

Rail Delivery Group

Summary of Proceedings 30 September 2014

Present

Martin Griffiths (Chair) (Stagecoach)
Mark Carne (Deputy Chair) (Network Rail)
Michael Roberts (Director-General) (RDG)
Dominic Booth (Abellio)
David Brown (Go-Ahead)
Chris Burchell (Arriva)
Andrew Chivers (National Express)
Alistair Gordon (Keolis)
Jeremy Long (MTR)
Peter Maybury (Freightliner)
Tim O'Toole (First Group)
Paul Plummer (Network Rail)
David Stretch (Serco)
Doug Sutherland (Directly Operated Railways)
Alain Thauvette (DBSchenker)
Phil Whittingham (Virgin Trains)

In attendance

Chris Fenton (RSSB) – RSSB item
Nick Ellins (RDG)
Edward Welsh (RDG)
Richard Flindell (RDG)
Billy Denyer (RDG, Minutes)

Approval of the record/progress on action points from the meeting on 28th July

The minutes of the RDG meeting on 28th July were agreed to be an accurate record.

Three outstanding action points (regarding ATOC Board, HS2 and passenger information during disruption) were discussed, with some other actions picked up later on the agenda.

Safety, Health and Environment

CF was welcomed to the meeting. When RDG was set up it was agreed that the biennial Industry Safety Meeting would be used for setting the safety agenda. MC proposed that there should be a firmer role for RDG (potentially in collaboration with RSG and ROSCOs) in formulating an industry safety strategy. The strategy would continue to be implemented by RSSB and there would be regular liaison between RDG and RSSB Board.

Members agreed that RDG should have ownership of the safety agenda, and a number of potential models and roles for RDG were suggested. MC and CF will develop a proposal that enables RDG to have oversight of safety strategy without duplicating effort.

Director-General's report

MR reported that there had been a busy period of discussion about rail policy with politicians in recent weeks. This will be followed up by further contact all the main parties. In view of the current range of important issues, MG asked members to send their top three priorities for focussed RDG activity in the period to next May.

Franchise Strategy Position

AC reported that the Franchise Strategy Group (FSG) had been engaging with DfT to help review and optimise their process and has organised a strategy event to take place immediately after the October RDG. A more detailed industry franchising workshop is then scheduled for the next day.

In discussion it was highlighted that:

- RDG will be working to help address considerable uncertainty about how the CMA will approach its role for rail. Franchise bidders have expressed concern regarding the CMA views on road-rail competition, and RDG will be working with funders and CMA to compile generic evidence to help inform this
- there should be more content on the need to promote greater alignment between TOCs and NR (eg through common currency on performance).

Enhancing Rail's Reputation

EW set out a proposal for a campaign to enhance rail's reputation, demonstrating that rail is a force for good. The campaign, which would be aligned with industry initiatives and cover a variety of media channels, would seek to deliver a measurable improvement in public perceptions. It was recognised that the campaign would need to be sustained over a number of years and be well targeted to be successful.

This topic will be further debated at RDG in November and December.

Review of Charges: Phase 2 funding decision

PP reported that there had been very good engagement in developing the first phase of the RDG Review of Charges and outlined the operators and key stakeholders vision for a sustainable charging regime. This had developed following extensive consultation, and also outlined the scenarios or 'states of the world' this vision should be tested against in the next phase.

Phase 2 will develop the scenarios in more detail and work in close coordination with the regulator, central and devolved government. These will then be tested with stakeholders through a number of workshops. Members agreed to proceed with the second phase.

Project Quicksilver

AG updated RDG on Project Quicksilver. An expert group had been formed and PA Consulting were commissioned to carry out an independent review.

Making things better for passengers

DAB highlighted the need to articulate what the industry was doing to improve ticketing in the short term, alongside the effort being made with the DfT through the High Level Group to develop a vision of what we are trying to achieve in this area. Members agreed the approach set out in the note.

Any other business

DBo briefed members on the view of the RDG stations group that work needed to be done to articulate a vision for stations. RDG members agreed to the proposal.