

Rail Delivery Group

Summary of Proceedings 28 October 2014

Present

Martin Griffiths (Chair) (Stagecoach)
Mark Carne (Deputy Chair) (Network Rail)
Michael Roberts (Director-General) (RDG)
Dominic Booth (Abellio)
Patrick Butcher (Network Rail)
Andrew Chivers (National Express)
Alistair Gordon (Keolis)
Jeremy Long (MTR)
David Martin (Arriva)
Peter Maybury (Freightliner)
Tim O'Toole (First Group)
Doug Sutherland (Directly Operated Railways)
Alain Thauvette (DBSchenker)

In attendance

Richard Price (ORR) – ORR item
Anna Walker (ORR) – ORR item
Sir David Higgins (HS2) – HS2 item
Nick Ellins (RDG)
Christine Quigley (RDG)
Billy Denyer (RDG, Minutes)

Approval of the record/progress on action points from the meeting on 30th September

The minutes of the RDG meeting on 30th September were agreed to be an accurate record. Two outstanding action points (regarding ATOC Board and marketing) were discussed, with some other actions picked up later on the agenda.

Director-General's report

MR reported that the current three priority topics for RDG identified by members were performance, information and ticketing, and articulating a positive narrative on rail. Members agreed that while these topics remain priorities, there should be more focus of RDG business on them.
ORR

AW highlighted four hot topics for the ORR and sought RDG views on these:

- Reclassification of Network Rail and the impact on enhancement costs;
- Performance challenges in CP5;
- Passenger experiences and transparency;
- RDG's messaging.

RP commented that engagement between the ORR and the rest of the industry had improved in recent years, and highlighted the political scrutiny that the industry will continue to experience. It was agreed that RDG must continue to communicate a clear narrative.

AW asked if there were any other areas ORR should focus on. NE suggested ORR focus more on Better Regulation Principles, to help reduce the industry's transactional costs of working with the regulator and reduce regulatory burden.

HS2 Update

Sir David Higgins updated RDG on HS2 developments, and set out the recommendations in his "Rebalancing Britain" report which had been published the day before.

DH reported that there is now strong support from the North for HS2, and that Phase 1 (High Speed to Crewe) can be completed by 2027. The proposal for a Northern East-West corridor is also strongly supported although DH stressed that an overarching transport strategy is required for the region. DH drew attention to impressive recent high speed rail construction projects in Italy, France and Spain, and stressed that the UK must learn from the successes of foreign infrastructure firms.

Digital Railway programme

MC updated RDG on progress made in defining the Digital Railway proposition. A new Digital Railway Directorate has been created at Network Rail, led by Jerry England, and had continued to identify value in the proposition.

Members discussed whether the best route to improving the customer journey experience is through a uniform approach such as Digital Railway (thus narrowing bidding differentiators) or through innovation spurred through competition.

People

Members requested a summary of the objectives, rationale and status of earlier proposals for driver training in future, before making a decision as to any next steps.

PIDD

MR updated RDG on the industry's programme to improve the provision of passenger information during disruption (PIDD), following discussions at NTF where the programme of recommendations was agreed.

Members decided that, before they can endorse the approach, they need to validate the list of recommendations with their teams. Members also commented that the plain English summary needed to be reviewed and amended.

Transparency KTIs

MR set out the Transparency workstream's intention to implement Key Transparency Indicators which will enhance the public's access to rail data. RDG agreed to the proposal.

Any other business

AG briefed RDG about activity on Project Quicksilver since the September RDG meeting.