

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY STEERING GROUP
(RTSSG)
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 15TH MEETING
TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2006**

Present:

Mrs Doreen Brown	Deputy Secretary, Regional Planning and Transportation – Joint Chairperson
Mr David Orr	Acting Chief Executive, Roads Service – Joint Chairperson
Mr Geoff Allister	Roads Service
Mr Jim Aiken	Director of Corporate Affairs, Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company (NITHC)
Mr Keith Moffatt	Chief Executive, Translink
Mr Philip O’Neill	General Manager, Translink
Mr Mike Thompson	Director of Regional Planning and Transportation
Mr Brian White	Director of Ports and Public Transport
Mr Tom Clarke	Planning Service (DOE)
Dr Andrew Murray	Roads Service

In Attendance:

Mr Ronnie Wilson	Roads Service
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Apologies:

Mr David Carson	Director of Ports and Public Transport
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ACTION

- 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
 - i. The minutes of the fourteenth RTSSG meeting of the 6 June 2006 were agreed.
- 2. Matters Arising not covered in Agenda**
 - i. **Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE)**

Mr Allister advised that Roads Service is liaising with PSNI in relation to the duty of directing traffic. This will remain with the Police after Traffic Wardens transfer to Roads Service’s Decriminalised Parking Enforcement

contractor. The Department will not have traffic direction powers.

3. BMTP

i. Public Transport Partnership Board Update
RTSSG15/01 paper was noted.

- **M2 Busway**

Mr O'Neill referred to the proposal for the M2 Busway. There are possible difficulties with the procurement of Variable Message Signs and funding has not yet been secured.

- **City Centre**

DSD's Public Realm Strategy and its relationship with city centre bus routes is a key issue. Translink facilitated a workshop at which all key stakeholder groups were represented. Two options were presented but Belfast City Council expressed concerns about both. The pros and cons of both require to be considered. The workshop is reconvening on 3 October. In a discussion about the decision-making process, Mr Orr stated the Public Transport Partnership Board should try to agree on a solution and secure the agreement of BCC and DSD. If that is not possible then the matter should be escalated to RTSSG. Mrs Brown and Mr White are to meet with DSD on 6 September. It was agreed the notes of the workshop would be forwarded to them in advance of the DSD meeting.

Philip O'Neill

- **QBC Masterplan/Saintfield Road VISSIM Modelling Project**

Mr O'Neill stated the programme is being worked to and he would attach the plan to the next report. If there was slippage the plan would be put back about 6 months. The Cairnshill Planning Application has been lodged.

ii. **EWAY and Titanic/City Airport rapid transit**
RTSSG15/02

Minister has agreed to an economic appraisal of not only EWay but Titanic/City Airport route. Mr Thompson explained the case is with DFP for approval. It is hoped a robust analysis will be produced to move the scheme forward. If progress is made a consultants report should be received early in the summer of next year. Mr Moffatt queried whether this would change BMAP and what involvement Translink would have. Mr Thompson explained that depending on the approach BMAP may need to be looked at again. He also confirmed that Translink, as a key stakeholder would be kept closely informed of progress. Mr Moffatt stated that experience shows that unless the operator is involved from the start the proposal would fail and he was concerned as to how it would all fit together. Mrs Brown explained that the economic appraisal would have to be looked at first followed by consideration of whether money could be made available. Mrs Brown confirmed that Translink would be kept informed at all stages.

4. **SRTP**

On target for publication in March 2007. Responses received and are being analysed. They are largely positive and supportive and some have provided particularly useful ideas. A more detailed update will be provided at the next meeting.

5. **Accessible Transport Strategy**

There was nothing to report. Only issues of concern will be brought to the group.

6. **Other RTS Issues**

i. **• A New Start for Public Transport**

A Ministerial Statement was made in August regarding major changes in the way public transport services will be planned and delivered. The timescale is 2010 for the

phasing in of the Passenger Transport Authority. Mr Moffatt was of the opinion that there was little new in the announcement and the fear is that this is creating uncertainty with lots of questions remaining unanswered. Mrs Brown explained that a process has to be gone through to move this forward. It will be important to re-engage with stakeholders to ensure that all questions are addressed and that answers can be given. As part of this process, the Department will clearly wish to engage with Translink and NITHC as key stakeholders.

ii. • **Consideration of public transport input to strategic projects**

The paper will be revisited in the light of comments made by Mr Moffatt before being circulated more widely.

iii. • **RTS Review**

A review will be undertaken on the RTS. Changes have taken place since the RTS was published ie New Start, ISNI, RPA etc. These new issues need to be reflected. A review is also being undertaken on the RDS and this needs to be factored into the RTS.

iv. • **Impact of ISNI on Strategic Road Schemes**

£400M is to be spent on major road improvements to 2015. Consultation document was launched on 31 July with responses back by 29 September (8 weeks). David Orr undertook to pass copies of the consultation document to Jim Aiken, Keith Moffatt and Philip O'Neill.

David Orr

v. • **RTS Annual Monitoring Report 05/06**
RTSSG15-03

The monitoring report is to be published in the near future. Mr Thompson explained the Monitoring Reports would be factored into the review of the RTS. The draft report highlights the work that has gone on, ie Metro, new buses and capital expenditure but no detailed

analyses have been done. Discussion highlighted a number of points which required to be considered ie data not available for monitoring, 2001 baseline missing, need to list action to be taken, eg, on bus speeds and comments on lack of progress against key targets. It was agreed that it was preferable to have a better quality document than to have it produced quickly. All will endeavour to fill the gaps in the data.

All

vi • **Integrated Transport Stakeholder Group**

A meeting is to be held on 11 October. Mr Thompson suggested two topics for discussion:

1. effect of RPA on Transport; and
2. 5-year review of RTS.

Mrs Brown asked that other ideas for topics be submitted.

vii • **TOG Highlight Report and TOG Minutes**
RTSSG15/04 and RTSSG15/05

Mr Wilson reported on the following:

• **SRTP**

Consultation on the Draft SRTP 2015 ended on 23 June.

• **Park & Ride**

Monitoring will soon be taking place on the Sprucefield and Black's Road sites.

• **Travelwise NI**

The intention is to promote the car sharing scheme in the north-west. The Department has also been asked to organise the National Travelwise Conference in Belfast next year.

• **Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE)**

The enforcement contract was signed on 14 August with the intention of going live on 30

October. There will be a media presentation by the Minister on 16 October.

7. Any Other Business

Mr Orr reported that this would be his last meeting as he would be moving to DFP at the end of the month. Mrs Brown wished him well on behalf of the group and thanked him for his contribution.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 December.

**Pauline McParland
Regional Planning and Transportation Division**

September 2006

cc Stephen Wood (SRTP Project Leader)