

# Transport for London

## Minutes of the Surface Transport Panel

Conference Rooms 1 and 2, Ground Floor, Palestra  
10.00am, 9 July 2014

### Members

Charles Belcher	Chair for the meeting
Brian Cooke	Panel Member
Bob Oddy	Panel Member
Steve Wright	Panel Member

### Staff

Howard Carter	General Counsel
Leon Daniels	Managing Director, Surface Transport
Patrick Doig	Director of Finance, Surface Transport
Garrett Emmerson	Chief Operating Officer, Surface Transport
Sue Riley	Secretariat Officer

### 42/07/14 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence had been received from Baroness Grey-Thompson DBE, Roger Burnley and Keith Williams.

Steve Wright declared an interest as Chair of the Licensed Private Hire Car Association regarding any matters concerning private hire vehicles.

Bob Oddy declared an interest as Deputy General Secretary of the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association regarding any matters concerning taxis.

### 43/07/14 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 April 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 44/07/14 Matters Arising and Actions List

A note would be circulated on the outcome of the further consideration of providing Christmas Day bus services. **[Action: Leon Daniels]**

It was agreed that the Panel would receive an update report on crime figures on the night bus network in six months. **[Action: Steve Burton]**

**The Panel noted the actions list.**

## 45/07/14 Managing Director's Report

Leon Daniels presented the report, which updated the Panel on Surface Transport's performance for Periods 12 and 13 2013/14 (2 February – 31 March 2014) and Periods 1 and 2 2014/15 (1 April – 24 May 2014).

It was reported that the introduction of cashless bus services had resulted in few complaints and been a smooth transition.

It was agreed that officers would consider the quality of glass specification for installation in buses during the procurement process. **[Action: Leon Daniels]**

For the first time, bus safety data had been published on TfL's website. The data included details of incidents on London's bus network resulting in a fatality, or injury requiring hospital attendance. This included anybody who attended a medical facility for a precautionary check-up, and also staff.

Members discussed the issue of TfL's role as taxi and private hire regulator in relation to Uber, as discussed at the Board meeting of 3 July 2014. Since the recent Taxi trade demonstrations TfL had sent a letter to the relevant bodies with an update position.

TfL was satisfied that Uber was operating lawfully and the company had taken steps and made changes to its documentation to make it clear as to who was accepting bookings.

TfL's view was that the use of GPS information and remote calculation of fares did not constitute a taximeter as defined by the legislation. However, as the relevant law predated the advent of smartphones and as the judgement on this issue was finely balanced, TfL had written to all interested parties on its intention to seek a definitive and binding declaration from the High Court. However, the Licensed Taxi Drivers Association (LTDA) had subsequently issued summonses in the Westminster Magistrates' Court against a number of Uber drivers, which meant the High Court would not consider the matter while there were ongoing criminal proceedings on the same issues of law. As the Magistrates' Court decision was not binding and likely to be appealed, the LTDA action had effectively delayed the opportunity to get essential and binding, clarity about how the law should be applied in these circumstances.

The Panel requested that their thanks to all staff who had helped contribute to the success of the Tour de France hosted in London be recorded.

In relation to new HGV technology trials to improve safety, as set out in the report, TfL was attempting to stimulate demand as well as improve regulation in this area, particularly as London would be experiencing substantial infrastructure work in the future.

Officers agreed to provide further detail on the data of the overall numbers of HGV vehicles stopped which had not been compliant, in the context of the total number of HGVs on London's roads. **[Action: Garrett Emmerson]**

It was also agreed that officers would consider the viability of having a middle cycle lane in roads. **[Action: Leon Daniels]**

The Panel was updated on recent problems with the Woolwich Ferry, as only two boats were currently in service due to one being overhauled. There was a programme to refurbish the whole fleet which would be completed by September 2014.

**The Panel noted the report.**

## **46/07/14 Taxi Fares Update**

Leon Daniels introduced the report providing an update on taxi fare related items.

Officers confirmed that Heathrow was defined as a “dominant airport” under the Civil Aviation Act 2012, and the regulatory framework made it necessary for the airport to recover the costs for services charged, such as entering the taxi rank, only from those that benefit from the service. If the taxi rank service was withdrawn officers were of the view that this would increase road congestion and be detrimental to passengers. The key issue was therefore whether TfL should allow the additional charge to be passed on to taxi passengers.

There was no consensus view from the Panel as to whether a charge at London City Airport should be passed on to customers.

Officers agreed to investigate whether the introduction of additional charges at airports for the use of taxi ranks was discriminatory against people with disabilities who would be adversely impacted as the largest user group of this service.

**[Action: Howard Carter]**

Members did not support the mandating of debit and credit card acceptance in all taxis but agreed that each taxi should clearly display whether they accepted card payments.

Officers agreed to investigate whether the date for national rail fare increases was being reviewed by Government. **[Action: Leon Daniels]**

**The Panel noted the paper.**

## **47/07/14 Ceremonial Events in London**

Garrett Emmerson presented the report on ceremonial events and the impact upon traffic congestion in London.

Members suggested that officers share their experience of good practice with other agencies, such as the Metropolitan Police Service.

**The Panel noted the paper.**

**48/07/14 Any Other Business**

Officers would meet with representatives of the appropriate trade bodies to discuss the Law Commission’s review of taxi and private hire services outside of the meeting.  
**[Action: Leon Daniels]**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.15pm.

The next scheduled meeting would be held on 30 October 2014 at 10.00am.

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_