

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY STEERING GROUP (RTSSG)

MINUTES OF THE 19th MEETING

Tuesday 11 September 2007, 2.00PM - Room 601C, Clarence Court.

Present:

Mrs Doreen Brown	Deputy Secretary, Regional Planning and Transportation – Joint Chairperson
Mr Philip O’Neill	Acting Chief Executive, Translink
Mr Jim Aiken	Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company
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 Mike Thompson	Director, Regional Planning and Transportation Division

In attendance:

Mr Erroll Gunning	Public Transport Performance Division
Mr John Irvine	Roads Service
Mr Tom McCourt	Roads Service
Mr Frank Clegg	Translink
Mr Gregor Kerr	Regional Planning & Transportation - Secretary

ACTION

1. Apologies

Mr Geoff Allister, Mr David Carson, Mr Pat McBride.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Changes to the draft minutes of the eighteenth RTSSG meeting of 12 June 2007 were discussed and agreed.

3. Matters Arising not covered in Agenda

Mr Gunning reported that bids had been submitted under ISNI2 for rail. The Department is currently awaiting the outcome.

Mr Frank Clegg (Translink) and Mr John Irvine (Roads Service) have been nominated as co-chairs for the Sub-Regional Transport Partnership Board.

4. **BMTP**

i. Public Transport Partnership Board Update

RTSSG 19/01.

QBC Programme

The group discussed the QBC Delivery Programme update. It was agreed that it was still difficult to gauge whether progress was on target. A clearer QBC Tracker will be prepared for the next meeting. Mr O'Neill said that the QBC programme was on track.

**Philip O'Neill /
Tom McCourt**

VISSIM

VISSIM work is now complete and has helped in the identification of several smaller schemes and junction improvements.

City Centre Traffic Management Project

Mr McCourt said that there was a high degree of interdependency in the City Centre Traffic Management Project and that key stakeholders were working together to the integration of all objectives, including possible rapid transit requirements.

The proposed strategy had been well received by the Development Committee of Belfast City Council.

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. It was agreed that Planning Service should be asked to prioritise action against those car parks which might otherwise become immune from enforcement because of the passage of time.

**Secretariat /
Pat McBride**

Roads Service has presented the residents parking scheme to the Regional Development Committee. If introduced, this would reduce all day commuter parking.

Funding

Mr White said that while PPTD has bid for money for Cairnshill Park and Ride, should the bid be unsuccessful no alternative funding would be available from PPTD. There remains the alternative of a service provided by Translink at its own risk. Mr O'Neill will discuss this possibility with the NITHC Board. Mr White agreed to provide Mr O'Neill with a copy of a study on Cairnshill Park and Ride.

Mr O'Neill

Mr White

The importance of bus priority on the Saintfield Road to the profitability of Cairnshill was noted.

5. Other RTS Issues

i. RTS Review

Mr Thompson reported that the Minister had approved the scope and means of progress of the review. The resource issue had yet to be resolved. It was anticipated that the review would take 18-24 months to complete.

Mr Thompson agreed to share the scope and means of progress for the Review with RTSSG.

Mr Thompson

ii. RTS Annual Monitoring Report April 05 to March 07

Mr Thompson reported that the Minister had approved the draft Report. Mrs Brown asked that copies of the report be supplied to the Regional Development Committee before publication.

Mr Thompson

iii. Rapid Transit Feasibility Study

Mr Thompson said that the CITI Route and EWAY studies should be complete by early October and options put before the Minister.

Bids had been made under ISNI2 and CSR to secure funding.

RPTD had also been working with Titanic Quarter Limited to secure a developer contribution as part of the Phase 11 planning application.

7. AOB

No matters were raised.

8. Date for next meeting

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

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

21 September 2007