



Tyne & Wear Passenger Transport Authority

Minutes of the 87th meeting of the TYNE TUNNEL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
13TH FEBRUARY 1998
(10.30 a.m. – 11.12 a.m.)

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PRESENT:

Councillor P.V. Conaty in the Chair
Councillors Bate, Hanson, Lennox, Moore, Murray, Ord and Wood.

IN ATTENDANCE

J.F. Miller, B. Middleton, C. Crowe, P. Fenwick, P. Hedley and S. Wilson.

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Holt, Keating, Marshall, Nugent, Russell, Spring and Wood.

47. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th December 1997 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

48. DELEGATED SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Delegated Sub-Committee held on 14th January 1998 dealing with the acceptance of the tender of Pitchmastic PLC for Phase I of the Vehicle Tunnel Mosaic Repairs in the sum of £217,871.07 be received.

49. TYNE TUNNELS BILL: PROGRESS

Submitted: Report of the Deputy Clerk and the Engineer advising that the Tyne Tunnels Bill was scheduled to receive its committee hearing in the House of Commons on 12th February 1998.

As set out in the tabled Addendum, the Engineer explained that the Bill had been heard unopposed and now stood referred unopposed to the House of Lords. Having regard to the progress being made plans were being drawn up for the engagement of a consultancy team and terms of reference for this were currently being drafted. Everything was being done to avoid any delay in taking the project forward once the Bill received Royal Assent. Referring to the previous Minutes, he advised that a meeting was to be held shortly with DETR on the programming of trunk road junction improvements to complement the scheme.

The Committee having expressed its congratulations to all those involved in the process, it was, on the Motion of Councillor Murray, duly seconded by Councillor Hanson:

RESOLVED – That the Report be received and that, as far as possible within present legislation, every effort be made to secure the use of local labour in connection with the project, particularly from those areas of Tyne and Wear where unemployment levels are highest.

50. TOLLS INCREASE 1998

RESOLVED – That the circulated Report of the Clerk and the Engineer advising of the receipt and implementation of the Tyne Tunnel (Revision of tolls and traffic classification) Order 1998 effective from 9th January 1998 be noted.

51. **TOLLS INCOME 1997/98**

RESOLVED – That the circulated Report of the Engineer and the Treasurer detailing the likely outturn position on tolls income from usage of the Vehicle Tunnel be noted.

52. **REVENUE BUDGET 1998/99**

RESOLVED – That the Revenue Budget for 1998/99 as detailed in the circulated Report of the Treasurer and the Engineer be approved

53. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1997/98-1998/99**

Submitted: Report of the Engineer projecting an outturn position of £578,000 on the Capital Programme for 1997/98 and proposing a revised programme of works for 1998/99 estimated to amount to £1,188,000.

Reviewing the proposals, it was confirmed that there was no danger to public safety in rescheduling the proposed carriageway resurfacing to 1998/99-1999/2000 to coincide with the road deck waterproofing works. On the provision of advance warning signs, it was hoped that the installation of these could be accelerated if possible but there were a number of different parties to be consulted and with whom agreement had first to be reached. With regard to the telephone system upgrade and the reconstruction of the yard and car park, it was intended to report to a future meeting on the possibility of transferring these to the revenue account.

RESOLVED – That the revised Capital Programme as detailed in the Report be approved.

54. **TOLLS REGISTRATION SYSTEM: REPLACEMENT OF TOLL BOOTH COMPUTERS AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT**

RESOLVED – That, as proposed in the circulated Report of the Engineer;

- (i) approval be given to the inclusion in the project of the master computer, file servers and associated software modifications giving a revised total estimated cost of £150,000 of which £75,000 is to be met from the Tunnel Revenue Account and £75,000 from PTA Reserves; and
- (ii) the Engineer be authorised to negotiate appropriate terms with Mott McDonald for project management in respect of the expanded renewal works.