



Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Authority

Minutes of the 96th meeting of the TYNE TUNNEL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
13TH MAY 1999
(10.30 a.m. – 11.03 a.m.)

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PRESENT:

Councillor M.A. Green in the Chair
Councillors Bate, Bohill, Hanson, Ord and Spring.

IN ATTENDANCE

P. Fenwick, B. Middleton, M. Buckingham, P. Hedley and S. Wilson.

55. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Flynn, Holt, Keating, McElroy, Marshall, Mulgrove, Wood and Young.

56. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th April 1999 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

57. TOLLS INCOME 1998/1999

RESOLVED – That the circulated Report of the Engineer and the Deputy Clerk and Treasurer profiling income against anticipated receipts be noted.

58. REVIEW OF SPECIAL VEHICLE PASSAGE THROUGH THE TUNNEL

RESOLVED – That the review of the dimensions of vehicles allowed to transit the tunnel unescorted now being undertaken in conjunction with the Road Research Laboratory as advised in the circulated Report of the Engineer be noted.

59. REVIEW OF CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1999/2000

Submitted: Report of the Engineer updating the current programme of works required at the present tunnel and outlining initial estimates of the financial requirements needed to progress the New Tyne Crossing project.

Particular reference was drawn to a number of issues. The Resurfacing/Waterproofing contract let to Cumbrian Industrials Limited had now commenced and the first weekend of the closures had gone well. The condition of the concrete had been found to be generally in line with that which had been expected but the full contract period would be needed to complete the works. Environmental Monitoring in connection with the New Tyne Crossing would be commenced as soon as possible after consultation with local Ward Members had taken place regarding the siting of equipment. The provision of resources to facilitate the acquisition of land for the project by agreement in advance of requirements was felt to be a sensitive and sensible way to approach that issue. In respect of Advance Warning Signs, which it was acknowledged could be of assistance in the strategic direction of traffic during the construction period, the Highways Agency was now being pressed to reach an early decision in the matter.

RESOLVED – That the revised Capital Programme for 1999/2000 amounting to £3,233,000 as detailed in the circulated Report be approved for inclusion in the overall capital requirements of the PTA and that the Engineer be authorised to commission the Environmental Monitoring Works required for the New Tyne Crossing.

60. PEDESTRIAN/CYCLIST TUNNELS: EDUCATION/INFORMATION DISPLAY

RESOLVED – That the circulated Report of the Engineer advising of the inauguration of the above display at the South Rotunda be noted and that the possibility of including a roll of all workers engaged on the construction of the tunnels be investigated.

PEDESTRIAN/CYCLIST TUNNELS: ASSOCIATED EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

RESOLVED – That the circulated Report of the Engineer dealing with activities being undertaken along with the Education and Business Partnership be noted and that the potential for establishing links with the Catherine Cookson Trail be explored.

61. PEDESTRIAN/CYCLIST TUNNELS: APPLICATION FOR LISTED BUILDING STATUS

RESOLVED – That the case for the listing of the Pedestrian/Cyclist Tunnels as appended to the circulated Report of the Engineer be approved for submission to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.