

TRANSPORT INITIATIVES EDINBURGH LIMITED

Minutes of Special tie BOARD MEETING

held in the tie meeting room, 91 Hanover Street,
Edinburgh on 22 December 2003 @ 15.00 hrs

Board Members: Ewan Brown (Chairman)
Jim Brown (via telephone)
Gavin Gemmell
John Richards
Andrew Burns
Bill Cunningham
Maureen Child

In attendance: Michael Howell, tie Chief Executive
Graeme Bissett, tie Finance Director
Alex Macaulay, tie Projects Director
John Saunders, tie ITI Project Manager
Andrew Holmes, CEC, City Development Director

Initials

EB
JB
GG
JR
AB
BC
MC

MH
GB
AM
JS
AH

Item

1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

EB explained that this special meeting had been convened to consider and agree recommendations to be included in tie's report to the City of Edinburgh Council on the congestion charging scheme. The consultation period on the scheme would finish on 4 January, and the report had to be finalised by 15 January to meet Council deadlines for the 22 January meeting.

2. tie's REPORT ON THE CONGESTION CHARGING SCHEME

MH summarised the thrust of the responses received so far during the consultation period. These focused particularly on the perceived unfairness of the exemption for Edinburgh residents living outside the outer cordon that had been included in the consultation draft of the scheme at the Council meeting on 18 September 2003.

Other major points to be raised included a) concerns from Edinburgh residents living within the outer cordon but working outside it that they would have to pay a charge to return home; b) concerns of city centre retailers about the current and future vulnerability of the city centre; and c) concerns from Fife Council and others about having to pay twice to travel into Edinburgh if crossing the Forth road bridge.

These and other issues raised were summarised in a paper circulated by JS. The paper also included a description of a number of alternative configurations that could be adopted for the charging scheme, considering in particular the major issues raised in the consultation.

Following extensive discussion of this paper, the Board **AGREED**:

- To reaffirm their conviction as to the need for a congestion charging scheme to meet transport objectives.
- To recommend to the Council that the scheme as advertised should be amended to remove the proposed exemption for Edinburgh residents living outside the outer cordon; and to limit the operation of the outer cordon to the morning peak period only.
- To recommend that there should be no further exemptions other than for specific and small scale user groups identified in the consultation.
- That these recommendations should be robustly presented to the Council.
- That, provided the trends identified in the consultation responses to date remained unchanged, the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman should be given delegated powers to finalise the **tie** report to the Council along these lines.

3. AOB

Lothian Buses' bus supplier has now advised that it is not feasible to modify the existing service 22 buses to run on the WEBS guideway. This is the result of mechanical engineering issues which would require major modifications to the front axle and chassis of the current buses. Discussions are under way with Lothian Buses to replace the service 22 fleet with buses capable of using the guideway without these problems.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next **tie** board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 27th January 2004

Initials

MH

MH

MH