

PAPER TO RDG BOARD

Meeting Date: 22 September 2020
Paper Title: Minutes from 21 July 2020
Author: Deborah Lewis
Sponsor: Paul Plummer
Paper Date: 24 July 2020
Reference: Paper 1a

21 JULY 2020

BY VIDEO CONFERENCE

ATTENDEE LIST

Attendees	Organisation
Chris Burchell	Arriva
Paul McMahon	Network Rail
Steve Montgomery	First Group
David Brown	Go-Ahead
Peter Strachan	Serco
Jeremy Long	MTR
Dominic Booth	Abellio
Ernesto Sicilia	Trenitalia
Alistair Gordon	Keolis
Robin Gisby	DOHL
Yasumitsu Tanaka	Mitsui
Hans-Georg Werner	DB Cargo
Mark Thurston	HS2
Anna Ince	RSG
Jac Starr	RDG
Deborah Lewis	RDG
Andy Bagnall	RDG
Ola Ogun	RDG
Leila Rahimzadeh – item 4	RDG
John Thomas	RDG

Apologies: Paul Plummer (RDG); Andrew Haines (Network Rail); Gary Long (Freightliner); Philip Hoare (RSG); Susie Homan (RDG)

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Item No.	Approval of record
1	Chris Burchell (CB) welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the last meeting on 17 June 2020.

Item No.	RDG activity update			
2	<p>Chris Burchell noted the opportunity for RDG and wider industry to build on the positive elements that have come from the pandemic crisis, including stronger links RDG now has with government. The primary focus now is attracting people back to use the railway and developing a practical and deliverable recovery plan for DfT, up to and beyond September. RDG and members should work to be on the front foot regarding the upcoming spending review.</p> <p>Anna Ince updated on a report launched last week identifying three ‘Act Now’ priorities, based on the RSG taskforce survey of supply chain businesses, to best support recovery post-Covid. The most important is visibility of pipeline for all tiers; but the others of simplifying data access, and increasing access to the network to undertake works, are also key. AI thanked RDG and its members for the collaboration and support on all three priorities to date.</p> <p>Jac Starr updated re latest progress on the recovery marketing campaign; both Reform and Customer Boards are sighted. RDG will share a presentation with DfT on the campaign and will send a response to their letter. JS invited Members to share any views offline, as to whether RDG could be doing more in the recovery space.</p>			
2007.01	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">RDG to develop a post-Covid vision for the railway, to reframe strategic discussion; and strengthen response letter to DfT accordingly</td> <td style="width: 20%;">John Thomas/ Jac Starr</td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> </tr> </table>	RDG to develop a post-Covid vision for the railway, to reframe strategic discussion; and strengthen response letter to DfT accordingly	John Thomas/ Jac Starr	
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Item No.	Communications & Engagement Strategy Update		
3	<p>Andy Bagnall summarised latest on the RDG communications and engagement strategy, which has evolved in the context of Covid to demonstrate rail's resilience and pave the way to position rail as vital to the UK's economic and green recovery; it remains agile so can respond to continuing changing landscape. Board commended the significant work undertaken to support members and the industry and noted latest tracking research showing that trust in and reputation of rail has improved. There was lengthy discussion around how best to progress the priority of attracting people back to the railway – fares reform will be crucial. The timing of a shift from reputational messaging to a full marketing campaign will depend on virus pattern, as social distancing remains a limiting factor – but it is a capacity rather than safety issue. RDG will collate latest scientific findings on viral transmission and any known risk on trains, to bolster any discussions with/challenges to government about messaging; it will remain under constant review to ensure balance is right. It was agreed that the industry should have a positive longer-term vision as a framework for tactical initiatives. There was broad support for the strategy direction and tactics discussed.</p>		
2007.02	RDG to compile comprehensive summary of latest scientific evidence around coronavirus transmission	Andy Bagnall	July 2020
2007.03	RDG to compile material summarising public opinion research, regarding how the industry has responded to the pandemic	Andy Bagnall	September 2020
2007.04	RDG to build on productive engagement with HMT re fares reform	Andy Bagnall	September 2020

Item No.	People Strategy		
4	<p>Leila Rahimzadeh joined to present proposals on next steps for Trade Union engagement; and for revised governance for the industry-wide People Strategy. Following discussion, Board agreed that the uncertainty around scale or timing of change for the industry, means now is not the right point to define the scope and remit of a Rail Industry Strategic Forum. Members agreed that such a forum is needed to ensure the successful engagement with TUs during Covid can continue, but more clarity is needed on industry direction before it is set up. Instead, there was support for RDG to establish an interim engagement approach following the official conclusion of RICF and the EWPA on 31 July, so as to maintain momentum. Board also agreed that some freight issues should remain subject to separate discussion.</p> <p>Regarding the People Strategy, the proposal to widen out governance from HR community only was supported, to enable the industry to develop and implement a comprehensive long-term strategy, one which forms a key</p>		

	element of the Whole Industry Strategic Plan. Following discussion of options of which senior member groups should be involved in oversight of and input to the People Strategy, it was agreed RDG will flesh out a preferred option proposal and share with Board.		
2007.05	RDG to consider most appropriate governance structure for People Strategy and share with Board	Susie Homan/ John Thomas	September 2020

Item No.	HS2 Update
5	Mark Thurston provided an update for Board on latest progress and planned milestones for HS2, including construction, stations development and rolling stock and rail systems.

Item No.	RDG Member Survey 2020		
6	There was brief discussion of the 2020 RDG Member Survey. The survey was live in March-April, but Covid meant the response rate was very low; the planned approach to have strategic boards complete the survey during meetings was not possible due to the pandemic. It was agreed that in light of that, and of the considerably changed world the RDG and industry is now in, RDG will go back to the three strategic boards and Strat Comms Group to seek further views on what RDG's core focus areas should be going forward, and whether feedback received pre-Covid is still relevant. It was noted that the crisis response has prompted RDG to work much more effectively across its teams to deliver as a single body the best support for members, which should be built upon.		
2007.06	RDG to seek the views of the three strategic boards and Strat Comms Group, regarding what RDG priorities should be post-Covid	RDG Executive	End September 2020

Item No.	APSCM/possession efficiency review -update
7	<p>Neil Ovenden provided a progress update on work to coordinate the various workstreams in different parts of the industry, all aiming to improve processes and efficiency of network access and possessions. A key focus is revisiting the APSCM work RDG undertook 2012-2016, some elements of which have been embedded in a few parts of the network. Work will continue to assess the extent and success of that implementation, and align with similar workstreams by RSG and others, to ensure the industry can maximise the unique window of opportunity (approx 18 months) currently presented, whereby many of the obstacles that prevented a wider and successful embedding of APSCM initiatives, have been removed. RDG will work with RSG, under the third of its 'Act Now' priorities noted above, to look at improving productivity as well as more efficient possessions. An update will be given at September RDG Board, following discussion at P&PB.</p>

Item No.	AOB
7	<p>Ola Ogun flagged that the statutory accounts for RDG and ATOC Ltd would be considered and signed by Directors immediately following Board.</p>