



Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Authority

Minutes of the 88th meeting of the TYNE TUNNEL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
12TH MARCH 1998
(10.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.)

2

PRESENT:

Councillor P.V. Conaty in the Chair
Councillors Hanson, Holt, Marshall, Moore and Nugent.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

55. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bate, Lennox, Murray, Russell, Spring, Wood and Young.

56. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th February 1998 be confirmed and signed as a correct record and that best wishes for a speedy recovery from ill health be sent to Councillor Murray.

57. TYNE TUNNELS BILL

Arising from the previous Minutes, the Engineer reported that the Bill was now expected to be considered by the House of Lords on 25th March 1998. He had met DETR and the Highways Agency regarding the programming of trunk road junction improvements and they had agreed to fund a study into the impact of the new crossing on the A19 corridor. During discussion on future capacity it was suggested that users of the PERMIT system might be allocated a dedicated lane to speed up throughput. Mr. Miller said it was intended to report to the next meeting on take-up and that the suggestion could be examined as part of that exercise.

RESOLVED – That the position be noted.

58. 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.

59. REFURBISHMENT OF NORTH AND SOUTH PORTALS AND EMBLEMS: ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER

RESOLVED – That, as recommended in the circulated Report of the Engineer, the tender of Sign Master for the refurbishment of the North and South Portals and Emblems in the sum of £10,051.29, being the lowest received in response to invitation to selected firms, be accepted, the estimated total cost of £11,559 inclusive of design and supervision fees being met from Reserves as previously approved.

60. LEASE OF TUNNEL LAND ALONG WESTERN PERIMETER

With the consent of the Chairman as a matter of urgency in order to enable the lessees to take advantage of grant availability in the current financial year, consideration was given to a tabled Report of the Engineer on the outcome of the negotiations previously authorised by the Committee.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to the lease to SUSTRANS for a period of 99 years at a peppercorn rental of 3,125 square metres or thereabouts of land as shown on the Plan submitted to the meeting and otherwise upon the terms and conditions as summarised in the circulated Report of the Engineer.

61. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining business on the agenda.

62. NORTH AND SOUTH VENTILATION SHAFTS: EMERGENCY REPAIRS

RESOLVED – That, as proposed in the circulated Report of the Engineer, it be recommended to the Passenger Transport Authority that, in accordance with Financial Regulation No.25, approval be given to the contract for emergency repairs to the North and South Ventilation Shafts as negotiated with Pitchmastic plc and that the cost of such works be met from the Tunnel's Revenue Budget.

63. MOSAIC REPAIRS: EXTENSION OF CONTRACT

RESOLVED – That, as proposed in the circulated Report of the Engineer, it be recommended to the Passenger Transport Authority that, in accordance with Financial Regulation No.25, approval be given to the negotiation of an extension of contract with Pitchmastic plc for Phase II of mosaic repairs at the Tunnel, provision therefore being included in the 1998/99 Capital Programme.