

GNLRT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

23rd March 2004

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – NET

NET LINE ONE PROJECT UPDATE

On the 5th March 2004, Arrow received approval from HM Inspector of Railways for NET Line One to commence passenger service operations, allowing the scheduled celebratory launch by the Transport Minister to go ahead as planned on Monday the 8TH March. This official opening was a great success and was a credit to, amongst others, NTC's general Manager, Andy Wood, and his team. Passenger service operations commenced at 6.00am on Tuesday 9th March and although there were a couple of glitches, the response from the public of Nottingham and the media was favourable.

The early March opening followed a 9 week period of shadow running. This was 4 weeks less than had been planned and is an indication of the high level of reliability demonstrated by both the infrastructure and the vehicles during that period. Operator performance during shadow running was generally very good with performance monitoring targets (PMS) typically achieved under normal operations. This provided a good indicator of the robustness of the opening timetable.

Although it is early days, reports from the Operator on system performance overall are encouraging. On the first day of operations some delays were experienced due to the volume of passengers seeking to ride the system (not an unwelcome problem), but a significant delay was suffered due to a signalling failure at the David Lane level crossing. Investigations are underway to remedy this 'fail safe' fault. .

A massive effort on the part of all involved in the project enabled the early March date to be achieved. This included significant activity by BCC and the approving authorities in clearing the back-log of outstanding approvals and approval conditions. The focus of site activity was the completion of works considered either critical for the Operating Commencement Date (OCD), such as highway safety related issues, and high profile items of work, such as the city centre paving. The extent of outstanding works at OCD has been agreed with Arrow and BCC (as Retention Items and Snagging Works) and a programme provided for their completion over the next few months. Current site activity is limited to outstanding landscaping works, including the planting of the on-street trees and associated finishes.

There are a number of testing and commissioning associated issues that form part of the agreed Snagging Works and which BCC are to address during the next few weeks and months. This is to include further investigation into the cause and possible solutions to address the noise and vibration concerns at certain locations along the route. In this regard, and following system wide line side noise monitoring during the shadow running period, a number of properties on Noel Street, near the Terrace Street and Shipstone Street junctions, have been identified as eligible for sound insulation.

Over a period of 46 months (only 4 months late), Arrow, BCC and NTC have succeeded in delivering NET Line One and have, based on the feedback from the many that attended the launch, including the Secretary of State Mr Alistair Darling, and from the general public during the first few days of operations, delivered a quality system that should perform well and should be well used. The Concessionaire, contractors, and everyone involved in the Project should be applauded.

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