



Tyne & Wear Passenger Transport Authority

Minutes of the 155th meeting of the PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
26TH FEBRUARY 1998
(10.00 a.m. – 10.35 a.m.)

2

PRESENT:

Councillor T.D. Marshall (in the Chair)
Councillors Bate, Conaty, Hanson, Holt, Lennox, Keating, Moore, Russell, Spring, Wood and Young.

IN ATTENDANCE

R.H. Warne, K.R. Mackay and S. Wilson.

Representing Nexus

M.J. Parker, G. Brindle, T. McCrady, B.G. Garner and J.W.R. Graham.

106. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Murray, Nugent and Ord.

107. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd January 1998 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

108. SMARTCARDS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Arising from the previous Minutes the Chairman reported that, following on from the Authority's discussions in November 1997 on the current status of Smartcard developments and their potential public transport applications, he and colleagues had yesterday been given an informal presentation by Transmo and Electronic Data Systems Limited on the possibilities of applying the technology developed for the London Transport PRESTIGE project to public transport and other local authority functions in Tyne and Wear and the Northern Region.

The presentation had provided a useful overview of potential benefits. It was envisaged that these would flow from a PFI Design, Build, Finance and Operate arrangement involving a long-term contract that would also secure the necessary capital for infrastructure provision.

Given the Authority's commitment to the application of a viable Smartcard system to all aspects of public transport operation in Tyne and Wear and its environs as soon as possible and in particular to the Concessionary Travel Scheme at the earliest opportunity, he proposed that the issues involved such as the identification of precise requirements, preparation of a valid business case, partnership, contractual and financial arrangements and procurement proposals, be pursued with vigour by the relevant Officers.

While public transport was seen as the key application for such a card the multi-application potential to link with a range of other local authority and commercial functions would require detailed consultations with the five district councils and with all public transport operators providing services in and to the County. He would therefore be writing to the Leaders on that basis. Also, as part of the DISTINCT project's development, a seminar on multi-application Smartcards was to be held in Newcastle on 19th March 1998 which would facilitate wider discussion on the possibilities.

RESOLVED – That the Chairman's proposals as outlined above be approved and that all Members be authorised to attend the Smartcard Seminar on Thursday, 19th March 1998.

109. PASSENGER SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED – That the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Passenger Services Committee held on 10th February 1998 be received and, arising therefrom as recommended in the accompanying Reports of the Director General:

(a) Public Art on Public Transport

the Authority's previous policy decision of 25th July 1996 be varied so as to provide that the amount available for the Percent for Art initiative be clarified as being one percent of the overall capital allocation for relevant projects and that the Passenger Services Committee be authorised to determine which individual projects will best benefit from art input.

(b) South Shields Shopmobility Scheme

That, in order to facilitate the creation of a Shopmobility Scheme in South Shields Town Centre:

- (i) a conditional donation of £20,000 in the current financial year be made by Nexus to the Scheme which will be met from within the overall Rail and Network Accessibility Budget for 1997/98 and funded via the reimbursement of the donation originally made to the Newcastle Shopmobility Scheme;
- (ii) a lease by Nexus to Shopmobility of part of the former goods yard adjacent to the proposed WHIST building on appropriate terms and conditions be negotiated for its use as a car park for the Scheme; and
- (iii) the commitment to the Newcastle Shopmobility Project within the 1998/99 financial year should a viable scheme be developed be reaffirmed.

(c) Sunderland Quality Transport Partnership

the proposed Quality Transport Partnership agreement between the PTA, Nexus, Sunderland City Council, Stagecoach Busways, the Go-Ahead Group (North East) and Northumbria Police be approved and signed by the Chairman of the Authority.

110. TYNE TUNNEL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED – That the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Tyne Tunnel Operations Committee held on 13th February 1998 be received.

111. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES: BOARD NOMINATIONS

RESOLVED – That the advice of the Local Government Association and the regional local authority nominations subsequently put forward for Tyne and Wear as detailed in the circulated Report of the Clerk be noted and, arising therefrom, that the Authority's previous request for membership of the North of England Assembly be reiterated.

112. LGA TRANSPORT COMMITTEE: REPORT OF DELEGATE

RESOLVED – That the circulated Report on proceedings at the LGA Transport Committee held in London on 5th February 1998 and attended by Councillor Marshall be noted.

113. LOCAL AUTHORITIES (CONTRACTS) REGULATIONS 1997: DELEGATION

RESOLVED – That, as recommended in the circulated Report of the Clerk, the Treasurer be authorised to sign certificates under Regulation 7 of the Local Authorities (Contracts) Regulations 1997 on behalf of the Authority and that approval be given to the amended Scheme of Delegations to Officers.

114. LGA ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE 1998

RESOLVED – That the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and the Leader of the Opposition or their nominees be authorised to attend the above Annual Meeting and Conference to be held in Bournemouth during 7th-10th July 1998.

115. FARES REVIEW 1998/99

RESOLVED – That, as recommended in the circulated Report of the Director General, approval be given to revised fares for Metro, Ferry and Rail services between Sunderland and Newcastle effective from Sunday, 29th March 1998.

116. SUNDERLAND METRO: PUBLIC INQUIRY

Submitted: Report of the Director General and the Project Director advising of the conclusion of the public Inquiry into the proposals for the Sunderland Metro project.

At the suggestion of Councillor Holt, the Authority recorded its appreciation of the work of all those involved in the process, particularly Geoff Brindle, Secretary and Solicitor for Nexus and Ken Mackay Project Director. Responding, Mr. Mackay also noted the significant and much valued contribution made by former Councillor Malcolm Qualie who had tirelessly championed the concept during his membership of the PTA from October 1985 until his untimely death last year.

RESOLVED – That the Report be noted.

117. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1997/98-2000/01

RESOLVED – That, as recommended in the circulated joint Report of the Treasurer and Nexus, the latest position on the Capital Programme for 1997/98 be noted and that approval be given to the revised programme for 1998/99 onwards to be funded in accordance with para 3.3.

118. MILLENNIUM: PROPOSED ADDITIONAL BANK HOLIDAY

RESOLVED – That the Local Government Association be advised that there is no objection in principle to an additional Bank Holiday on Friday, 31st December 1999 in connection with the Millennium.