

Transport for London

Minutes of the Surface Transport Panel

Conference Rooms 1 and 2, Ground Floor, Palestra
197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ
10.00am, 22 October 2015

Members

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

Staff

Peter Blake	Director of Service Operations, Surface Transport (Minute references 31/10-33/10/15)
Howard Carter	General Counsel
Leon Daniels	Managing Director, Surface Transport
Patrick Doig	Finance Director, Surface Transport
Garrett Emmerson	Chief Operating Officer, Surface Transport
Lilli Matson	Head of Strategy and Outcome Planning (Minute reference 28/10/15)
David Rowe	Head of Silvertown Tunnel (Minute reference 27/10/15)
Dana Skelley	Director of Asset Management, Surface Transport (Minute reference 30/10/15)
Mike Weston	Director of Buses, Surface Transport (Minute reference 34/10/15)
Sue Riley	Secretariat Officer

23/10/15 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence were received from Baroness Grey-Thompson DBE (Chair) and Keith Williams. In the absence of the Chair, Charles Belcher chaired the meeting.

Charles Belcher declared an interest as a member of Atos Origin Advisory Council on Transport. Bob Oddy declared an interest as Deputy 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.

24/10/15 Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 July 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

25/10/15 Matters Arising and Actions List

The Panel noted the actions list.

26/10/15 Managing Director's Report

Leon Daniels presented the report, which provided an update on Surface Transport's performance for Periods 3, 4 and 5 in 2015/16 and an overview of recent significant issues and developments.

Members were updated on discussions held at the Safety, Accessibility and Sustainability Panel regarding the recent Volkswagen emissions test issues and its impact on the TfL vehicle fleet, which was minimal. TfL's heavy vehicles had not been affected as they were tested and measured in a different way, so there was no impact on the Ultra Low Emission Zone.

The Panel was advised that as a result of recent racist incidents on buses, which had been widely shared on social media and highlighted in the press, the current guidance on Code Red procedures for bus drivers had been reiterated. TfL would not tolerate any form of abusive behaviour and arrests had been made by the police based on the bus CCTV footage and other evidence.

Advice on managing racist incidents and Islamophobia would be included in the next circulation of the regular briefings issued to bus drivers.

The outcome of the consultation on Private Hire Regulations Review, due to close on 23 December 2015, would be considered by Members of the Panel before its submission for approval to the meeting of the Board on 17 March 2016.

[Action: Leon Daniels]

The High Court had issued its judgement that a smartphone did not constitute a taximeter, and no further action was required by TfL. Bob Oddy informed the meeting that the LTDA would be appealing the decision.

The introduction of the Safer Lorry Scheme had seen vehicle compliance increase to 90 per cent. Ongoing enforcement action and education continued to increase compliance.

Safety critical improvement works to the A406 had just begun. Officers were congratulated on the effective way this difficult work was being managed.

The transport arrangements during the Rugby World Cup had been successful and the temporary closure of the A316 during the matches had enabled the use of shuttle buses, special transport provision and coach services. On the opening night, a serious incident of a passenger on the train track meant that the reserve bus service had been used and proved effective. A lessons learnt exercise would be conducted to ensure that useful information was captured for the future.

Future Managing Director's reports would include details of complaints and trends as part of the Dial-a-Ride Performance.

[Action: Leon Daniels]

The Panel requested that officers enquire as to why there was no signage or announcements for train passengers arriving at Elephant & Castle national rail station to aid wayfinding. **[Action: Leon Daniels]**

Members asked that officers consider how best to apply pressure to companies carrying out inappropriate or illegal streetworks, including the publication of annual data naming the companies who had been prosecuted. **[Action: Leon Daniels]**

The Panel noted that the decision by the Mayor to withdraw London's application as a candidate for host city for the Tour de France 2017 had been based on advice from TfL, within the overall context of the cost to the organisation and the current Comprehensive Spending Review.

Steve Wright requested that future reports name, where known, the companies whose drivers had been prosecuted as a result of Operation Neon. **[Action: Leon Daniels]**

The Panel noted the report.

27/10/15 Silvertown Tunnel Update

Leon Daniels and David Rowe introduced the update, which provided an update on the Silvertown Tunnel project.

A new river crossing would only be possible if it was funded through charges to users. Other river crossing options were also being considered.

The illustrative user charges set out in the paper were based on traffic modelling and balancing the risk of traffic displacement to other areas, while managing traffic demand.

The Panel noted the paper.

28/10/15 Cycling Portfolio Update – Delivering the Mayor's Vision for Cycling

Lilli Matson introduced the presentation, which provided an update on the Mayor's vision for cycling.

While cyclists would continue to be entitled to use the main carriageway, it was anticipated that the segregated Cycle Superhighways would be attractive to most cyclists and had been designed wide enough to enable faster cyclists to overtake others. The objective of the Quietways was to attract new cyclists who lacked confidence to use the more major routes.

The Panel noted the paper.

29/10/15 Update on Roads Reopening Protocol

Siwan Hayward presented the paper on measures put in place to ensure the prompt reopening of roads following serious collisions.

Whilst good progress had been made, further opportunities existed to improve recovery times further particularly in relation to the attendance of undertakers and coroners at serious incidents.

Members requested more detailed information on the 2015 figures for serious collisions and road closures. **[Action: Siwan Hayward]**

The Panel noted the paper.

30/10/15 Streetscape Guidance

Dana Skelley presented the paper on the publication of the new Streetscape Guidance.

The Panel noted the paper.

31/10/15 Taxi and Private Hire Licence Fees

Peter Blake provided an update on the annual review of taxi and private hire licence fees.

It was agreed that TfL's costs in the registering and issuing of taxi and private hire licence fees be published. **[Action: Peter Blake]**

The Panel requested the figures on the increased fuel usage and emissions for taxis using roof top advertising. **[Action: Peter Blake]**

The Panel noted the paper.

32/10/15 Taxi Fares Update

Peter Blake provided an update on the annual taxi fares and tariffs review.

The Panel noted the paper.

33/10/15 Card Payments in Taxis

Peter Blake provided an update on card payments in taxis. TfL was in discussion with the credit card companies, with a view to reducing the overall charges and thereby incorporating any fees within the final fare charged to passengers.

Bob Oddy raised issues around the practicalities of having credit card payment machines located in the back of taxis due to safety issues. Future changes in European Law around card payment surcharges, accommodation of taxi cards already in use, passengers wishing to share journeys and split payments, were all areas which needed consideration as part of the ongoing discussions.

The Panel noted the paper.

34/10/15 Christmas Day Bus Services

Mike Weston presented the options for running a bus service on Christmas Day.

The Panel was of the view that while the current business case was not adequate, the case for Christmas Day bus services would be reviewed regularly.

The Panel noted the paper.

35/10/15 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent

There was no urgent business.

36/10/15 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 25 February 2016 at 10.00am.

37/10/15 Exclusion of Press and Public

The Committee agreed to exclude the press and public from the meeting, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), in order to consider the exempt information in relation to the item on Christmas Day Bus Services. This paper contained exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of TfL.

The meeting closed at 12.15pm.

Chair: _____

Date: _____