

Transport for London

Minutes of the Rail Transport Advisory Panel

Boardroom, 14th Floor, Windsor House, London
10.00 am, Wednesday 7 November 2007

Members

Peter Hendy	Chair, Commissioner
Paul Moore	Vice Chair, Board Member
Kirsten Hearn	Board Member
Tony West	Board Member
Ian Brown	Managing Director, London Rail

In Attendance

Stephen Glaister	Board Member
Sir Mike Hodgkinson	Board Member
Dave Wetzel	Board Member

Staff

Howard Carter	General Counsel
Stephen Critchley	Chief Finance Officer
John Diver	Project and Programme Governance Manager, Group Services
Peter Field	Director of London Rail Development
Jonathan Fox	Director, DLR
Geoff Hobbs	Head of Strategy, London Rail
Stuart Munro	Director of Finance, London Rail
Hita Sachania	Executive Stakeholder Management, London Rail
Howard Smith	Chief Operating Officer, London Rail
James Varley	Secretariat

37/11/07 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence had been received from Christopher Garnett, Bryan Heiser, Eva Lindholm and Steve Allen, who Stephen Critchley was representing.

No interests were declared.

38/11/07 DfT White Paper and Other National Rail Enhancements

Geoff Hobbs introduced the presentation. The purpose was to provide the Panel with an update on the White Paper. It was clear that the Government understood the need for additional capacity on the network and policy was consistent with the findings of the Stern and Eddington reports.

A number of solutions were outlined to improve capacity and ease the current and future levels of crowding on trains. These included lengthening platforms, improving infrastructure and higher frequencies of service. These would not eliminate crowding but levels would be significantly reduced, especially on longer journeys. An updated composite map showing crowding levels on London Rail and London Underground would be prepared.

[ACTION: Geoff Hobbs]

The planned improvements in the quality of service and the new fare structure on the North London Line were expected to result in an increase in demand. Crowding was expected to increase in the short term until the new rolling stock was completed.

The White Paper also specified increases in reliability and safety, however the methodology used to calculate 'significant lateness' was complex. A briefing note on Public Performance Measures would be provided to Members.

[ACTION: Ian Brown]

Additional funds were available through the National Rail station improvement programme and there was also a possibility that the DfT Access for All scheme could fund further station enhancements.

Approaches had been made to the DfT with regard to electrification of the Gospel Oak to Barking line, but this had been resisted. However, it remained within the London Overground plan.

The Oyster roll out across National Rail was continuing. TfL expects coverage in London would be complete by 2010. However, further development outside the London boundary was not clear, as the DfT had a policy for ITSO.

The rail freight strategy considered utilising routes that already existed. There was clear evidence that the creation of freight terminals would encourage modal shift and this was highly desirable. However, there was reluctance on the part of the Boroughs to consent to having freight terminals in their own areas despite the positive outcomes.

The Panel noted the presentation.

39/11/07 Langdon Park in Timelapse

Jonathan Fox introduced the video footage which showed the construction of the platforms at Landon Park DLR station.

The Committee noted the presentation.

40/11/07 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 10 May 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

41/11/07 Matters Arising and Actions List

The Panel noted the actions list.

42/11/07 Managing Director's Report

Ian Brown, Jonathan Fox and Howard Smith introduced the report.

Growth on the DLR was continuing and the Woolwich Arsenal tunnel had been completed. The new rolling stock was entering the production phase. Images of the trains would be sent to Dave Wetzel.

[ACTION: Jonathan Fox]

The East London Line Project was going well with substantial works sites at Dalston and New Cross Gate. A timetable has been agreed for four track works on the North London Line. Costs had also been agreed with Network Rail and it is understood that the scheme was ready to start following the selection of a contractor.

London Overground services were due to launch on 11 November. Improvements in the service would be incremental, however there would be an immediate increase in the number of staff and improved security. Greater efforts would be put into revenue protection and improvements in revenue growth were expected. Due to the current high level of ticketless travel, it was proposed that action would be phased to ensure passengers understood the new regime and were given the opportunity to alter their behaviour before a stronger approach was taken to fare evasion. In addition, customer service was expected to improve quickly, in part driven by additional staff and new operating rules. Service levels for passengers with disabilities would be provided to Kirsten Hearn.

[ACTION: Howard Smith]

The full rebranding of the network would not take place immediately, however all reference to Silverlink would be removed by the first day of service and London Overground roundels would be placed at stations. In response to questions from the Panel, Howard Smith undertook to look into stakeholder management around the New Cross works site and clarify the branding activities taking place at Clapham Junction.

[ACTION: Howard Smith]

There had been an ongoing dispute between the North London Line operator and ASLEF regarding a pensions matter. It was understood that TfL had no liability and that the situation was expected to reach a conclusion in the near future.

The Panel noted the report.

43/11/07 Any Other Business

The Chair updated the Panel on discussions with the DfT on the proposed Crossrail Heads of Terms. Progress had been made in several areas.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.15pm.

The next scheduled meeting would be held on Wednesday 13 February 2008 at 2.00pm.

Chair: _____

Date: _____