

Transport for London

Minutes of the Surface Transport Panel

Victoria and Earlsfield Room, 4th Floor, Palestra
10.00am, Wednesday 8 February 2012

Members

Steven Norris	Chair
Charles Belcher	Vice Chair
Baroness Grey-Thompson	Panel Member (for part)
Daniel Moylan	Panel Member (for part)
Bob Oddy	Panel Member
Patrick O'Keeffe	Panel Member
Steve Wright	Panel Member

Staff

Howard Carter	General Counsel
Leon Daniels	Managing Director, Surface Transport
Garrett Emmerson	Chief Operating Officer – London Streets
Henrietta Foster	Policy Analyst, Office of the Commissioner
David Hendry	Director of Finance, Surface Transport
John Mason	Director, Taxi and Private Hire (for part)
Kerri Rogan	Policy and Performance Officer, Surface Transport
Horatio Chishimba	Secretariat Officer

01/02/12 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence had been received from Keith Williams.

Steven Norris declared interests as a Board Member of the London Development Agency, as Chairman of AMT-Sybex Limited, as a non-executive director of Initiate Limited, as Chairman of Saferoad BLG Limited, as an adviser to Dragados SA and as an adviser to Kapsch AG. Daniel Moylan declared an interest as a Councillor for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, a director of the London Transport Museum and Chairman of Urban Design London. Baroness Grey-Thompson declared an interest as Vice Chair of the Athletes' Committee for the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG). Bob Oddy declared an interest as General Secretary of the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association regarding any matters concerning taxis. Steve Wright declared an interest as Chair of the Licensed Private Hire Car Association regarding any matters concerning private hire vehicles.

02/02/12 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 November 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

03/02/12 Matters Arising and Actions List

The Panel noted the actions list.

04/02/12 Managing Director's Report

Leon Daniels introduced the report and highlighted a 46 per cent increase in Cycle Hire usage in December 2011 and that work was in progress on the second phase of the Scheme.

The Panel welcomed the increase in cycling and noted that more action was needed to learn about attitudes and cyclist behaviour. TfL was prescribing new routes for Crossrail construction vehicles, so that right turns would be utilised whenever possible. An analysis of cyclist fatalities, including age and experience of cyclists involved in accidents, would be brought to the Panel. **[ACTION: Leon Daniels]**

On 11 January 2012, TfL announced a number of proposals to improve the safety of cyclists using the Bow roundabout in east London. New dedicated cycle lanes would be installed on the eastbound and westbound approaches of the roundabout allowing cyclists to approach the advance stop lines at the junctions without the need to filter through traffic. Improvements in urban realm would be looked at in tandem.

A public awareness campaign in 2012 would inform the public of the potential risks of travelling in Pedicabs and a programme of continued police enforcement up to the Games was planned. Consideration would be given to methods of obtaining additional data concerning accidents involving Pedicabs. **[ACTION: Leon Daniels]**

The Panel noted that TfL was on course to meet targets in the Business Plan concerning Journey Time Reliability on the Transport for London Road Network. The works needed to maintain safe operation of the Hammersmith Flyover would have an impact on that corridor but would not impact on reliability.

The Panel welcomed the improvements made to Henlys Corner following an £8m improvement scheme sponsored jointly by TfL and the London Borough of Barnet. Lessons had been learned from the delivery of the works at Henlys Corner particularly concerning methods for the efficient delivery of major schemes.

The Panel discussed Pedestrian Countdown, the new technology installed at some traffic signal locations, to be rolled out across London's busiest roads. There was overwhelming public support for the technology which delivered significant benefits to all road users and improved traffic flow. By helping people have a clearer idea of how long they had to cross the road, pedestrian uncertainty was reduced and more informed choices about whether or not to cross could be made, helping to make roads even safer.

The Panel welcomed the taxi driver awareness campaign designed to ensure that all taxi drivers were aware of, and compliant with, their obligations to passengers with wheelchairs in readiness for the Games.

The Panel noted the report.

05/02/12 Games Update – Oral

Leon Daniels gave an oral update on the Games and informed the Panel that TfL was now moving from a planning stage to a delivery stage. A significant number of London businesses were now Games-ready and a significant number of TfL staff had registered to volunteer during the Games.

A national campaign had been launched to encourage the public to 'Get Ahead of the Games' and ensure London and the UK kept moving during the Games. A new advertising campaign, website and social media channels would be used to communicate directly with the travelling public. The 'Get Ahead of the Games' website explained how, at certain times and in certain locations, London's road and rail networks would be much busier than usual, as well as dispelling some myths about transport and other Games-related issues.

The Panel noted that TfL had asked LOCOG to re-examine arrangements for the planned closure of The Mall/Horse Guards Road in May 2012, to enable construction of the site for use during the Games.

The Panel noted the oral update.

06/02/12 Update on A4 Hammersmith Flyover

Leon Daniels introduced the paper, which briefed the Panel on the current state of the Hammersmith Flyover and the proposed short term and long term actions.

The Panel noted the paper.

07/02/12 Private Hire Consultation Outcome

John Mason introduced the paper, which provided information on a proposed Driving Standards Agency (DSA) Assessment for private hire drivers.

The Panel noted the paper and the selected option to proceed with encouraging new and existing drivers to undertake either the DSA Assessment or an eco-driver training course, but not to make this mandatory.

The Panel noted the paper and the selected option

08/02/12 Right to Work checks carried out on Taxi and Private Hire Driver Applicants and Licensees

John Mason introduced the paper, which informed the Panel of the process followed for verifying a taxi or private hire driver applicant's 'right to work', whether applying for a new or renewal licence.

The new Re-Let and Market testing project would not impact the process followed to determine an applicant's right to work and the verification process would remain the same. As the licensing authority, TfL took appropriate steps to ensure licensees were permitted to work in the UK, even though TfL did not have the same obligations as that of an employer.

TfL worked closely with the Audit Commission on the National Fraud Initiative (NFI), an exercise that matched electronic data within and between public and private sector bodies to prevent and detect fraud.

The Panel noted the paper.

09/02/12 Any Other Business

Reducing Bus and Coach Emissions

The Panel noted that consideration was being given to further publicity of the initiative to retrofit buses and coaches to reduce emissions from the fleet.

Blackwall Tunnel

The Panel noted the recent multi-agency enforcement exercise in the Blackwall Tunnel that had been very successful.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.02pm.

The next scheduled meeting would be held on Wednesday 23 May 2012 at 10.00am.

Chair: _____

Date: _____