

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE BRADFORD PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE HELD AT CITY HALL, BRADFORD ON
FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER 2008**

PRESENT: Councillor A Hawkesworth (Chair)

WYPTA

C Greaves
S Khan
D Robinson

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Michael Chappell
Lynette Gooderham-Fickés
Andrew Jewsbury
Graham Peacock
John Prestage

Rev Geoff Reid
John Spencer
Chris Walters
Andrew Wowk

BRADFORD MDC

Councillor S Hussain
Councillor J Watmough

Also in Attendance:

| | | |
|-----------|---|----------------------------|
| S Ottley | - | Arriva Yorkshire |
| K Hussain | - | First Bradford |
| G Lomax | - | Keighley & District Travel |

6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor A Wallace and public representative Keith Renshaw.

7. MINUTES

Further to Minute 4 - Connecting Airedale - The Chair advised that the recent meeting of the Regional Transport Board had given the project an 'amber light'. A positive review of the initiative, particularly with regard to funding, would be put forward to the next meeting of the Regional Transport Board in November.

Mr Chappell advised the Committee that a petition regarding access arrangements at Shipley rail station had been collated and would be presented to Metro, through Councillor Watmough, who was a member of the Shipley Area Committee, in the very near future.

Further to Minute 4 - Proposed new Rail Station at Low Moor - Councillor Robinson advised the Committee that the issue of a rail station at Low Moor would be discussed as an agenda item at the next meeting of the Environment and Waste Management Improvement Committee in October 2008.

Further to Minute 4 - Customer Behaviour on Trains/Buses - Mr Peacock gave thanks to Northern for the installation of notices in rail carriages asking passengers to refrain from putting their feet on the seats. However, he expressed disappointment at the fact that he had heard only one announcement from the conductor to reinforce this request.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2008 be approved.

8. MEMBER FEEDBACK REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive advising them of the feedback received at the meeting of the Committee held on 18 July 2008 and to report on action taken.

Access to Hospitals

Mr Chappell commended the positive impact of Service 629 in improving transport links to Bradford Royal Infirmary. A suggestion to extend the operation of the service to Sundays would be considered as part of the planned review in the autumn.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

9. INFORMATION REPORT

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

Bus Service Change Dates 2009

Members were advised of the service change dates for 2009, which had been agreed with the bus operators.

Bus Services of the Christmas and New Year Period

The Committee was advised of the arrangements for bus service provision over the Christmas and New Year holiday period. It was reported that following the success of the pilot scheme in 2007, some bus services would be provided on Boxing Day on certain routes to Leeds and Huddersfield with additional services linking Shipley, Cleckheaton, Castleford and Pontefract with Leeds. The White Rose Centre, Birstall Park and Junction 32 Park would also be served.

Comment was made about the football match at Valley Parade on Sunday 28 December 2008 and the need to take this into account when determining the holiday bus services in that area.

Bradford FreeCityBus

Members were advised that following the launch of the Bradford FreeCityBus on 29 September 2008 the service had been very well received by passengers. Passenger numbers had steadily increased each day with over 1,500 people currently using the service. Members welcomed the effectiveness and efficiency of the service, in particular the cross city link between the Forster Square and Bradford Interchange.

Wharfedale Bus Services

Members were informed that a map of bus services in the Otley, Ilkley, Menston and Guiseley areas had been produced in partnership with the Otley "Walkers are Welcome" group. The map displayed walking routes in the Otley area and would be extensively distributed in the area to promote bus travel throughout Wharfedale. Copies of the leaflet were circulated to members at the meeting.

Mybus Report

The Committee noted that since the inception of the scheme 4 years ago there was now 150 vehicles in operation carrying over 9,000 pupils to 78 primary, 52 secondary and 2 SEN schools. The positive results of the scheme, which included improved pupil behaviour and a reduction in bullying, were outlined to members. In this regard, it was reported that the scheme had worked particularly well at Feversham High School. The results were also reflected in the national Yellow School Bus Commission's final report.

English National Concessions Scheme

It was noted that over 340,000 passes had been issued and that Metro was procuring a new system to support future card management/production. It was reported that there was an ongoing publicity campaign reminding people of the need to obtain a new ENCS pass.

Regional Funding Allocations

Members were advised that the Regional Transport Board (RTB) had completed its interim review of the RFA and over £100m of new schemes had been prioritised for the Leeds City Region. Details of the schemes were outlined in paragraph 2.23 of the submitted report.

Leeds - Settle - Carlisle Winter Offer 2008/09

It was noted that the special winter offer was open to concessionary and MetroCard holders and would run from 4 November 2008 until 13 February 2009 weekdays only.

Mill Lane Junction, Bradford

It was noted that Network Rail was proposing to carry out a complete reconstruction of the railway junction at Mill Lane, Bradford. Members were

advised of the dates that the work would affect services running into Bradford Interchange and full details of the alternative travel arrangements would be published in Metro's Changing Times leaflet. A special timetable booklet would also be produced and would be available at staffed rail stations along the route or online. It was also stated that clear signage would be erected at stations and information made available for passengers using the replacement bus services.

Travel for Work Project

Members noted that since the 3 year project commenced in April 2007 over 1,100 jobseekers had been provided with individual journey plans and free monthly MetroCards to assist them to commute to work. The project had also been successful in reducing work related CO2 emissions through the West Yorkshire Travel Plan Network.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

10. **CONSULTATION ITEMS -**
(a) Metro's Journey Planner
(b) Local Transport Plan Review

Metro's Journey Planner

The Committee received a short presentation regarding Metro's electronic journey planner. It was explained that the journey planner was to be reviewed and members' views were sought on customer expectations for its future development.

A copy of a questionnaire was circulated at the meeting and members were asked to identify the most important and useful feature in a journey planner. Suggestions included the option of choosing various routes, such as the quickest and the shortest, as well as incorporating routes/directions relating to special events, for example, the Yorkshire Show at Harrogate. It was also suggested that, in order to avoid passenger confusion, the journey planner should incorporate details of where buses stopped on routes served by more than one service. It was noted that route information was already incorporated within certain pocket bus timetables. It was Metro's intention to incorporate this information within all pocket timetables and also within roadside displays.

Local Transport Plan Review

Members received a presentation, which provided a brief introduction into the requirements and process for the mid term review of the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan.

Members were given the opportunity to provide input and feedback on key issues of LTP strategy and delivery and were asked to contact Metro with any suggestions or comments. In this respect, members noted the success in improving and increasing rail travel, but expressed concern at the lack of car

parking at rail stations and the effect of overspill of parking into residential areas, particularly within the Wharfedale area. Comment was also made regarding the need for better access to the Airedale hospital on Sundays from Keighley.

Members were thanked for their suggestions to the consultation items and asked to forward any further ideas or comments on the form provided at the meeting.

RESOLVED - That PCC members' comments and views be noted.