

Rail Delivery Group

Summary of Proceedings 19 October 2011

Present

Tim O'Toole (Chairman)
Sir David Higgins (vice-Chairman)
David Brown
Tony Collins
Martin Griffiths
David Martin
Peter Maybury
Paul Plummer
Alain Thauvette
Anton Valk
Graham Smith (Secretary)
Michael Roberts
Sir Roy McNulty

Apologies for absence: Dean Finch and Elaine Holt

Priorities of the Rail Delivery Group

There was particular interest in the DfT's emerging thinking on franchising and how that would affect the RDG's priorities.

Rail Systems Agency (RSA)

The Rail Delivery Group saw a need for a body that would facilitate change on behalf of the industry. This body should have the working title of the Rail Systems Agency.

The RSA working group proposed the following timeline for the creation of the RSA:

- Define objectives, interfaces, governance and structure by March 2012;
- Operate in shadow form from April 2012 to March 2013; and
- Operate in full form from April 2013 onwards to give one year's running before the beginning of CP5.

The RSA working group also considered that:

- The RSA would facilitate the efficiency opportunities identified by the RDG's other Working Groups
- RSSB could be reformed as the RSA but this would require changes to RSSB;
- Besides RSSB there could potentially be a transfer of responsibilities from DfT, Network Rail and ATOC and that there would be an impact on ORR;

- Legal advice would be needed regarding the creation of the RSA; and
- A full day workshop would take place to define objectives, interfaces, governance and structure.

Asset, Programme and Supply-Chain Management (APSCM) Working Group

The workstreams being pursued by the APSCM working group were:

- Access management;
- Route-based workbank planning;
- Cost of contingency;
- Train borne equipment;
- Network rationalisation; and
- Scope and accountability for major projects.

Train Utilisation Working Group

A workshop on train utilisation had concluded that train utilisation could be influenced in three distinct areas:

- Specification;
- Operation; and
- Demand management.

There needed to be an awareness of unintended consequences in areas such as traincrew utilisation and operational performance. Whilst individual TOCs were responsible for the utilisation of train fleets it was agreed that RDG had a role in focusing attention on the issue.

Working Group on Technology, Innovation and the Impact on Working Practices

The working group would look at the potential savings in overheads and administration costs although these may overlap with existing initiatives.

Initial Industry Plan

The Initial Industry Plan had been well received and a half-day industry event had been successful. Planning Oversight Group would now begin work on the Strategic Business Plan (SBP), which would be published in early 2013 following the publication of the High Level Output Specifications and Statements of Funds Available in 2012. Progress would be reported to RDG and RDG would be asked to take an active interest in the production of the SBP.

Wider Engagement

RDG noted that work was being undertaken in the industry in response to the comments made by Rick Haythornthwaite at the inaugural George Bradshaw address about the need for the industry to engage with the public.

Cross-Industry Groups

The Group's Terms of Reference included an intention to review the industry's cross-industry groups. RDG agreed that this work should be undertaken with a view to deciding:

- The groups with which RDG wished to engage;
- The groups that should continue with an independent existence; and
- The groups that no longer added value to the industry.

RDG asked that the work should identify how each cross-industry group was funded.

Passenger Information

A presentation on passenger information had been made by the industry to ORR and DfT, which had provided the opportunity to explain what the industry had been doing on the subject over recent years.

Industry Forum

Around 80 senior industry personnel had been invited to attend an RDG Industry Forum in November. Invitees included funders, ORR, suppliers and the Trade Unions.

2012 Meeting Dates

RDG agreed to meet monthly in 2012.