regular contact with Translink.

5. Accessible Transport Strategy (ATS)

Mr Thompson advised that the ATS Action Plan will be reviewed later this year and a new 2-year action plan published by 31 March 2007.

6. Other RTS Issues

i. RTS Review

Mr Thompson advised that the project team and management structures for the RTS Review would be in place by January 2007.

Mike Thompson

ii. Monitoring of RTS Targets/Initiatives

RTSSG Paper 14/04 was noted. The group agreed that in future monitoring reports it would be useful, where a target is not being achieved, to note the action(s) being taken.

iii. RTS Annual Monitoring Report 05/06

Mr Thompson advised that a draft of this report would be circulated to RTSSG for comments in the next couple of weeks.

Mike Thompson

iv. Integrated Transport Stakeholder Group

Mr Thompson advised that due to unforeseen circumstances the ITSG meeting scheduled for 13 June has been postponed until the Autumn. The SRTP team are, however, going to meet with ITSG on 13 June to consult on the Draft SRTP.

v. Promoting Sustainable Modes

The group noted the following:

- The Travelwise Car Share Scheme was launched on 4 April 2006.
- Travelwise team are continuing to work with schools.
- There will be a Bike to Work Day on 21 June 2006.

- vi. **A New Start for Public Transport**
Mr White advised that a paper setting out the issues is currently with the Minister for consideration.
- vii. **Update on latest Public Transport Monitoring results (Autumn 2005) in relation to effects of traffic congestion on punctuality**
It was noted that Greg Campbell has met with Translink to discuss the figures reported.
- viii. **All-Ireland transport vision**
The Group recognised that money is not available for this in the short to medium term but that work could continue to explore the case for longer-term developments.
- ix. **TOG Minutes and TOG Highlight Report**
RTSSG 14/05 and 14/06 were noted.
- **Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) –**
Mr O'Neill pointed out that with the introduction of DPE current arrangements with Traffic Wardens to direct traffic (including buses) at such times as funerals, parades etc would no longer apply. Dr McKibbin advised that Roads Service is currently trying to identify those locations where there would be a problem and consider if there is an engineering solution. Dr McKibbin added it would be helpful for Translink and Roads Service to let the police know about problem locations as the only people who will have authority to direct traffic is the police.

Philip O'Neill
Geoff Allister

7. AOB

None

9. Date for next meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 5 September 2006 at 2.00pm in Room 6-05, Clarence Court.**

Mary Carnaghan
Secretary RTSSG
Regional Planning and Transportation Division
June 2006

cc Stephen Wood (SRTP Project Leader)