

**WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**

**AT A MEETING OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT WORKING  
GROUP HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON  
WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2009**

**PRESENT:** Councillor P Wadsworth (Chair)

Councillors C Campbell, S Khan and G Lowe

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Firth and C Greaves.

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no personal or prejudicial interests declared by members at the meeting.

**3. MINUTES**

Further to minute 14, Low Carbon Demonstration Project, it was reported that the Regional Transport Board had not approved funding for the project and therefore the scheme could not be progressed. However Metro was considering other opportunities for reducing CO2 emissions in the public transport sector.

These included the possibility of submitting a bid to the Department for Transport (DfT) who had recently announced a Green Bus Fund which was available to cover additional costs for new, low emission vehicles. It was noted that discussions had been held with Optare who had manufactured a battery operated Solo vehicle which might be suitable for use on FreeCityBus services. Metro had discussed this option with the local bus operators and it was noted that should they wish to proceed, the DfT required bids by November 2009.

It was noted that the DfT had altered the way Bus Services Operators Grant (BSOG) was paid as an incentive for operators to introduce ways in which to reduce their fuel consumption. One option was for monitors to be installed on vehicles to register how the bus was being driven as this affected fuel consumption. It was suggested that in order to encourage the operators to take up this initiative, the ITA could consider the possibility of arranging loans for the purchase of the equipment.

The Working Group were also advised of the development of a European Union funding submission to work with a range of partners to explore means of reducing CO2 emissions in the public transport sector.

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2009 be approved.

#### **4. NEW GENERATION TRANSPORT**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which provided an update on progress made on the development of the New Generation Transport (NGT) proposals.

It was anticipated that an NGT Major Scheme Business Case (MSBC) was to be submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) in October 2009 and would present the Preferred, Next Best and Low Cost Options for NGT which were summarised in the submitted report. A report would be prepared for the meeting of the ITA to be held on 25 September 2009 and a summary of the MSBC would be circulated to members when it became available.

Members were updated on the second phase of NGT consultation which had been held from June to early September 2009. Public exhibitions were held on each of the NGT routes and a questionnaire was distributed as part of the exercise which had also been available on the NGT website. Over 2,300 completed forms had been received and analysis of the questionnaires was ongoing although early indications demonstrated high levels of support for the proposals in general. However a number of issues had been raised which were being investigated further and these included the potential impact of the scheme on Cinder Moor/Woodhouse Moor and also on cycling facilities. Appropriate mitigation measures are being developed.

It was noted that following completion of the MSBC, work would be concentrated on the preparation of a Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) for submission in March 2010. Further reports on the progress of the NGT proposals would be prepared for future meetings of the Working Group.

**RESOLVED -**

- (a)** That the report be noted.
- (b)** That the Working Group endorse the proposed submission of the NGT Major Scheme Business Case to the DfT in October 2009, subject to further consideration of more detailed information on the content of the MSBC by the full ITA at their meeting to be held on 25 September 2009.

## 5. CITY REGION TRANSPORT STRATEGY

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which provided an update on the ongoing development of a City Region Transport Strategy, City Region Forerunner Proposition and City Region DaSTS Connectivity Study.

Members were given a presentation on the City Region Transport Strategy. Members were advised that City Region partners in conjunction with consultants, Arup, had developed and confirmed the emerging spatial priorities and were refining possible interventions to take forward into a Delivery Action Plan. Local and internal engagement had been carried out by city region authorities and, where appropriate, with Local Strategic Partnerships. This would allow any further modifications to be made in September for the Connectivity Partnership and Transport Panel. A stakeholder event would be held in September to enable wider engagement with transport users and providers, business and other city region groups. An early draft of the Strategy had been produced by Arup and a copy of their presentation was attached at Appendix A to the submitted report. It was anticipated that the completed strategy would be presented to the City Region Leaders Board for approval at their meeting to be held on 8 October 2009.

It was noted that more flexible funding arrangements to deliver the Strategy were a key component of the city region forerunner transport proposition currently being negotiated with Government.

The DfT had indicated that it would fund a Leeds City Region DaSTS Connectivity Study and it was intended that this would form part of the implementation plan for the Leeds City Transport Strategy. A draft brief was being developed by City Region partners for discussion with the DfT and a progress report would be prepared for a future meeting of the Group.

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