TRANSPORT EAST Forum

Wednesday 24th February 2021 via Teams

In attendance:

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| **Core Members** | **TESOG Officers** | **Guests and Observers** |
| **Cllr Kevin Bentley (Chair)** | Essex County Council  | **Andrew Summers** | Transport East  | **Nicola Beach** | Suffolk County Council  |
| **Cllr Martin Wilby**  | Norfolk County Council | **Esme Yuill** | Transport East | **Cllr Linda Haysey** | East Herts Council  |
| **Cllr Ron Woodley** | Southend County Council | **Rebecca Rangi** | Transport East | **Ben Smith**  | DfT |
| **Cllr Mark Coxshall** | Thurrock Borough Council | **Adam Thorp** | EELGA | **Dr Liz Smith** | DfT |
| **Cllr Graham Plant** | Great Yarmouth Council | **David Cumming** | Norfolk County Council | **Ian Brooker** | Jacobs  |
| **Cllr Graham Butland** | Braintree District council | **Mat Kiely** | Thurrock Borough Council | **Sean Perry** | Jacobs  |
| **Cllr Phil Smart** | Ipswich Borough Council  | **Graeme Mateer** | Suffolk County Council  | **Tim Steiner** | Jacobs  |
| **Neil Hoskins (sub)** | Southend Borough Council | **Andrew Cook** | Essex County Council  | **Sam Greening** | Sustrans |
| **Andy Walker** | Suffolk Chamber of Commerce | **Alistair Southgate** | Essex County Council | **Fiona Blackley**  | Sustrans |
| **Nova Fairbank** | Norfolk Chamber of Commerce | **James Bradley** | Network Rail | **John McGill** | UK Innovation Corridor |
| **Laura Waters** | Norfolk County Council  | **Matthew Taylor** | Highways England | **Matt Tracey** | Norfolk County Council  |
| **Trevor Scott**  | SELEP | **Howard Davies** | South East LEP  | **Jack Daniels** | Essex County Council  |
| **Mark Lucas** | UK Innovation Corridor | **Karen Gearing** | Southend Borough Council  | **Cllr Peter Hiller** | Peterborough City Council  |
| **John McGill** | UK Innovation Corridor | **David Glason** | Great Yarmouth District Council  |  |  |
| **Perry Glading** | South East LEP |  |  |  |  |
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Apologies

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| **Cllr Chris Seaton** | Fenland District Council | **Neil Hayes** | Hertfordshire LEP |
| **Cllr Roger Hickford** | Cambridgeshire County Council | **Davinia Farthing** | Southend Borough Council |
| **Cllr Mark Howell** | South Cambridgeshire Council | **Ellen Goodwin** | New Anglia LEP |
| **Cllr Ian Bates** | Cambridge City Council | **Steve Oliver** | New Anglia LEP  |
| **Mayor Dave Hodgson** | Bedford Borough Council | **David Birch** | Essex Chamber of Commerce |
| **Cllr Andrew Reid** | Suffolk County Council | **Mayor Palmer** | Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority  |
| **Suzanne Buck** | Suffolk County Council |  |  |
| **Karen Chapman** | Suffolk Growth Partnership  |  |  |

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|  | **Welcome and apologies, and Declaration of interest** Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chairman of Transport EastAndrew Summers, Strategic Director Transport East  | Actions | Responsibility |
|  | **Forum approved previous minutes** 3rd November 2020 were approved  |  |  |
|  | **Transport East Update** Andrew Summers updated the Forum on the draft Business Plan for financial year 2021/22 and the renewed ToR (documents shared). Forum members endorsed the business plan and ToR pending minor strengthening of wording around closer partnership working. Ben Smith (Co-Director Region Cities and Devolution Directorate in the Department for Transport) confirmed that DfT are minded to award TE supporting grant for financial year 2021/22 subject to ministerial approval of the business plan. Ben provided further points: * Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government leading on the publication of the Devolution white paper. DfT are working closely with MHCLG to ensure thinking is fully reflective of the advantages and benefits seen by the STB model.
* STB bring a valuable contribute to Government local prioritisation
* Last year’s spending review was challenging due to the current pandemic, but it is expected a further spending review will be undertaken later this year.

Key feedback from Forum members for the business plan included: * Strengthening our Energy Coast – The Eastern Region has the longest coastline in the country and is the fastest growing region in the UK.
* Global Gateways is an important sector of the economy and 60% of containerised trade comes in at Felixstowe and London Gateway. One of our biggest challenges is around decarbonisation of freight. 70% of freight leaves the region going to the Midland and the North. Closer working relationships with other STBs is welcome to drive forward sustainable change.
* Sustainable transport and low emissions travel are moving at pace within our region with the first UK electric charging forecourt in Braintree.
* Transport connectivity between the four nations is of high priority.
* Ship to ship movement around the UK to be explored further
 | * TE to update business plan to reflect suggested changes and submit to DfT
 | EY/AS |
|  | **Communications, partnerships, and engagement** **Communications Plan Update**Esme Yuill provided a progress update on TE Communications Plan (Slides circulated) Key priorities were: * Comprehensive engagement work on the strategy including workshops with District colleagues, 121 meeting and over 100 meetings with wider business groups and transport organisations.
* Three deep dives undertaken in the following areas:
	+ Rural and coastal Communities
	+ Economic Recovery and Growth
	+ International Gateways / Ports Roundtable
* Over 600 responses to our public engagement survey
* Monthly newsletter with 1,500 recipients
* MP Engagement Event being held on 25th March
* TE profile has been raised at the following events.
	+ UK innovation corridor
	+ APPG - West Anglia Main Line.
	+ Highways UK

Further engagement is ongoing through the Active Travel and Passenger Connectivity Study that Sustrans and Jacobs are undertaking. Transport East is holding our annual summit on the 9th of March with keynote speaker Baroness Vere of Norbition, and other panellists including Dame Sarah Storey, Tim Morris CEO UK Major Ports Group, James Bradley Head of Strategic Planning Network Rail. It will be chaired by Dr Dan Poulter MP. |  |  |
|  | **Transport Strategy Update** Adam Thorp, Sean Perry and Esme Yuill provided an update to Forum members on the transport strategy. (See slides circulated). Key feedback from Forum members included: * Strengthening our ambition for change within the strategy
* Upskilling our younger people will support our growth aspirations
* Focus on where ‘unblocking’ of the railway lines could benefit more passenger / freight services
* Improved coastal connections for local business and tourism
* Improved walking and cycling routes around and over major roads within the region allowing for greater safety and active travel opportunities.
* Investigate private sector investment to increase pace of change
* Develop a risk register around the reliance of technology

**Next Steps** * Define strategic delivery plan and develop prioritisation framework for transport measures
* Complete integrated sustainability appraisal
* Agree transport priorities to achieve our outcomes
* Produce draft Transport Strategy
* Public consultation on draft transport strategy
 | * TE to engage with children of all ages.
* Cllr Wilby to provide details for TE to support a footbridge over the A47
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|  | **Investment and Delivery Planning** **MRN Update*** Forum members endorsed a letter supporting the business case for the A13 East-facing Access Project brought to the forum by Mat Kiely Thurrock Council.
* Forum members endorsed a letter supporting the business case for Norwich Western Link Road and West Winch Housing Access Road brought to the forum by Richard Doleman Norfolk County Council

**Ports Roundtable and Study Update**Ian Brooker provided a high-level overview of the recent port’s roundtable undertaken by TE and Jacobs. Key points raised included (Slides shared):* Lack of capacity for transport access, both road and rail
* Impacts on reliability of road haulage sector due to traffic delays
* Overnight HGV parking especially around M25 and A14 at Felixstowe.
* Route to carbon zero includes electrification of the rail network where there are current gaps.
* Reliability of rail freight journeys
* Public connectivity around airports
* Passenger Access to Ports and Airports
* Coastal and inlet shipping
* Economic impact of Brexit and Freeports

Key feedback from Forum members included:* We need to improve the wider understanding of industry shipping routes, in that the East will always be a major port destination due to its geographic location.
* Modal change and behaviour change is needed within the industry.

  **The Future of Rural Mobility – Transport East response to the DfT Call for Evidence**Laura Waters highlighted the key points from the STB and Transport East response to the DfT call for evidence around the future of rural mobility. The report was previous shared for comment and the forum endorsed this paper for submission. Meeting closed at 12.30 with no future business recorded. | * Thurrock and Norfolk Council to provide supporting information for the letters
 | MK / RD  |