Note of Cycle Rail Task Force Meeting held on 2nd September 2008 at ATOC

Present:

David Mapp ATOC

Alex Veitch ATOC (Secretary)

Philip Darnton Cycling England (Chair)

Sally Delgado DfT Sharon Goodsell DfT

Martin Crowther Network Rail
Anthony Smith Passenger Focus

Apologies:

Ben Plowden TfL

Actions arising from meeting on 02.09.08

- 1 PD will arrange a project inception meeting (or conference call) between SQW, DM, PD and the DfT economist to the project.
- 2 SQW will speak to Passenger Focus about data for the work on the economics of providing cycle facilities at stations
- PD to discuss cycle carriage issues with DM off-line to consider whether and how the CRTF might approach this issue. Some work on reservations might be an appropriate way forward.

02.09.01 STRATEGY PAPER: COMMENTS AND UPDATES

[note: ATOC has numbered the tasks in the CRTF strategy paper – the items below correspond to these reference numbers]

- 1.1 SD updated the group on the appraisal requirements for cycle investment, noting current information gaps. SD noted that the SQW proposal would be helpful in addressing these gaps (see item 2).
- 1.2 AV updated the group on the survey of how many new cycle spaces TOCs have installed during their franchise period.
- 1.3 SD updated the group on existing franchise requirements.
- 1.4 PD noted that Cycling England has yet to formally appoint a Board, but once it has been appointed he will present the "Challenge Fund" proposal to them.
- 1.5 PD noted that the SQW research should provide the evidence based proposals on cycling facilities at stations see Item 2
- 1.6 DM noted that ATOC had presented the "1 for 1" proposal to the Commercial Board (Commercial Directors from the TOCs). There was some support for a further commitment on cycling provision, however the "1 for 1" proposal itself was felt to be too ambitious at the current time. ATOC has been asked to do some more research and thinking, and come back with a revised proposal.
- 1.7 Completed by Passenger Focus
- 1.8 MC noted that work was progressing for possible Dutch-style "cycle points", with feasibility work being carried out at Paddington and Leeds. No commitments have been made to the projects. MC also noted that NR are involved in discussions around the proposed London cycle-hire scheme, and that in both cases space is the major barrier rather than funding.
- 1.9 TfL were not present they will update at next meeting
- 1.10 AV had not progressed the website but will do so in time for next meeting
- 2.1 AV had not gathered information from Reading bike hire but will do so in time for next meeting
- 2.3, 2.4., 2.5 were completed
- 2.6 no comments to the cycle carriage paper were received (see item 3)
- 2.7 [Addition to minute the 2009 Cycle by Rail leaflet will start production shortly; CRTF members will have an opportunity to comment]

02.09.02 PROPOSED SQW RESEARCH

PD introduced the SQW proposal for research on the economics of providing cycling

facilities at rail stations, and noted that Cycling England could fund the research.

DM proposed three main uses of the research: First, it could be used by the DfT as an economic justification for requiring a particular number of cycle spaces in a franchise specification (DM also noted that additional co-funding could be provided by the DfT for cycle spaces). Second, the research could be used by TOCs to justify spending on cycle facilities during the course of a franchise.

SD felt that the proposed SQW research could provide a useful complementary approach to the DfT appraisal on cycling, and committed to finding the relevant DfT economist to assist with the project to ensure its outputs are consistent with DfT's analysis.

AS supported the proposal, and offered support from Passenger Focus (PF). Specifically, PF have been looking in detail at cycling facilities as an output of their work on the new South Central franchise, and would be happy to make information available to SQW.

Actions:

- 1. PD will arrange a project inception meeting (or conference call) between SQW, DM, PD and the DfT economist to the project.
- 2. SQW will speak to Passenger Focus about data for the work on the economics of providing cycle facilities at stations

02.09.03 BIKES ON TRAINS

The group discussed this issue to see whether there was any value in the CRTF engaging in some more work on it.

MC argued that the current restrictions were not uniform across TOCs and that therefore there is a not a consistent message going out to cyclists

DM responded that it was not possible to have uniform carriage conditions due to the wide disparities in rolling stock and passenger numbers across TOCs. Further, communication is currently good, with clear information available on the National Rail Enquiries website and in hard copy form via the "Cycling by Rail" leaflet.

SD noted that DfT receive a large volume of correspondence from passengers on this issue, the main problem appearing to be the difficulty in buying rail tickets and cycle reservations together. Therefore if the CRTF could look at this issue specifically then it could add some value to the debate.

Action:

3. PD to discuss cycle carriage issues with DM off-line to consider whether and how the CRTF might approach this issue. Some work on reservations might be an appropriate way forward.

02.09.04 AOB

PD noted that the campaign group CTC have offered their services to help survey cycle facilities at stations.

AS congratulated ATOC for their work on Station Travel Plans

DM updated the group on the joint work being carried out by ATOC and the Confederation for Passenger Transport (CPT) on the "end to end journey". This is highlighting best practice in integrated transport, and noting some areas for improvement.

As part of this work, ATOC and PF are shortly to commission some original research into what passengers need and expect from rail in terms of transport integration. This research should inform the work of the CRTF and will also help the Station Travel Plan project, and should be completed in early 2009.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

24.10.08 - 1400 at ATOC

02.12.08 - 1000 at ATOC