

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY STEERING GROUP
(RTSSG)
MINUTES OF THE 18th MEETING
TUESDAY 12 June 2007, 2.00PM - Room 601c, Clarence Court.**

Present:

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| Mrs Doreen Brown | Deputy Secretary, Regional Planning and Transportation – Joint Chairperson |
| Mr Geoff Allister | Chief Executive (Acting), Roads Service – Joint Chairperson |
| Mr Philip O’Neill | Acting Chief Executive, Translink |
| 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 |

In attendance:

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| Mr Gregory Campbell | Public Transport Performance Division |
| Mr John Irvine | Roads Service |
| Mr Gregor Kerr | Regional Planning & Transportation - Secretary |
| Mr Kevin Monaghan | Roads Service |

ACTION

1. Apologies

Mr Jim Aiken, Mr David Carson, Mr Frank Clegg, Mr Pat McBride, Mr Tom McCourt, , Mr Mike Thompson

Mrs Brown asked that the RTSSG’s congratulations to Dr McKibbin on his promotion to Permanent Secretary at the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development be recorded and that the appreciation for his involvement be noted.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the seventeenth RTSSG meeting of 13 March 2007 were agreed.

3. Matters Arising not covered in Agenda

4. BMTP

i. Public Transport Partnership Board Update

RTSSG 18/01 – 18/05 papers.

QBC Programme

The group discussed the QBC Delivery Programme update

and Tracker system devised by the PTPB to more effectively report on the QBC position. Mr O'Neill said that good progress was being made and that there was a real commitment to delivering the QBC programme on the part of both Translink and Roads Service. An outbound QBC on the Ormeau Road should be completed by the end of the summer. Bus speed targets were being met on some arterial routes with subsequent passenger gain and modal shift. There was some uncertainty around the information on progress portrayed in the QBC trackers, particularly on Traffic Management. Mr O'Neill agreed that there was a degree of subjectivity in the tracker and that progress may have been more substantial than the trackers would suggest. The PTPB will reconsider how the trackers report on progress.

Philip O'Neill

VISSIM

The meeting scheduled for 29 May was postponed to 13 June.

Decriminalisation of Moving Traffic Offences

Proposals were ready to be presented to the Roads Service Board. It was noted that some legislation would be required.

Public Realm

Mr O'Neill reported that the bus routing strategy, prepared by ARUP, for Belfast City Centre had been presented to the Council and received a favourable response. Terms of Reference for the next phase are being prepared. Mr O'Neill informed the meeting that he did not foresee any significant additional costs for Translink arising from this proposed strategy.

Philip O'Neill
Tom McCourt

Mrs Brown stressed the importance of including the emerging Rapid Transit schemes when considering the public realm.

Mike Thompson

Park and Ride

The group discussed Park and Ride. It was noted that strategic Park and Ride sites may be undermined by the large number of ad hoc parking spaces currently available in Belfast. Roads Service have supplied a list of ad hoc car parks to Planning Service to consider appropriate enforcement action.

Mr McBride

Funding

PPTD has bid for money for Park and Ride but it was not certain the bid would be successful. As far as Cairnshill Park and Ride was concerned, an alternative would be for Translink to provide a service and assume the risk. PPTD

and Translink will discuss the precise terms. It was noted that the profitability of Cairnshill Park and Ride would depend critically on extent to which bus priority on the Saintfield Road could be improved to the benefit of journey times and reliability.

Brian White
Philip O'Neill

Use RS car parking charges to meet costs

Roads Service have examined the possibility of using car parking revenue to support Park and Ride services and believe that it is not achievable in the short term. The meeting asked that it continue to be considered as an option in the medium and longer term. Mr McCourt was asked to liaise with Trevor Robinson (PPTD) on the issue.

Tom McCourt

5. SRTP

Mr Irvine informed the meeting that the SRTP had been presented to the then Minister in March and that the Minister had decided to defer a decision on publication to the devolved Minister.

Following Ministerial approval, the Sub-Regional Transport Plan was published on 11 June.

RTSSG wishes to thank Mr Irvine, Mr Stephen Wood and all those involved in the production and publication of the SRTP for their hard work and commitment.

6. Other RTS Issues

i. RTS Review

Mrs Brown reported that resource issues to carry out this substantial piece of work had yet to be resolved. Once they were, a submission could be put to the Minister to seek his approval for the scope and means of progress of the review. Mrs Brown believed that a submission would be placed before the Minister before the summer.

Mrs Brown noted that an Issues Paper on the RTS Review may be published for consultation.

Mike Thompson

ii. RTS Annual Monitoring Report April 05 to March 07

Mr Kerr informed the meeting that a draft report had been forwarded to Mr Allister and Mrs Brown for their consideration and comment.

iii. Rapid Transit Feasibility Study

Mr Kerr informed the meeting that Atkins had now received the necessary data to allow updating of the Belfast Transport Model. Once the data has been input, Atkins will start modelling of route options.

Mr Kerr also informed the group that the Minister has agreed to the extension of the studies to include options

beyond Belfast City Centre (to Queen's University, the Royal Victoria Hospital and WWAY). The necessary agreements had already been sought from Central Procurement Directorate and the Department for Finance and Personnel

It was believed that the CITIRoute and EWAY studies would be complete by the end of August, while the extension to include WWAY would take an additional three months.

iv. Future of Rail Services

Mr Campbell reported that the Minister had considered the options and approved the Department's Measure Investment Proposal submission to the Strategic Investment Board as part of the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2 process. This would allow the enhancement of the network and increases in service frequencies.

**David Carson
Gregory
Campbell**

v. SRTPB Highlight Report

Mr Irvine reported that the Terms of Reference for the new Sub Regional Transport Partnership Board had been agreed. The Translink co-chair had yet to be appointed.

**John Irvine
Philip O'Neill**

7. AOB

Promotion of Sustainable Modes

It was noted that the Department and Translink were working together on the promotion of sustainable modes under the Roads Service Travelwise logo. Consultants had been commissioned to prepare a communications strategy to encourage the use of modes other than the private car for short trips.

Mr Irvine noted that Roads Service and Translink were cooperating on an individual marketing initiative in the Stranmillis area.

8. Date for next meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 11 September 07 at 2.00pm.**

**Gregor Kerr
Secretary RTSSG
Regional Planning and Transportation Division**

22 June 2007