

TRAM OPERATIONS GROUP MEETING

MONDAY 7th JUNE 2010

Attendees:

Gordon Drummond, Chair (Director, Harvey Nichols)
Richard Jeffrey (Chief Executive, tie ltd)
Steven Bell (Tram Project Director, tie ltd)
Mandy Haeburn-Little (Director of Customer Services and Communications, tie ltd)
Graham Russell (Business Coordinator – Leith Walk & West End Project)
Michael Dixon (Chairman of Edinburgh Branch FSB)
Kevin Leitch (Stakeholder Manager, City of Edinburgh Council)
Gordon Burgess (Chair, Leith Business Association)
Marshall Poulton (Head of Transport, City of Edinburgh Council)
Joshua Miller (Vice-Chair West End & George Street Association)
Tom Campbell (Chairman, Essential Edinburgh)
Councillor Tom Buchanan (City of Edinburgh Council)
Councillor Gordon Mackenzie (Convener of Transport, City of Edinburgh Council)

Apologies:

Graham Birse (Deputy Chief Executive, Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce)
George Bell (GM Jenners) – Princes Street
Iain Coupar (Marketing Director, Lothian Buses)
Gordon Christie, (Customer Services Manager, tie ltd)

1. Apologies

GD welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the apologies.

2. Matters arising from minutes of meeting of 29th March 2010

To be discussed during the meeting.

3. tie Ltd update

RJ informed the Group that he was not yet in a position to provide any information on cost or the programme. He did however comment that the situation was coming to a head. RJ had suggested to the tie Board that termination has to be seriously considered. Timescale for a possible outcome reasonably is estimated at 4-8 weeks. RJ emphasised to the Group that termination with the consortium is not an easy option but it is a distinct possibility. Finely balanced discussions have been ongoing for the past 3-4 weeks and will continue throughout this week. Progress with off-street works is at a moderate pace but there is little chance of on-street works commencing imminently. Concentrating on final utilities work and re-instatement of traffic management is now the priority.

GMcK commented on the statement in the Edinburgh Evening News today and wanted to confirm that the City of Edinburgh Council is supportive of tie Ltd fully. The articles in the Herald and the Scotland on Sunday at the weekend were lifted from the statement that he provided on Friday for the Monday edition of the Edinburgh Evening News.

RJ stated that June is a critical month for how to move forward or face termination.

GD enquired of a new contractor and how much money as technically Edinburgh is now over a barrel? RJ – overriding variable is the total cost of the job. He quoted Dave Anderson's phrase that they are "trying to come to a mature divorce". GD questioned where the money for the extra costs would come from? RJ is working to a fixed £544m budget.

MD asked to what extent is the possibility that the costs of a new contractor will mean that Line 1 will be shortened? RJ – the scope is Haymarket to Newhaven. MD enquired again will Line 1 be shortened. GMcK interjected that until there is a clarity of costs a decision will not be made however it is an option.

TC – as the timescale is variable what would be the guestimate for works starting? RJ stressed again, not imminently.

GD – is there an option to finish the off-street works? RJ – Yes. TC – contingency planning?

RJ – confirmed that tie will not be seeking an injunction to work through the embargo. GD – in the email sent out by Gillian Arnott this afternoon it stated utilities were 97% completed. RJ confirmed that they had been for the past year. SB pointed out that they would continue to do

so until the project has been completed because the remaining utility works would be in tandem with track laying.

RJ said that the 4th January 2011 would be a sensible start date for each phase of on-street works. JM asked if there was a new contractor could the tram stops at the West End and St Andrew Square be reconsidered. RJ informed him that would not happen due to the cost and also there would be no revisiting of the prospect of a wireless system on Princes Street.

GR – logic of 4th January 2011 doesn't apply to North London Road? What is the optimum time for there? RJ – doesn't make much difference as no embargo. GR – so you could start earlier? RJ – you could if there were no other issues.

GMcK and TB left the meeting.

Utilities

SB talked the Group through the list of outstanding utility works with the main ones being:

Haymarket to Princes Street

St Andrew Square

York Place

The Mound – completed by 25/26 June

Scottish Water works at Picardy Place being completed by the end of June

Annandale is ready for power and water connection

Leith Walk

Constitution Street – Baltic Street work has been put out to tender. Work due to start later summer Aug/Sep and run up to November 2010.

Forth Ports – finish early July

Smaller issues have a 6-week timescale however practical constraint due to the World Cup.

GD in summary, main works i.e. big holes will be finished by the 1st July except Baltic Street. SB – yes.

In the last meeting we talked about improved measures from Haymarket to the foot of the Walk. Dalmeny to Iona Street in the first instance. Works finishing on pedestrian crossings at West End and top of Lothian Road. This week to the next 7-8 weeks should see the visia rail, ready kerb and improvements at pedestrian crossings but could accelerate if materials available. Attached is the map for traffic management reinstatement across the city centre.

GBu asked why it has taken so long? On Leith Walk these measures should have been started two weeks ago. SB – simply because we do not have the materials and he apologised for the incorrect information that had been communicated to GBu. Also on Leith Walk, previously it had been a raised kerb therefore u-turns have been impossible but with the new improved measures there will be sections where these would now be possible and this is an issue with the Road Safety Audit.

4. Open for Business and future funding

MH-L – paper went to the Board last year for funding post April 2011 and they have been sympathetic however have asked EE and the revised DEMA organisation to specify who is doing what. They have not approved it as it is not deemed urgent. They want greater clarity on on-street works and they want to understand better the overlap or synergy of all the organisations involved.

GR – will they concentrate on City Centre or overall and how is it being restructured to cover areas in need i.e. Leith & West End?

TC – DEMA Chairman Alan Johnston and Kenneth Wardrop came to an agreement with CEC to match fund over 2-years. There needs to be leverage on the fund pot. Marketing has been opportunistic and it needs to be more structured. TC emphasised that he doubted that CEC would be in a position to fund any free car-parking at Christmas.

MH-L – OFB continued with the planned promotional work even though no tram works in place. Felt it would be detrimental to pull it.

Burt Greener have been re-appointed.

5. AOB

- TC asked if unused street furniture is being taken away. City centre has been a mess and pleaded that if it is not being used it be removed. MP said to forward any such requests to himself.
- JM – enquired about the Summer Sparkles campaign? MH-L said it is a series of photographs through DEMA.

Next meeting Monday 5th July or Monday 2nd August