

## SOUTH YORKSHIRE TRANSPORT USERS GROUP

7 JULY 2014

PRESENT: J Hoare (Chair)  
L Booth (Rotherham TUG), J Brightmore (Ramblers - Sheffield Group), R Fieldhouse (Huddersfield-Penistone-Sheffield RUA), T Jackson (Rotherham TUG), I Jenkinson (Sheffield TUG), M Payling (Member of the Public), N Spetch (Vice-Chair/Rotherham TUG), M Wilson (Member of the Public) and D Wrottesley (Hope Valley Rail User Group)

C Cocken (SYPTE), G Garrety (SCR Combined Authority), F Johnson (Stagecoach), A Timewell (First South Yorkshire) and A Wright (SYPTE)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Rosling-Josephs (Sheffield CC)

### 1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the July meeting of the South Yorkshire Transport Users' Group and introduced Clare Cocken the Corporate Communications Manager at SYPTE who had taken over the responsibility for liaison with the Transport Users' Groups.

C Cocken informed the Group that she had received apologies from John O'Grady from Northern Rail who was ill. The Group expressed disappointment that Northern Rail had not sent a replacement especially considering that the meeting had been rearranged to accommodate Northern Rail's attendance.

**Action: C Cocken to convey the Group's disappointment to Northern Rail and arrange their attendance at a future meeting.**

### 2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 APRIL 2014

With regard to item 3 in the minutes, it was noted that the action to request a position statement from the Tram/Train team had not yet been completed. It was agreed to include the Tram/Train Project as an item on the agenda for the next meeting of the Group.

The Group welcomed the partial reinstatement of concessionary passes, but felt there was a case for a full reinstatement of the scheme with savings being found elsewhere. It was reported that since the changes to the scheme came into effect revenue was up even though passenger numbers had decreased. The Group also felt that the decision not to allow passes to be used after 11pm should be reviewed.

**Action: A Wright to convey the Group's comments to SYPTE officers.**

With regard to minute 6(ii) regarding new railway stations, a member queried whether the views of the Transport Committee on the matter had been obtained. Officers agreed to look into the matter.

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

### 3 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Group considered the revised Terms of Reference and made the following points:

- 1.5 To invite Paul Salveson to a future meeting of the Group to discuss how the Group could liaise with Passenger Focus.
- 2.1 The Group agreed that the minutes of their meetings should be published on SYPTE's website in the interests of openness and transparency. The draft minutes would be circulated to the Chair and Vice-Chair for approval before publication.
- 4.1 It was decided that it would be more timely if the Group met on the 3rd Tuesday of the month to allow issues from the local groups to be fed into the meetings. Meetings would commence at 10.30am to allow for the use of concessionary passes. The Group also discussed holding some meetings at alternative venues; this would be looked into further and reported back.
- 5.1 C Cocken reported that she was working on recruiting members from the Barnsley area.
- 5.3 The Group agreed that membership would be terminated if a member had not attended three consecutive meetings without submitting apologies.

It was also agreed that before the next meeting, C Cocken would write to members who had currently not attended for three meetings asking if they would prefer to be considered as an 'interested party' rather than an active member.

### 4 FORWARD PROGRAMME

The Group considered the Forward Programme and made the following observations:

- An update on the Tram/Train project to be included on that agenda for the next meeting.
- Northern Rail to be invited (again) to attend the next meeting. It was also suggested to request a representative of Northern Rail attend every third meeting of the Group.
- That the following be standing items on every agenda:
  - Operators Update
  - SYPTE Update
  - SCR Combined Authority Transport Committee Update

- The item 'SYLTE move towards self-serve' to be put back to the January meeting.
- Network Rail to be asked for occasional updates.

C Cocken informed members that any other suggestions for items would be welcomed as and when they arose.

## 5 NORTHERN RAIL

As mentioned previously, the representative from Northern Rail had sent his apologies.

## 6 SYLTE PERFORMANCE DATA

The Group considered the Forward Plan which was presented to brief the Group on key performance highlights and on progress to targets. It was noted that as the Performance Measures Dataset became more populated as time went on, any problem areas could be identified and an officer from the PTE could be invited to a meeting of the Group to discuss the performance figures.

## 7 ROTHERHAM BUS PARTNERSHIP

A Wright updated the Group with regard to the Rotherham Bus Partnership (RBP) which would 'go live' on 21 July 2014. It was hoped that the creation of the RBP would, over time, increase passenger number, as had been seen after the creation of the Sheffield Bus Partnership. Benefits of the RBP included:

- A simpler bus network
- Co-ordinated timetables
- Improved ticket range for multi-operated bus travel
- Reductions in day ticket prices
- More frequent services on a number of routes.

Members were assured that every effort would be made to publicise the RBP, with leaflets in travel shops and publicity on buses and in the local press to raise people's awareness. Campaigns would be run throughout the year targeting different groups i.e. encouraging drivers to leave their cars at home and young people.

Whilst welcoming the creation of the RBP, N Spetch commented that, rather than sticking to regional boundaries, it would seem more sensible to look at where car journeys were being made and create a scheme to align with this.

F Johnson recognised the merit of the suggestion but replied that cross boundary travel would always complicate matters due to the involvement of other operators in what remained a commercial market.

8 FUTURE SYPTE CONSULTATION

C Cocken informed the Group that a consultation would be conducted over the summer months; she would email or write to members with details of the consultation and requested that members helped to 'spread the word'.

After expressing concerns around the lack of publicity for previous consultations, the Group were assured that there would be plenty of publicity, and although the consultation would be mainly online, there would be opportunities to take part in interchanges and at Parkgate.

The findings from the consultation would be discussed at the Group's next meeting.

9 MEMBERS ITEMS

Rail Franchise

The Group expressed concern regarding reports that in relation to the Northern and TransPennine rail franchises, the franchise map had been changed and if this was true would mean that trains would terminate at Doncaster, which the Group thought was completely unacceptable.

It was noted that there was a government consultation around the franchising at the moment, but the closing date was before the next meeting of the Group.

**Action: C Cocken to investigate and respond to the consultation on behalf of the Group if necessary.**

Bus Shelters

F Johnson (as a Barnsley resident) enquired why glass in bus shelters was being replaced by wire mesh which not only impaired vision and was not weather proof, also negated all the other work being done to improve the shelters.

A Wright replied that it was probably an 'invest to save' measure due to repeated vandalism, but he would investigate further and report back.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the South Yorkshire Transport Users' Advisory Group will be on Tuesday 14 October 2014 at 10.30am at Rotherham Interchange.