



Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Authority

Minutes of the 164th meeting of the PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
17TH DECEMBER 1998
(10.30 a.m. - 10.53 a.m.)

2

PRESENT:

Councillor E.H.R. Holt in the Chair

Councillors Bate, Bohill, Green, Hanson, Hodgson, Keating, McElroy, Mulgrove, Spring, Wood and Young.

IN ATTENDANCE

J.F. Miller, K.R. Mackay, B. Middleton, M. Buckingham and S. Wilson.

Representing Nexus

M.J. Parker, G. Brindle, T. McCrady, B.G. Garner, I. Clayton, P. Lawson, E. Pearson and J. Meagher.

Also present

R.C. Burgess and S.J. Nugent.

88. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Flynn, Marshall and Ord.

89. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th November 1998 be confirmed and signed as a correct record, it having been noted that work had since commenced on the refurbishment of Longbenton Station and that CCTV cameras were now operative at Bede Station which had resulted in an arrest having been made.

90. PASSENGER SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Passenger Services Committee held on 1st December 1998 be received, the Head of Operations having updated Members regarding the latest position on services proposed for New Year's Eve as per the tabled leaflet.

91. TYNE TUNNEL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Tyne Tunnel Operations Committee held on 3rd December 1998 be received and, arising therefrom, that subject to the consent of the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions in accordance with Section 13(1)(a)(ii) of the Tyne and Wear Act 1976, the toll for Class 3 vehicles (motor cars and light vans) be increased from 75p to 80p.

92. NEW TYNE CROSSING: ST. PETER'S SCHOOL, FERRY STREET, JARROW

RESOLVED - That, as recommended in the circulated Report of the Engineer, approval in principle be given to the acquisition of St. Peter's School, Ferry Street, Jarrow and that he be authorised to commission advance design works from South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council in respect of the replacement proposals up to a ceiling of £30,000 with such expenditure being met from Tunnel Reserves.

93. EUROPEAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

RESOLVED - That the role of Nexus in leading on the SWITCH and GENESIS projects as summarised in the circulated Report of the Director General be noted.

94. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROCESS

RESOLVED - That, as recommended in the circulated Report of the Director General, the draft guidance on the preparation of local transport plans be noted and that a seminar for Members on the subject be held on Wednesday, 20th January 1999 at 1.30 a.m.

95. REPLACEMENT OF ROAD/RAIL VEHICLE FOR OVERHEAD LINE MAINTENANCE

RESOLVED - That, as recommended in the circulated Report of the Director General, approval be given to the release of £140,000 from the Repairs and Renewals Budget in respect of the acquisition of a replacement Road/Rail Vehicle for overhead line maintenance with such expenditure being phased £83,000 in 1998/99 and £57,000 in 1999/2000 as provided in the Capital Programme and financed from Loan or Reserves as appropriate.

96. RESTAURANT DEVELOPMENT AT HAYMARKET METRO STATION

RESOLVED - That, as recommended in the circulated Report of the Director General, approval be given to the disposal by means of competitive tender for a term of 125 years of the leasehold interest of Nexus in the airspace above Haymarket Metro Station to facilitate the construction of a restaurant/bar.

97. SUNDERLAND METRO: PROJECT UPDATE

The Director General reported that the Minister of State for Transport had today announced that the Sunderland Metro had been provisionally accepted as part of the Local Transport Settlement for 1999-2000 and that £1.5m had been allocated to take the project forward. A Press Conference on this was to be held later that morning in Sunderland.

While it had been the intention to promote the scheme through the Private Finance Initiative, the Government had now advised that the level of risk transfer envisaged was considered insufficient to meet the required criteria. It was now proposed to develop alternative arrangements with Railtrack. Assuming that these could be concluded satisfactorily and that European funding of £15m could be secured, it was anticipated that work on site could commence by this time next year.

Noting the presence of Roy Burgess who had chaired the Authority for several years when the extension was being planned, Councillor Holt welcomed the Government announcement and its implications for the Region. The good news was however tinged with sadness in that the late Councillors Malcolm Qualie and Ned Murray could not also have been at today's meeting. The Authority joined with him in placing on record an appreciation of the work of all those involved in bringing matters to the present stage.

RESOLVED – That the position be noted.

98. 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.

99. GATESHEAD METROCENTRE: PLANNING APPLICATION

The Report of the Director General was withdrawn with the consent of the Authority.