

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE  
103<sup>rd</sup> Imtac MEETING**

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012, The Mount, Belfast

**Present:** Max O'Brien (Chair)

Bert Bailie, Barbara Fleming, Ronnie Patterson,  
Elizabeth Black, Ann Gamble, Etta Mann, David Mann,  
David McDonald, Norma Moore, Rosemary Patton,  
June Best, Ann Collins

**Observers:** Keith Walsh (DRD), Terry Butler (Translink)

**Secretariat:** Michael Lorimer, Cathy Boyd

**1. Apologies**

- 1.1 Apologies were given from Des McAuley, Joan Harbison, Francis Hughes, Naomi Roberts, Ryan Simpson, Olaf Hvattum.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

- 2.1 Subject to a typing correction on 5.1 the minutes were agreed as accurate.

**3. Matters arising**

- 3.1 **Disability Strategy:** Members were informed it is anticipated the Strategy will be published sometime in December.

- 3.2 **Streets Ahead/Sustainable Transport Enabling Measures:** Members received a positive update on

developments with the React System. It is hoped to begin user testing the Units in Donegall Place in the New Year.

- 3.3 **AV on Buses:** Following the receipt on the evaluation report in the pilot of AV it was agreed the Chair will write to the department, on behalf of the committee, to express their support for the extension of AV to all buses

**Action: Chair to write to DRD.**

#### 4. Working Group Updates

- 4.1 Barbara, Ann (Collins) and June updated members on the working groups. Barbara also updated members on recent meeting with Ciaran Docherty, Head of Bus Operations in Translink.

- 4.1 **Draft Blue Badge Parking survey report:** Michael briefed members on the draft report into on-street Blue Badge use in Belfast, Bangor, Ballymena and Lisburn. The findings suggest a greater usage of the Badge in areas where charging for on-street parking is in place.

**Action: Chair asked members to provide comments / feedback within 7-10 days after which time the Business Group will approve the final paper for publication.**

- 4.2 **Draft Report into Belfast City Centre Walking Routes:** Michael briefed members on the draft report. Members expressed frustration at the continued difficulties around the pedestrian environment. Two specific issues were discussed (1) the use of Toucan crossings in areas where no cycling infrastructure was in place and (2) the growing prevalence of pavement cafes in the city Centre.

**Action: The Committee agreed the Chair should write to Roads Service advising that Toucan crossings should**

**only be used in locations where there is cycling infrastructure.**

**Action: The Chair to write to DSD and Social Development Committee to highlight the need to ensure planned legislation to licence pavement cafes contains protections around accessibility for pedestrians.**

**Action: Chair asked members to provide other comments / feedback within 7-10 days after which time the Business Group will approve the final paper for publication.**

- 4.3 **Draft Developments in Public Transport paper:** Michael briefed members on the draft paper. During discussions members suggested the paper be amended to reflect that the whole service needs to be accessible rather than just vehicles and stations.

**Action: Chair asked members to provide other comments / feedback within 7-10 days after which time the Business Group will approve the final paper for publication.**

## 5. **Observers Updates**

- 5.1 **DRD Update:** The ATS Action Plan will be published in the shortly. DRD has inputted in the draft Autism Strategy and Action Plan and the Bamford Review Action Plan. The pilot into access to bus stations by other operators is concluding and will now be evaluated. Extensions to the AV pilot will be subject to finance being available. A consultation on the future of door2door services has been launched and public meetings are being held.

5.2 Members suggested that accessibility of vehicles used by private operators should be considered in the evaluation of access to bus stations.

5.3 **Translink update:** Terry updated members on a project to improve the provision of audio and visual information in the Europa Bus station. Members welcomed these developments. Terry also informed members all Metro services now have ramped access.

## 6 **Door2door Consultation**

6.1 Keith briefed members on the proposals in the consultation paper.

6.2 Members discussed the proposals. A number of issues emerged during discussions including (1) the potential for the new eligibility criteria to exclude people who need the service, (2) the lost opportunity to undertake a holistic review of both rural services and door2door services, (3) a recognition that in general the recommendations were sensible but there was need for greater detail, (4) the need for more accessible and inclusive vehicles in delivering the service in future and (5) the need for a common sense approach to future operational areas for door2door.

6.3 Michael agreed to draft a response and distribute to members for comment.

**Action: Michael to draft response and members asked to provide any comments within 7-10 days.**

## 7 **Any Other Business**

7.1 Michael updated members on (1) DoE commissioned research into the accessibility of taxis, (2) the refreshing of

the photo bank of disabled people using public transport for the revised Translink Access Guide and (3) the recent introduction of low-floor minibuses by Belfast Trust.

**Action: Members asked Michael to arrange an opportunity to view the buses purchased by Belfast Trust.**

- 8      **Date of next meeting**  
**The next meeting will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013 at 12.30pm in The Mount, Belfast.**

**Summary of Action Points:**

Chair will write to the DRD welcoming the positive evaluation of the AV on bus pilot and expressing support for the future extension of AV on buses.

**Action: Chair**

Members to respond to the three draft papers in the next 7-10 days. The Business Group members will approve final paper for publication shortly after this.

**Action: All**

Chair will write to Roads Service advising on the use of Toucan Crossings in Belfast City Centre

**Action: Chair**

Chair will write to DSD and Social Development Committee regarding proposed Pavement Café legislation.

**Action: Chair**

Michael to draft door2door consultation response and Members to provide comments on the draft response within 7-10 days.

**Action: Secretariat/Imtac members**

Michael to arrange opportunity for members to view new Belfast trust minibuses.**Action: Michael**