

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY STEERING GROUP  
(RTSSG)  
MINUTES OF THE 17th MEETING  
TUESDAY 13 March 2007, 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 Philip O’Neill	Acting Chief Executive, Translink
Mr Mike Thompson	Director of Regional Planning & Transportation
Mr Brian White	Director of Ports and Public Transport
Dr Andrew Murray	Director of Network Services, Roads Service
Mr Bob Cairns	Director of Engineering, Roads Service
Mr John Irvine	Roads Service
Mr Tom McCourt	Roads Service
Mr Pat McBride	Planning Service (DOE)
Miss Mary Carnaghan	Regional Planning & Transportation - Secretary

**In attendance:**

Mr Frank Clegg	Acting General Manager, Translink
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**ACTION**

1. **Apologies**  
Mr David Carson

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the sixteenth RTSSG meeting of 5 December 2006 were agreed.

3. **Matters Arising not covered in Agenda**

- i. **City Centre Bus Routing**

Mr McCourt advised that the additional transport running costs are still to be defined. Work on routing has to be completed and it is too early to estimate the cost of improved signage.

- ii. **Parking**

Mr McCourt confirmed that Roads Service will continue to provide Planning Service with the details of parking sites causing concern.

#### 4. **BMTP**

##### i. **Public Transport Partnership Board Update** RTSSG 17/01 paper.

###### □ **QBC Programme**

The group discussed the QBC Delivery Programme update. Mr O'Neill advised that the Partnership Board was looking at how to more effectively report on the QBC position, by for example stating percentage completed. Mr O'Neill also emphasised that the VISSIM model, which has still to be completed, is crucial to give a proper understanding of the impact of a QBC. Mr McCourt is currently looking at whether enough resources have been allocated as more studying/consideration is required before moving up to Super QBC.

**Philip O'Neill**

**Tom McCourt**

###### □ **Decriminalisation of Moving Traffic Offences**

This project is now at an advanced stage. The final report, which sets out a full project programme for implementation of the enforcement regime, will be passed to the Roads Service Board for consideration on the way forward.

**Tom McCourt**

###### □ **Park and Ride**

The group discussed Park and Ride progress. It was noted that the general trend is slippage. Mr O'Neill advised that the Park and Ride projects will be kept under close review. Mr O'Neill also expressed concern about the commercial sustainability of the Sprucefield and Blacks Road park and ride. Translink, in conjunction with Roads Service, will be looking at ways to deal with this.

**Philip O'Neill**  
**Tom McCourt**

###### □ **Park and Ride Planning Permission**

Mr McBride stated he will advise Mr McCourt what the position is regarding Cairnshill planning permission.

**Mr McBride**

###### □ **Funding**

The group considered the following three options put forward by PTPB to secure funding for the bus services for Cairnshill:

- **Use RS car parking charges to meet costs** - DrMcKibbin advised that the revenue raised through DPE does not cover the costs involved, and revenue from car parking charges is used to meet the deficit; however,

he agreed that the option should be examined.

**Tom McCourt**

- **Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR)**  
Mr White advised that PPTD have bid for resource under CSR but there is no guarantee this will be agreed.
- **Ask Translink to consider assuming the financial risk and to operate the service without support**

It was agreed that PPTD should discuss this option with Translink.

**Brian White  
Philip O'Neill**

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

Mr Thompson advised that Atkins have been appointed to look at 2 routes, EWAY and the Titanic/City Airport route. Work is progressing and it is hoped to have a report from Atkins by Summer 2007. Mr Thompson also updated the group on the work associated with the Transport Master Plan for the Titanic Quarter.

**5. SRTP**

Mr Cairns advised the SRTP is still on target for publication before the end of March 2007.

**6. Other RTS Issues**

**i. RTS Review**

As there has been several developments since the RTS was published in 2002 which will impact on any review, e.g. increased emphasis on environmental issues and the publication of the Sustainable Development Strategy, the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland, which had a large emphasis on transportation, RPA, etc. the Minister has agreed that the review should adopt a three themed approach:

- (i) the changing environment since 2002;
- (ii) the budgetary position; and
- (iii) the progress of implementation to date.

Mr Thompson advised that should devolution be restored in March, we would ensure that any new Minister was content with this approach before moving forward. In the meantime work is progressing to develop a team to take the review forward. Dr McKibbin commented that relationship between the RTS and ISNI 2, which is due to be published in Autumn, needed to be considered.

**Mike Thompson**

**ii. RTS Annual Monitoring Report April 05 to March 07**

Mr Thompson reported that the Minister has agreed to

defer the RTS Monitoring Report 05/06 until June 2007 when a progress report for the entire period ending 31 March 2007 will be published. RPTD will shortly be commissioning progress reports from the Department and other Departments to inform this monitoring report and the RTS mid term review.

**iii. TOG Highlight Report**

RTSSG 17/02 paper was noted.

The group agreed that the proposed new Terms of Reference for TOG should be reworded to recognise there is a monitoring and facilitating role and be proofed against the RTSSG Terms of Reference. Miss Carnaghan will forward Mr Irvine a copy of the RTSSG Terms of Reference.

**John Irvine**  
**Mary Carnaghan**

**7. AOB**

None

**8. Date for next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 12 June 07 at 2.00pm.**

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

28 March 2007