



The Region's Transport Authority

Meeting: Capital Projects Committee
Subject: Minutes
Date: Monday 17 May 2010 at 11:00am

PRESENT: Councillors Adams (Chairman), Hartley, Horton, Longhi, McNicholas, Mills, Richards, Sidhu, Ward, Wilkes and Williams.

An apology was received from Councillor Hughes.

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

PART II - DELEGATED MATTERS

304/09 Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman explained that this additional meeting was convened because it was thought that there was a significant period of time between the last meeting of this committee and the next scheduled meeting (March 2010 and then July 2010), and during that time it was expected that there would be a significant amount of progress to report to members relating to on-going projects and schemes.

305/09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2010 were confirmed, and signed by the Chairman, as a correct record.

306/09 2010/11 Capital Monitoring Report

The committee considered a report of the Finance Director informing members of the current status of significant capital programme projects that were currently being reviewed through the Programme Delivery Review Group.

Councillor Longhi referred to the implementation of the Ring and Ride Tablet PC project and explained that the introduction of a computerised scheduling system, which during 2010/2011 would include the introduction of on-vehicle tablet PCs and vehicle tracking systems' would bring a number of benefits to the user.

In addition to the 2010/11 Capital Programme, Councillor Longhi noted that the report also highlighted Centro's major accomplishments since the previous meeting of this committee.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the progress of the projects be noted; and
- (2) the Ring and Ride Tablet PC project be approved to proceed to implementation.

307/09 Midland Metro; Birmingham City Centre Extension and Fleet Replacement - Progress Report

The committee considered a report of the Finance Director which provided an update on the recent progress of the development of the Midland Metro Extension into Birmingham city centre and the associated fleet replacement (including extension of the existing Wednesbury depot facilities).

Since the submission of the business case, discussions with the Department for Transport had been ongoing. This led to the granting of Programme Entry for the scheme. Programme Entry was recognition that the Department for Transport accepted the merit of the scheme and confirmed approval to progress to the Conditional Approval stage of scheme development. The Chairman added that Centro was also discussing procurement activities with the Department for Transport for the replacement tram fleet.

In terms of the procurement route to be adopted for the replacement tram fleet, Councillor Horton explained that the performance of the current tram network was exceptional and therefore could Centro investigate the possibility of purchasing additional trams as an alternative to replacing the entire tram fleet. The Chairman said that this option had been reviewed, however there was also a capacity issue that needed to be considered. The committee noted Councillor Horton's comments.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the progress in obtaining the full funding for the extension into Birmingham city centre and for replacing the tram fleet be noted;
- (2) the progress made on progressing advance works, which would be reported to this committee through the standard capital project reporting mechanism, be noted; and
- (3) once the Conditional Approval had been received from the Department for Transport and timescales for the delivery of the extension finalised, a further progress report on the development of the Midland Metro Extension into Birmingham city centre and the fleet replacement be submitted to this committee.

308/09 Smartcard

The committee considered a report of the Finance Director that provided an update of the progress on Smartcard.

Centro's Smartcard project had put in place the back office infrastructure systems and processes to support the operation of Smartcard on the West Midlands' buses and trams. Working with Parkeon, the supplier of the electronic ticket machines, the current priority for Centro was ensuring that the Wayfarer 200 Electronic Ticket Machine was fully suitable and ready for deployment onto the bus network.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

309/09 Future Reports to Committee

The committee considered a report of the Chief Executive on items of business to be reported to a future meeting of this committee.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

310/09 Motion to Exclude the Public

RESOLVED that under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that the items involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of that Act, in particular those paragraphs of Part I of the schedule as indicated below:

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Relevant Paragraph of Part I Schedule 12A</u>
31109	Smartcard Project Rollout Plan	3

311/09 Smartcard Project Rollout Plan

The committee received a presentation from the Smartcard Development and Implementation Manager on the current position in relation to the rollout of the Smartcard project. This item was discussed further to the exclusion of the public, as set out in minute no. 310/09 above.

The Smartcard Development and Implementation Manager explained that Centro was looking at an aggressive smartcard rollout plan and had envisaged all buses to go 'live' by the end of the autumn 2010. Further to the last meeting of this committee, National Express West Midlands had now agreed the rollout dates identified within in the schedule.

In respect of the rollout dates, the Smartcard Development and Implementation Manager noted that if a garage was experiencing any problems which affected their scheduled date, then Centro would consider a mid-week rollout or the garage in question would be relocated to the end of the schedule.

In respect of the smartcard trial on the National Express West Midlands' no. 50 route, the Smartcard Development and Implementation Manager explained that minor improvements had been identified which Centro was currently implementing.

Centro was in discussions with smaller bus operators that were currently not apart of the project to encourage their engagement. The Smartcard Development and Implementation Manager explained that there was no statutory requirement for bus operators to join the project, however it was thought that as smartcard had now been rolled out the smaller operators would possibly be prepared to join the project.

Councillor Horton enquired about the smaller bus operators that had not joined the project and asked whether concessionary passes would be accepted as a flash pass on their vehicles. The Smartcard Development and Implementation Manager confirmed that permits would be accepted as a flash card.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

[The meeting ended at 11.25am]

CHAIRMAN