Item 1: Minutes from Previous Board Meeting  
DfTB(09)84

1. The Board agreed that Robert Devereux would discuss amendments with the Secretariat.

Item 2: Strategic Finance  
DfTB(09)86-88

2. Various long-term funding scenarios were discussed, with particular attention to rail and Crossrail funding and support to Transport for London.

3. The Board agreed that it needed greater visibility of major projects and programmes and their decision points. This would enable it to make strategic recommendations on competing calls on limited finances. It requested a list of decision points for the next six months for all major projects and programmes, including the extent of the forward commitment.

   Action: Kieran Rix

4. During the discussion on Crossrail it was agreed that the nature of the economic and other benefits of Crossrail should be spelt out more explicitly, as well as the potential savings in travelling time.

   Action: Lucy Chadwick

The names of non-SCS staff have been redacted in accordance with DfT’s publication policy.
5. The Board welcomed the visibility of allocation over 10 years. It also welcomed the framework for assessing difference scenarios, recognising that it would need to be kept updated both on shorter term (next Parliament) and longer-term (10-year) issues.

**Item 3: Intercity Express Programme – approval of contractual principles**

6. The Board discussed various aspects of the IEP Programme, in particular critical commercial matters, and agreed how to advise the Secretary of State.

**Item 4: VOSA – Updated Business Case and Result of Gateway 0 Review**

7. Steve Gooding reported – by speakerphone – that the Office of Government Commerce had produced a largely positive report on its Gateway Review of VOSA’s testing transformation programme. It had warned, however, against too tight a focus on achieving VOSA’s initial target for tests carried out on non-VOSA sites by March 2010 at the expense of the programme’s ultimate objective of ensuring a more convenient pattern of testing facilities.

8. It was clear that the recession had impacted on market appetite for Authorised Testing Facility (ATF) status, with some potential applicants suffering a significant turndown in business. It would also be necessary to devise a detailed, geographically-specific strategy before seeking to push for widespread conversion of designated premises into ATFs, to ensure adequate coverage of testing facilities that would, in turn, facilitate release of VOSA testing estate.

9. What could be achieved by March 2010 was being affected by the recession and its impact on some existing Designated Premises.

10. On the plus side, a number of key national transport operators were likely to have signed contracts to provide Authorised Testing Facilities within the next few months.

11. The Board agreed that an up to date trajectory of costs and benefits, including a revised business case, was required. This could be circulated in correspondence.

   **Action:** Steve Gooding

**Item 5: Audit Committee Report**

12. The Board welcomed the update that Ed Smith had provided on the recent changes to the membership of the Group Audit Committee, and his report on the Group Audit Committee meeting held on 27 October.
Item 6: Review of DfT Governance

13. The Board endorsed the recommendations set out in Alan Cook’s review of DfT Governance. It agreed to hold an awayday on 12 February 2009 where the agenda would include:

- a review of the Board’s strategic role;
- a discussion of the results of the initial assessment of the Board’s effectiveness;
- the implementation of the report’s remaining recommendations.

Any Other Business

14. None.

Board Secretariat
3 November 2009