

TRANSPORT EAST Forum
Friday 8th October via Teams

In attendance:

Core Members		TESOG Officers		Guests and Observers	
Cllr Kevin Bentley (Chair)	Essex County Council	Andrew Summers	Transport East	Ben Smith	DfT
Cllr Martin Wilby	Norfolk County Council	Esme Yuill	Transport East	Dr Liz Smith	DfT
Cllr Lesley Wagland	Essex County Council	Rebecca Rangi	Transport East	Cllr Peter Hiller	Peterborough City Council
Cllr Mark Coxshall	Thurrock Borough Council	Suzanne Buck	Transport East	Richard Bates	Network Rail
Cllr Graham Plant	Great Yarmouth Council	David Cumming	Norfolk County Council	Gareth Burton	Jacobs
Cllr Richard Smith	Suffolk County Council	Mat Kiely	Thurrock Borough Council	Charles Freeman	Jacobs
Cllr Ron Woodley	Southend County Council	Graeme Mateer	Suffolk County Council		
Cllr Phil Smart	Ipswich Borough Council	James Bradley	Network Rail		
Mark Lucas	UK Innovation Corridor	Alistair Southgate	Essex County Council		
Trevor Scott	Simarco	Matthew Taylor	Highways England		
		Howard Davies	Southeast LEP		
		Karen Gearing	Southend Borough Council		
		David Glason	Great Yarmouth District Council		
		Louise Flavell	Braintree District Council		
		Karen Chapman	Suffolk Growth Partnership		
		Luke Barber	Suffolk County Council		

Apologies:

Trevor Wigget	Norfolk County Council	Nicola Beach	Suffolk County Council
Perry Glading	South East LEP	David Birch	Essex Chambers of Commerce
Mayor Dave Hodgson	Bedford Borough Council	Cllr Graham Butland	Braintree District council
Nova Fairbank	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce	Rob Fairy	Network Rail
Andy Walker	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce	Neil Hoskins	Southend Borough Council
Adam Thorp	EELGA	Laura Waters	Norfolk County Council

<p>Welcome and apologies, and Declaration of interest Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chairman of Transport East Andrew Summers, Strategic Director Transport East</p>	Action
<p>Forum approved previous minutes</p>	

Minutes were approved with change of spelling to Lucy D'Orsi name

Transport East Strategy and Public Consultation

Draft Strategy Document

Andrew Summers summarised the work undertaken to date on the draft transport strategy (draft was shared) Following our ministerial meeting in Autumn 2020 with Baroness Vere it was indicated that all STBs should have a transport strategy in place and a framework for future government investment. These two key pieces of work have been undertaken in the last year alongside an extensive engagement programme with partners, business and the public, from this we have developed a strong evidence base for future investment in the East.

The public consultation will begin in late November and run through to January 2022, with full DfT approval sought in spring 2022.

The strategy aims to

- Outline our strategic case for investment in the East
- Provide evidence of why we have identified our priorities
- Set out how as an STB we aim to delivery those priorities and accelerated investment through a pipeline approach

Comments from Members on the draft document:

- Cllr Phil Smart: Page 33 of agenda, TE decarbonisation pathway sets out the aim of achieving net zero transport based on the Royal Town Planning Institute's framework and interpreted for the East of England's unique situation, it builds on the principles of the diagram from the Royal Town Planning Institute. An addition of more sustainable modes and freight would be welcome here to strength the message.
- Cllr Kevin Bentley: Page 23 references ports and airports but not Freeport, please can this be added in.
- Cllr Mark Coxshall & Cllr Lesley Wagland: Growth and Economic statics to be checked again with the consults for accuracy as the figures appear low. District planning & Economic colleagues to be spoken with
- Trevor Scott: Would welcome more references to Freeports and global gateway connectivity. The Lower Thames Crossing is briefly mentioned throughout the document could references be increased.

Detailed final comments are required by COP 15th October to allow for the design team to finish the document. Final sign off will be between the Chair and Strategic director, with the document circulated to this group beforehand. A shorter high-level version of the strategy that will also be available, given feedback on the length of the core document.

Transport East / Jacobs to amend draft document.

Transport East / Jacobs to produce a note to provide 'single source of truth' on housing and jobs growth numbers to use in strategy.

Public Consultation Plan

Esme Yuill and Gareth Burton provided an overview of the current consultation programme for the Transport Strategy, Investment and Delivery Programme, Integrated Sustainability Assessment (including social, economic and environmental sustainability and equality) and the Habitats Regulations Assessment. The initial scoping consultation has been completed with statutory stakeholders and comments addressed.

Consultation key points are:

- Consultation will cover Draft Strategy, Draft Investment & Delivery Programme and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal
- Late Nov launch for 8 weeks to mid-Jan 2022
- Digital led - virtual exhibition space available 24/7
- Virtual stakeholder pre-briefing and 2x public online webinars
- Video animation for promotion & use in consultation
- Stakeholder toolkit
- Promoted through media / social media / TE channels
- Accessible – plain text board option, printed info on request, easy-read version
- Online response form as the preferred approach but with access to freepost and email if necessary.
- A mix of quantitative and qualitative questions
- Reporting portal will be used to gain early insight from the responses as well as being able to target any areas where engagement has been lower than needed.
- Initial draft report end of January 2022

Comments from Members:

- Mark Lucas: Will consultation include disability groups including visionally impaired? Yes, TE have a wide inclusive stakeholder list and we will be looking at linking into an audio newspaper
- Esme Yuill: Confirmed higher education, university, colleagues, schools and District Authorities and parishes are included within the communications list
- Cllr Kevin Bentley: Large launch of the consultation would be welcome with promotion via local TV news channels
- Alastair Southgate: Will the consultation be similar in approach to the recent Army and Navy consultation that Jacobs undertook for Essex? Yes, the consultation material will be tailored to the region and different audiences. The virtual exhibition will seek to summarise the strategy alongside more detailed and complexity material

Transport East Functional Body

Comprehensive Spending Review

Esme Yuill confirmed TE recent submission for CSR has been completed and we are working with MP's and other stakeholders to promote our main asks and aims.

Additional 202102 DfT Funding proposal

Ben Smith, Director of Regions, DfT, gave a short introduction to the additional funding that is available from DfT this year and encouraged TE to work with its nearest neighbour, England Economic Heartland. Submission to DfT must be by 20th October with expected final decision by mid-November. Funding requirements include either spend or fully committed funding by the end of this financial year. The focus of the submission should be on where the partnership can add value by developing a regional view, speaking with one voice on issues and supporting the local authorities to deliver transport services in our area. The additional funding is for four areas that the DfT have identified.

These include:

- Decarbonisation
- Buses
- EV Infrastructure Strategy
- Local Authority Capability

Suzanne Buck led the discussion on the presented ideas (below) that TE has developed and asked for comments

Action: Final submission to be signed off by the Chair and Strategic Director, taking into account the views of this Forum.

Idea		TE	TE, EEH TfSE	All 7 STBs
Decarbonisation				
1	Decarbonisation analysis toolkit for TE and LTAs			
2	Enhanced Decarbonisation Business Case capability for LTA's			
Buses				
3	Supporting local authority BSIP's through strategic actions			
4	Enhanced understanding of what factors affect people's decisions to change mode of travel			
EV Infrastructure				
5	Accelerating Electric Vehicle infrastructure delivery in the East			
Local Authority Capability				
6	A new people-focused approach to transport modelling			
7	Better understanding of our residents' travel needs and behaviour			
8	Rural Mobility Centre of Excellence			
9	An East of England case for investment in Active Travel - focusing on economic and health benefits			
10	Establishing the East of England's regulatory requirements needed to tackle transport challenges			
11	Strategic rail capability for Local Authorities and Transport East			
12	Development of a national STB Common Analytical Framework			
13	Build support for LTA's to develop business cases			

Comments from Members:

- Cllr Phil Smart: Boosting capability within local authorities and establishing capability around the rail is best done at a regional level and long-term funding is needed. TE aims to deliver long term funding through strong evidence base that this work will deliver. TE has also requested a 3-year funding settlement through CSR.
- Cllr Martin Wilby: Welcomes the opportunity for further funding from DfT and supports the ideas above.
- Cllr Lesley Wagland: Supports the approach for EV, rail and connectivity give us a single coherent voice on messaging to government.
- Cllr Kevin Bentley: Rail is critically important to the region and Essex has the first EV charging forecourt charging facilitate in the UK. Aligning planning and transport to allow for multiple forecourts in the region and ensuring they are connected is vital to connectivity and supporting the growth of EV.

Next Steps

TE will review comments and shortlist the ideas in preparation for a further discussion with senior offices next week before final submission is approved by Chair Cllr Bentley and Strategic Director Andrew Summers on Tuesday 19th October.

Transport East Business Plan Update

Business Plan Progress

The main aims of TE business plan in the last 6 months were to deliver a draft strategy and IDP to DfT, and to strengthen our relationship with National Highways and Network Rail. TE has an adopted JEAP with National Highways and a draft MoU with Network Rail and a rail subgroup in the process of being set up. The next steps will be the implementation of the technical work programme that was set out and complete the public consultation on the strategy

National Highways update

Matthew Taylor presented to the forum the key points in addition to the paper that was pre circulated. These points were

- Highways England has changed their name to National Highways and a new chief exec has been appointed, Nick Harris. This was an internal appointment, and he moves across from operations. The core priorities for NH are environmental sustainability, digital road from design through to operation, improving asset management ensuring maximum benefit is reached from each road closure and maintenance of existing infrastructure
- JEAP action Plan between TE and NH highlighting the touch points of where the two organisations can work together. The first one to one meeting took place in September.
- Route Strategies evidence gathering is ongoing with two workshops planned for 18th and 22nd of October
- Maintenance concrete Program ongoing
- Further talks are ongoing regarding Sizewell C, LTC and Thetford

Network Rail Update

Richard Bates presented to the forum the key points in addition to the paper that was pre circulated. These points were:

- Dedicated teams focusing on network planning and Industry Strategy
- Strategic MoU between NR and TE will take a flexible approach enabling change, closer working, shared focus of strategic priorities and the potential for data sharing.
- Rail Strategic subgroup to focus the conversation and bring together all the eastern taskforces to highlight the single voice and the need for investment across the region not just individual lines.
- Suffolk Connectivity Study current in scope

- Successful funding from DfT on unlocking outline strategic business case for improvements on the Great East Mainline and work around Trowse Bridge.
- Awaiting Next steps of Haughley Junction

James Bradley updated the forum on the current creation of Great British Railways and the key change that will be happening over the next year and how TE can be involved in that development. The transition team is set up and James will be a part of the team support TE in getting the best possible inputs and outputs for the region. GBR will create a whole industry strategic plan in the next 12 months and two main aims of that plan are to be clear on our investment priorities and to look at enhancements for the network, there will be a call for evidence in late November early December for this work, with publication late 2022/2023.

Comments from Members:

- Cllr Phil Smart: The long lead time for rail improvements is a concern if we are to decarbonise the roads in the timeframe needed. The rail industry needs to be slicker in bringing projects to fruition.
- Cllr Lesley Wagland: Welcomed more engagement and longer-term planning with NR and the recent positive feedback from the public on trains in Essex has only highlighted the need for further work and further strengthening of our single voice to government. Engagement from NH on a political level is needed instead of a focus on individual projects, TE could lead the way on this engagement and be part of the solution.
- Mark Lucas: In the MoU core proposals bullet point 'future traction and decarbonisation' could the rail industry also take into consideration air quality. Last year the Rail Safety and Standards Board conducted a study funded by the DfT that looked at pollution levels inside trains they found that levels of pollution can be higher in trains as supposed to standing by a major road in a major city. They found quite alarming levels of black carbon, nitrogen dioxide, and particulates.

Members endorsed the National Highways JEAP and Network Rail MoU, and the establishment of a Transport East Rail Group to report into this Forum.

Action: for TE and NH to pick up the political engagement