

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE LEEDS PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS
ON MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2006**

PRESENT: Councillor D Schofield (Chair)

WYPTA

J Akhtar
D Blackburn
R Downes
J Lewis
P Wadsworth

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Janice Dinsdale
Vera Foster
John Gallagher
Philip Good

Joyce Hutt
Rosemary Keenoy
Frank Priestley
Judith Rhodes
Eric Smith

Also in attendance:-

S Graham - First Leeds
S Bear - Arriva

7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hyde and Jarosz and public representatives David Bowcock, Jennifer Boden, Barbara Kay, Janet Latham, Lucie Middlemiss, Anne Rayner, Ann Stocks, Mr Leslie, TSSA and David Mallender of TransPennine Express.

8. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2005 be approved.

9. 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 10 October 2005.

Members were reminded that individual detailed matters could be raised with Metro officers at the close of the meeting.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

10. INFORMATION REPORT

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

Service Changes

Members received a copy of the Changing Times leaflet at the meeting which gave details of the bus service changes that would be introduced on 30 January 2006.

Public representative, Mrs Hutt, handed a petition regarding the proposed withdrawal of Service 169 to Mr Bear of Arriva Yorkshire and Metro at the meeting.

Bus Companies – Changes of Ownership

It was reported that Stagecoach Group plc had acquired the Traction Group Ltd, which was the parent company of Yorkshire Traction and the Blazefield Group (which included Keighley & District Travel, Harrogate & District Travel and Yorkshire Coastliner) had been sold to Transdev.

Realtime – YourNextBus

It was noted that feedback from customers using the system had been positive and all PCC members had been invited to attend a demonstration of the Realtime system at Wellington House, Leeds on 2 February 2006.

Free Travel Concessions Update

Members were advised that with effect from April 2006, free travel would be provided for men and women over 60 and certain categories of disabled people. The concessions would apply between 0930 and 2300 hours but would apply to bus journeys only within the area of the authority. It was noted that the PTA would be considering arrangements for rail and cross-boundary journeys as part of its budgeting process for 2006/7.

LTP Settlement

The Committee were advised of the positive feedback received from the DfT on the progress made in delivering the first Plan during 2004/5 and it was reported that the LTP partnership had been awarded a 5% funding bonus for 2006/7 based on a 'good score' for the progress made.

MyBus

It was noted that Phase 2 of the MyBus scheme was planned for implementation during 2006 and the Department for Transport had recently approved funding for Phase 3.

Supertram

The Committee noted that the Leeds Supertram project had been cancelled in November 2005. Metro was working with Leeds City Council to review options for the Supertram corridors and other parts of Leeds and a revised approach would be included in the Local Transport Plan submission.

MetroConnect Free City Bus

Members welcomed the introduction of an experimental free bus service that would commence on 30 January 2006 for six months. PCC members would be invited to the launch of the service which would run every 6 to 8 minutes on a circular route linking the Rail Station with Park Lane College, Leeds General Infirmary, Leeds Metropolitan University, Merrion Centre, Headrow, Leeds Bus Station, Vicar Lane and returning to the Rail Station. The service would be closely monitored and passengers' views sought. If the service proved successful, funding partners would be sought to operate the service on a long term basis.

Ftr – Route 4

It was reported that First were to introduce a new 'ftr' vehicle on the Route 4 service which operated between Pudsey and Whinmoor in the autumn. Work on infrastructure improvements, including bus priorities, was being progressed and members would be invited to view the new vehicle when it was brought to Leeds.

Pudsey Bus Station

It was reported that a preferred layout for a new bus station at Pudsey had been developed with Leeds City Council and it was anticipated that the station would be operational in 2007. Comment was made that some bus services would be relocated away from the bus station from 30 January 2006 and Metro were asked to ensure that all services would operate from the new bus station.

New Rolling Stock –TransPennine Express

It was reported that First TransPennine Express had taken delivery of some of the new Class 185 diesel units which would enter service in Spring. It was anticipated that all the new units would be operational by January 2007 on the TransPennine Express services. It was noted that some of the old 158 units would be cascaded and comment was made that it would be preferable for them to continue to operate in West Yorkshire.

Rail Issues

It was reported that there was some confusion regarding the York to Blackpool service as it was unclear in the timetable whether passengers should change at Leeds. It was noted that the service had been subject to delay on several occasions and Metro would investigate the matter. Members

were advised that the performance on local rail services had deteriorated and many of the causes for delays and cancellations were due to track and signalling problems. These were the responsibility of Network Rail and Metro had written to them expressing their concern.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

11. CONSULTATION ITEMS
(a) LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2
(b) REAL TIME INFORMATION DISPLAYS

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the 2nd West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan accessibility planning and locations for real time information displays.

Local Transport Plan 2 – Accessibility Planning

Members were given a short presentation on the Accessibility Strategy which would form part of the Local Transport Plan 2. Consideration was given to the accessibility planning for the Leeds area and it was noted that an action plan was being developed through consultation with local stakeholders and service providers. The Accessibility Strategy highlighted a number of issues and actions as priorities for the coming year which included access to health services, employment and education. It was suggested that libraries and sports centres should be included in the list as they were not solely used for recreational and leisure purposes. A questionnaire was circulated at the meeting and members' feedback and views were sought.

Real Time Information Displays

The Committee were advised that Metro were to install realtime information displays at 800 bus stops across West Yorkshire and members were shown an example of the larger type of display to be installed at the busiest bus stops. Members were asked to complete the questionnaire circulated at the meeting to provide Metro with any suggestions or comments regarding the locations for the displays.

Councillor Akhtar expressed the view that displays should cover a wider geographic coverage rather than be concentrated on a small number of routes.

RESOLVED – That PCC members' comments and views be sought.