
Confidential Minutes

Agenda item : 12
Drafted : 20.5.09

**Confidential minutes of a meeting of the Transport Service Committee
held on 20 May 2009 at 6 Middle Street, London EC1**

This meeting was held in private session with reference to section 15(2)(b) of schedule 18 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999, that, by reason of the confidential nature of the item(s) to be discussed, it was desirable in the public interest that the public should be excluded.

Present

Members: Terry Bennett, Gail Engert, Teena Lashmore, David Leibling (Vice Chair), Andrew Probert, Lorna Reith (Chair), Sharon Grant

Staff

Chief Executive; Committee Administrator; Rail and Underground Policy Officer; Senior Committee Administrator

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Minutes

12 Meeting review

Members were keen on a Circle line site visit, and noted the impact that had been registered in the design. It was agreed to make a site visit, with a briefing provided by the Rail and Underground Policy Officer on what to look out for, including Network Rail and TfL.

Action : Rail and Underground Policy Officer

The Rail and Underground Policy Officer contended that this is a high-risk project which will have an adverse public reaction. However, the Circle line has been a subject of complaint for generations so that is why we are supporting this well-thought out and comprehensive solution.

- (a) To review the issues raised and any financial, reputation or other risks that these issues pose to the organisation.

There were none, other than the resource implications of completing the quarterly performance report, tempered by the rise in credibility and profile enhancement of successful provision of the report.

(b) To discuss future agenda items and Transport Services Committee work plan

Members discussed several topics for inclusion on the work plan. These included :

- performance data progress across all modes
- Chordal links and the possibility they present of providing of additional services
- Traffic lights
- Rail utilisation strategies
- New franchises

The Vice Chair raised concerns about roads, for example, congestion, maintenance, etc. He also raised the London Works Permits, and the Rail and Underground Officer indicated that the legislation was still being progressed by the Depart for Transport.

Performance data

Trams were not discussed. The same performance data requested for other modes would suffice for these. Members suggested that high frequency bus journeys would be ideal for orbital transport /chordal routes, so performance data for these was also requested.

Chordal links

Theses were included in the Mayor's statement of intent; more information would be available in time.

Traffic lights

Overall this issue was agreed as a matter for the Access to Transport Committee. There were concerns about pedestrian lights and lights at road junctions; anecdotal reports indicated that the new lower green man was not popular with people. Members asked whether the lights were 'intelligent' (i.e. able to read when people were at the crossing etc.) and whether they allowed enough time for people to cross. It is included in TfL's business plan and statement of intent, but at the time of writing TfL was not reviewing timings of lights regularly. Members also raised concerns about crossings where everything stands at red; 20 second phases where no traffic is moving and no pedestrians can cross.

The Chair commented that the traffic lights should be sensitive to volumes of traffic, etc, but that the Committee needs to think more carefully about what it is asking TfL for. Traffic Lights are part of "Smoothing the Traffic Flow" and the Chief Executive would include them in her meeting with David Brown, Managing Director, Surface Transport, TfL.

Rail Utilisation Strategies

There was a RUS coming up for Kent on which the Secretariat would provide a report.

New franchises

The South Central railway franchise will have been announced before the next meeting.

Other suggestions for agenda items for the work plan were invited and should be emailed to the Chair.

The Vice Chair gave apologies for having to leave early at next meeting.

13 Glossary

RUSs Rail Utilisation Strategies