

MINUTES

Darwin Commercial Passenger Vehicles Forum

Date: Thursday 26 September 2013
Time: 2:30 pm to 4 pm
Venue: 2nd Floor Conference Room, 18-20 Cavenagh Street, Darwin

1.1 Present/Apologies

Present:	Rebecca Goodwin	Motor Omnibus Industry Representative (Chair)
	Aaron Blasch	Motor Omnibus (Route Service) Industry Rep
	Ron Fleming	Private Hire Car and Limousine Industry Rep
	Drosso Lelekis	City of Darwin (CoD) Representative
	Kerry Smith	City of Darwin (CoD) Representative
	Shirley Ansell	Taxi Industry Representative
	Trevor Cox	Tourism Top End Representative
	Greg Turner	Department of Transport (DoT)
	Abby Bowen	Department of Transport (DoT)
Apologies:	Sarah Andrews	Australian Hotels Association NT
	Melina Pachos	City Radio Taxis (no advice received)
	John Hart	Minibus Industry Representative

2 General Business

2.1 Confirm Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from the previous meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record.

2.2 CPV Community Educational Project

Greg advised there has been a double page of CPV options included into the Public Bus guide, this will assist the community to better understand their options. A discussion was held about further alternatives to educate the travelling public. Trevor advised that Tourism Top End has revisited the Darwin International Airport as the thought is to provide a digital information centre within the Airport. A consultant has been appointed to engage in this project and the Airport is supportive.

ACTION: *TTE to give update on the proposed digital information centre at next meeting*

2.3 Marking and Signage of Bus Stops

Darwin City Council confirmed that the line marking was up to Buslink to progress. Council would be happy to support. Aaron will raise with the Department of Transport to implement.

2.4 Network Advisory Notice Educational Material

Greg advised that a Notice has been drafted since the last meeting and is currently sitting with senior management for approval. This process has taken longer than anticipated due to the Department having a new Chief Executive, however as soon as approval has been given it will be sent to industry and uploaded to the Transport website.

ACTION: DoT to provide copy of Network Advisory Notice at next meeting

2.5 Private Hire Car Sub Base Proposal

As discussed at previous meeting, private hire car operators can have a sub base at a hotel provided they have the hotel's approval, they are out of sight, the base is not accessible to the public and drivers must not tout for passengers in the hotel.

2.6 Mitchell Street Secure Taxi Rank

Greg advised that the usage of the Mitchell Street secure taxi rank is declining, costing the Department and other stakeholders a considerable amount of money. There is a potential it may disappear if usage doesn't increase as it is currently not sustainable. Greg also advised the secure ranks work well in other states and the Department will be meeting with the Taxi Council to discuss options for this rank and possibility of incentives for drivers.

2.7 CBD Parking Strategy Implementation Plan

City of Darwin implemented a draft strategy that was adopted in July 2013. Discussions were held about the need to protect public transport as it is very important not to jeopardise that. Currently looking at relocating public transport to Cavenagh Street from Mitchell Street which would free up congestion on Mitchell. There is also a possibility to use existing bays for other CPV users, although Greg advised there are regulatory issues that would need to be looked at.

2.8 CPV Operator Parking in the CBD

Council believes there is consistent management required for CPV drivers operating in the CBD as there is currently an issue with parking for CPV's. Council is looking at combining bus stops for other CPV drivers as an option to increase parking. Aaron said this would only work outside of bus hours which would be 11pm to 6am but would not work beyond those hours as the buses are on a route service so any delay would have financial implications.

2.9 Rural Taxi Service

Australian Hotels Association NT (AHANT) clients having difficulties getting reliable taxi transport to and from the rural area. Taxi industry not aware of this issue. An open discussion was held about what other option would be available to assist with this problem. The only alternative raised was to approach Metro Minibus. Greg will speak to Sarah and suggest the possibility of Metro.

2.10 PHC pick-up and drop off area at Mantra Pandanus

Ron raised the issue of private hire car drivers receiving infringement notices for parking in coach bays outside the Mantra Pandanus. There is a risk for opening it up to PH as not all drivers use it as a pick-up/drop-off area, they tend to stay there too long therefore creating a risk for coach drivers.

2.11 Revised Smith Street taxi parking arrangements

The temporary arrangement to have taxis rank on Smith Street rather than Cavenagh (originally made for the Cavenagh Street upgrade) has been agreed by Council to be permanent and reduced to only two bays. The islands next to the rank will be extended to prevent u-turns.

2.13 Other business

As Minibus representative John Hart is no longer in the industry, the forum will need to seek a replacement member. Greg will speak with Bill Piantoni for ideas, otherwise there are some independent operators who might like to sit on the forum.

ACTION: *Replacement member for Minibus industry to be discussed at next meeting*

3. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, 23 January 2013.

Agenda No	Action	Action Officer
2.2	TTE to give update on the proposed digital information centre.	Trevor Cox
2.4	DoT to provide copy of Network Advisory Notice at next meeting.	Greg Turner
2.13	Replacement member for Minibus industry to be discussed.	Rebecca Goodwin