



Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Authority

Minutes of 191st Meeting of the Passenger Transport Authority

28 February 2002

116 **NEW TYNE CROSSING: ORDER UNDER THE TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT 1992 (“TWA”)**

Submitted: Report of the Engineer to the Tunnels (copies attached to Official Minutes).

J Miller introduced the report which requested the Authority to formally resolve, pursuant to Section 239 Local Government Act 1972, as applied by Section 20 of the TWA, to apply for an Order to authorise the construction of the New Tyne Crossing.

R Thurlow (Regional Director, Arup) then gave a detailed presentation covering the comparison of the Immersed Tube solution for the New Tyne Crossing with the Bored Tunnel alternative.

Following the presentation a member commented on the problems associated with the current tunnel, which was the only part of the A19 which was not dualled and had proved to be a bottle neck, causing unnecessary air pollution for those living nearby. The current arrangements hampered any potential expansion in terms of job opportunities and made it difficult for people from South Tyneside to access areas such as the Silverlink Trading Estate via the A19 corridor. She saw the new tunnel as essential in terms of alleviating current traffic congestion. She referred to the PTA's aim to encourage greater use of public transport including buses, metro and cycles. At the moment the current arrangements were a deterrent to public transport with only two buses per hour using the tunnel. She expressed the view that all the evidence pointed to the Immersed Tube being the safest and most financially viable option. She asked that when the report was finalised more emphasis should be put on the sections relating to social inclusion and public transport. She hoped that local people and organisations would write in support of the new tunnel and that there would be further widespread public consultation. She recommended the Immersed Tube option.

A member pointed out that a new tunnel was important not only for residents from North and South Tyneside, but for the whole region. It would provide an additional link for people from Sunderland to travel to employment in the North Tyneside area and should be seen as a regional opportunity.

A member commented on the importance of the tunnel as an investment for the future of people from South Tyneside, particularly in terms of employment opportunities.

A member referred to the importance of people being aware of the environmental risks and how they would be minimised.

The Chair agreed that the new tunnel was necessary in view of the local traffic congestion. The bridges between Newcastle and Gateshead were already at capacity in terms of traffic and this would assist in alleviating this congestion. In response to a query, J Miller confirmed that all the strategic links across the Tyne, the A19, A1 and bridges were all at capacity and this was causing problems throughout the day.

RESOLVED - That the Authority:-

- (i) noted the previous advice received from officers and external advisers, together with the information contained in the report of the Engineer to the Tunnels;
- (ii) noted and considered the salient features and effects of proceeding with either of the alternative tunnelling solutions as set out in the report and accompanying confidential report;
- (iii) having given due regard to both engineering solutions for the New Tyne Crossing, resolved to proceed with the Immersed Tube solution;
- (iv) authorise the Engineer to the Tyne Tunnels to submit an application to the Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions for the making of an Order under the Transport and Works Act 1992, addressing the matters set out in the notice convening this meeting, a copy of which could be found at Appendix A to the officer's report;
- (v) authorise the Engineers to the Tyne Tunnels to instruct the Arup Consortium to take all necessary steps to secure the grant of the Order, subject to the matters contained in paragraph 2.1(vi) of the report to the Authority dated 31 May 2001 and those contained in the report to the Authority dated 26 July 2001 (for copies – see Official Minutes);
- (vi) subject and without prejudice to paragraph (iv) above to authorise the Engineer to the Tyne Tunnels to instruct Messrs Herbert Smith and/or Messrs Dickinson Dees, members of the Arup Consortium, to give all or any notices and take all necessary convenient and/or expedient steps to promote the application referred to in paragraph 2(iv) above as Solicitor to or agent of the Authority;
- (vii) noted that it would be necessary after the TWA application had been made for this decision to be confirmed at a future meeting of the Authority of which special notice would be given and authorisation would be given to the Acting Clerk to publish such notice.

117 **NEW TYNE CROSSING: DISCRETIONARY PURCHASE OF LAND IN ADVANCE**

Submitted: Report of the Engineer to the Tyne Tunnels (copy attached to Official Minutes).

P Fenwick introduced the report which presented a scheme by which the Authority could in certain circumstances decide to acquire property not needed for the New Tyne Crossing Scheme. He outlined the guidelines in detail.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to the New Tyne Crossing discretionary purchase scheme as set out in paragraph 1 Appendix A to the report, subject to the Engineer to the Tyne Tunnels having delegated powers to agree with Arup a suitable threshold for the effect of noise upon the enjoyment of property.

118 **CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS IN RELATION TO BEST VALUE REVIEWS AND STANDARDS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Submitted: Report of the Acting Clerk (copies attached to Official Minutes).

RESOLVED - That the following appointments be confirmed.

(a) **Best Value Reviews**

Fundamental Performance Reviews to be carried out in Year 3

Service Reviews

Ferry

Travel Information

Cross Cutting Reviews

Integration

Personal Security and Safety

Nomination

Councillor MA Green

Councillor D Wood

Nomination

Councillor TD Marshall

Councillor JS Green

(b) **Standards and Audit Committee**

Labour Group - Councillors Spring, Thompson and Glindon

Opposition - Councillors Ord and P Wood

Plus at least 2 Independent Members one of whom will be Chair.