

**WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**

**AT A MEETING OF THE WAKEFIELD PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE  
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, WAKEFIELD  
ON THURSDAY 9 JULY 2009**

**PRESENT:** Councillor G Phelps (Chair)

**WYITA**

M Walker

**PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES**

Karen Barkley  
Pauline Blackburn  
Christine Carter

John Churms  
Michael Dalton

**WAKEFIELD MDC**

R Halliday  
L Harrison  
D Hopkins  
B Smith

**Also in attendance:**

S Anguige	-	Arriva Yorkshire
A Wood	-	Arriva Yorkshire
D Haley	-	Northern

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K Rhodes and public representatives Barbara Darlison, Brenda Fruish and Dennis Pattinson.

**2. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2009 be approved.

**3. MEMBER FEEDBACK**

The Committee considered a report advising members of the feedback received at the meeting of the Committee held on 2 April 2009 and to report the action taken.

## **2009 Market Research Programme**

Following suggestions from members, additional questions had been added to the survey and the sample size for the telephone survey had been increased. The questionnaire had also been made available on the Metro web site. Results of the survey were expected in the near future and would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

## **Hospital Appointment Times**

It was noted that due to the centralising of services at different hospitals, Metro had been liaising with Primary Care Trusts and health organisations about patients and staff being able to access health facilities across the District. It was reported that in particular, links to hospitals were being considered and additional funding had been provided for evening services to some hospitals such as Dewsbury.

**RESOLVED** - That the report be noted

## **4. INFORMATION REPORT**

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on information regarding current developments and issues affecting the Wakefield District.

### **Bus Service Changes**

The Committee was updated on the forthcoming service reductions, details of which were incorporated in the Changing Times leaflet that had been circulated to members. Concern was expressed that Stagecoach were withdrawing the evening service via Broad Lane, South Elmsall although Metro would continue to fund the daytime service. It was reported that planning permission had been granted for a housing development in the area and it was suggested that this information be passed to Stagecoach with a request to review their decision. In the interim, Metro would investigate whether a reduced evening tendered service could be provided on a use it or lose it basis.

### **English National Concessionary Travel Scheme – Replacement Passes**

It was reported that since the introduction of ENCS Passes in April 2008, over 12,000 passes had been lost and replaced. Several Travel Concessions Authorities (TCAs) made a charge for replacing passes and Metro was therefore to introduce a £5 fee for the replacement of a lost pass to cover the cost of producing a new one and to encourage people to be more careful with them. Members asked Metro to consider retaining the current rate for the replacement of Schoolcard passes.

### **Zone 6 and 7 Tickets**

Members noted the recent launch of Zone 6 and 7 rail tickets. These allowed rail travellers in Harrogate or Skipton to save money with onward train travel within West Yorkshire. It was clarified that the tickets were a rail only card and work was ongoing to develop proposals for expanding the new zonal tickets to other areas within the Leeds City Region.

### **Kickstart**

It was reported that the Department for Transport had announced a new round of Kickstart bids. Metro had prepared two bids of which one was an innovative partnership with Arriva in including the potential for developing Park and Ride operation in Wakefield. The outcome of the bids would be known in the Autumn.

### **Pontefract Monkhill and Sandal & Agbrigg Car Park Improvements**

It was reported that Metro had recently commissioned Northern to undertake outline feasibility and design work on the car park extension at Pontefract Monkhill station. It was anticipated that the improvements, which would include CCTV and improved lighting, would be completed by 2012.

Members were advised that due to site conditions and restrictions, together with Network Rail's operational requirements, it was unlikely that the proposals to enlarge the car park at Sandal & Agbrigg rail station would proceed. Consideration was being given to removing the scheme from the Leeds City Region Rail Growth Package.

### **Moorthorpe Rail Station Car Park**

Councillor Harrison advised the meeting of difficulties in parking at Moorthorpe Rail Station caused by flooding. It was agreed that Metro would investigate and advise Councillor Harrison of which agency was responsible to address the issue.

### **World Cup 2018**

It was reported Leeds had been selected by the Football Association to be one of 15 cities invited to bid to become a host for the World Cup 2018. Transport links to and around the Leeds City Region would be a major feature of the bid and Metro was working with partners to develop transport proposals for the event. If the bid were successful it could benefit all Districts in West Yorkshire.

**RESOLVED** - That the report be noted.

5. **CONSULTATION ITEMS -**
- (a) Sustainable Cities Bid**
  - (b) Rural Bus Shelters**
  - (c) Realtime Voicesserver**
  - (e) Future Local Rail Timetable Development**

### **Sustainable Cities Bid**

It was reported that the Government had recently announced details of a competition to fund a sustainable travel cities project. It was noted that Metro was working with partners to develop a funding bid centred on Leeds which had to be submitted to the Department for Transport by mid July. Members were given a short presentation on the draft bid and proposed programme and their views were sought on the proposal.

The following comments were made:

- The time limit for submission to the Department for Transport should be challenged
- There was a need for legislation to ban motor cars from certain areas of the city
- Members welcomed the idea of including additional FreeCityBus services in the bid
- The bid should promote and encourage walking
- The Government should be lobbied to subsidise rail fares. Comment was made that ticket prices were high and in many cases it was cheaper to travel by car if there was more than one passenger
- Cyclists should be encouraged to use trains
- The bid should promote safer cycling measures/driver awareness
- The bid should promote community transport tailored to people's needs and requests.

Members were thanked for their suggestions and were advised that the bid was focussed on what was currently available and how it could be enhanced.

### **Rural Bus Shelters**

The Committee was advised that one of the targets in the Local Transport Plan 2 was that 95% of the shelters in West Yorkshire would be upgraded to meet modern standards by 2011. There were 4,500 bus shelters in West Yorkshire and the current criteria for the provision of a shelter was that it must have 50 boarding passengers per day. However, it was acknowledged that it was not possible to meet this criteria in many rural areas. Members were given a short presentation and their views were sought on Metro's proposals to develop a rural bus shelter programme. They were also asked to consider several aspects including:

- What criteria should be used for rural shelters eg. should there be a shelter in every village?
- How important is lighting in a rural shelter?

- What type of structure and what materials should be used eg. wood, brick, glass etc?
- How often the shelter should be cleaned eg. would less than the current 2 weekly cycle be acceptable?

Comment was made that unless there was a good reason not to, each village should be provided with a bus shelter. Members requested details of the designs/types of shelters available as it was considered important that they were suitable for their surroundings. With regard to cleaning, it was possible that cleaning could be less frequent. It was suggested that consideration could perhaps be given to someone in the area being made responsible for cleaning and reporting damage to the shelter (in a similar way to the Station Adoption Scheme operated by Northern Rail). It was recognised that this might not be possible in some areas.

Members were asked to forward any further suggestions on the questionnaire provided at the meeting.

### **Realtime Voice Server**

The Committee was given a short presentation on the development of the YourNextBus Automated Voice System. It was reported that the voice server would allow users to call a number, type in their stop number and have the real time information read out to them. The system was currently being tested and, depending on the feedback, would be rolled out over the next few months.

Members welcomed the development and they were asked to test the system and pass any comments to Metro, including how it could be promoted to the public.

### **Future Local Rail Timetable Development**

Mr Haley of Northern Rail briefed members on the process for the development of their rail timetables.

It was reported that work had commenced on compiling the December 2010 timetable and members were asked to provide Northern or Metro with any ideas, suggestions or aspirations which could be evaluated as part of the timetable process. In particular, their views on enhancements to Sunday services would be welcome.

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to put forward their ideas and it was suggested that a Huddersfield – York service via Wakefield, Normanton and Castleford be considered.

Members were thanked for their suggestions to all the consultation items and asked to forward any further ideas or comments on the questionnaire provided at the meeting or by email to [erica.ward@wypte.gov.uk](mailto:erica.ward@wypte.gov.uk).

**RESOLVED** - That PCC members' feedback and views be noted.