

TRANSPORT EAST Forum
Monday 13th December via Teams

In attendance:

Core Members		TESOG Officers		Guests and Observers	
Cllr Kevin Bentley (Chair)	Essex County Council	Andrew Summers	Transport East	Dr Liz Smith	DfT
Cllr Martin Wilby	Norfolk County Council	Esmé Yuill	Transport East	Trevor Scott	Simarco
Cllr Lesley Wagland	Essex County Council	Rebecca Rangi	Transport East	Richard Bates	Network Rail
Cllr Mark Coxshall	Thurrock Council	Suzanne Buck	Transport East	Gareth Burton	Jacobs
Cllr Graham Plant	Great Yarmouth Council	Mat Kiely	Thurrock Council	Charles Freeman	Jacobs
Cllr Alexander Nicoll	Suffolk County Council	Graeme Mateer	Suffolk County Council	Richard Doleman	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Ron Woodley	Southend Borough Council	Matthew Taylor	National Highways	Cllr Linda Haysey	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr Phil Smart	Ipswich Borough Council	Howard Davies	Southeast LEP	Nova Fairbank	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Graham Butland	Braintree District Council	Karen Gearing	Southend Borough Council	Trevor Hutchinson	DP World
		David Glason	Great Yarmouth Council	Adam Thorp	EEGLA
		Louise Flavell	Braintree District Council	Laura Waters	Norfolk County Council
		Karen Chapman	Suffolk Growth Partnership		
		Luke Barber	Suffolk County Council		
		Mark Lucas	UK Innovation Corridor		

Apologies:

Cllr Richard Smith	Suffolk County Council	Nicola Beach	Suffolk County Council
Perry Glading	Southeast LEP	David Birch	Essex Chambers of Commerce
Mayor Dave Hodgson	Bedford Borough Council	Neil Hoskins	Southend Borough Council
Andy Walker	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce	Trevor Scott	SELEP
Alastair Southgate	Essex County Council	Cllr Peter Hiller	Peterborough City Council
David Cumming	Norfolk County Council	Ellen Goodwin	New Anglia LEP

1.	<p>Welcome and apologies, and Declaration of interest Cllr Kevin Bentley</p> <p>No new declarations of interest.</p>	Action
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<p>2.</p>	<p>Minute of the last meeting.</p> <p>The Forum approved the minutes. The in-person Forum visit to Thurrock due today was postponed due to the increasing COVID numbers across UK. A new date is provisionally booked for March 2022.</p> <p>Cllr Bentley extended his gratitude to colleagues from Thurrock Council, DP World and Tilbury Ports for their support in planning the meeting, and encouraged members to prioritise attendance at the rescheduled meeting in March.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Transport East Strategy and Public Consultation Update</p> <p>Esme Yuill provided early analysis on the recently launched draft transport strategy and investment and delivery programme. The pre-launch was attended by over 150 stakeholders, and initial feedback has been positive.</p> <p>The consultation has been developed by Jacobs via a digital led exhibition space for the consultation which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video animation • Consultation exhibition boards • Brochure – including Easy Read and audio • Full documents • Technical evidence base • Comms toolkit to LTAs • 2 public online webinars • Focus of the consultation questions are on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understanding level of support for Strategy and Delivery Plan approach ○ Identifying any areas for improvement or change <p>Early results show 1100 views / shares across social media and 85 formal responses with good levels of support for both the vision and the overall strategic approach for the transport strategy and investment and delivery programme.</p> <p>Next steps</p> <p>The consultation closes on 30th of January with analysis and amendments completed during February alongside developing the full monitoring and evaluation framework. The strategy and IDP will then be presented for full endorsement to LTAs, the TE Forum and then finally the DfT in the spring / early summer 2022.</p>	

	<p>Comments from Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Kevin Bentley: Thanked the team for the work undertaken to get to this stage and noted the high-quality of the consultation materials, and requested a mid-point update to be circulated to members in early Jan. He also requested Lead Councillors to record a ‘Time is running out’ video for social media to encourage local responses. <p>Members were keen the consultation reached as many transport users and as possible and responses were representative. Suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checking the subtitles on the consultation videos • Encouraging users to respond through contacting member bodies i.e. AA and RAC • Encourage district colleagues to respond to the consultation • Seek views from developers and groups representing people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act. 	<p>ACTION: TE to check who has been contacted and to add to the circulation list if not.</p> <p>ACTION: TE to produce a script for the videos and share</p> <p>ACTION: A midway update on the strategy to be circulated to members in January</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Scoping our Future Work Programme: Business Plan 2022/23 and Three-Year Plan</p> <p>This paper sought members views on our partnership’s future ambitions, to inform the draft business plan for approval by this Forum early next year.</p> <p>Over the next 3 years we will need to influence key national policies, including the next generation of the Roads Investment Strategy, the next generation of rail network enhancements and the formation of Great British Railways.</p> <p>The business plan will cover four thematic areas and identify key outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Become a leading STB ○ Planning the next generations of transport to 2050 ○ Accelerate delivery of our transport projects in the East ○ Putting the East transport priorities back on the map in the East. <p>Member views were sought on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do you agree with these outcomes? [proposed in the paper] ○ How can we ensure that local contributing partners are getting value for money from Transport East? What else would you like Transport East to focus on? 	

- Could we invite other bodies to be members of Transport East, in return for delivery of specific outputs?

Comments from Members were around the following themes:

- Levelling Up
 - despite the region being a net contributor to the Treasury, there are notable areas of deprivation and we risk falling behind other regions. There is clear competition across regions for funding.
 - Need to mobilise Parliamentarians and other regional influencers to maximise the strong single voice for the East on the sustainable transport agenda for the benefit of our communities.
 - We are a region others depend on for their prosperity – especially through our international ports and movement of freight. 70% of freight arriving in the East goes North. Draw this out more prominently in our positioning and build wider alliances through neighbouring STBs.
- Decarbonisation
 - COP26 set a clear direction and we need to make sure new treaties and policy are reflected in our position, including in positive messaging.
- Alternative funding solutions
 - Need to explore alternative ways of generating funding for transport infrastructure, rather than relying solely on Government; use them to pump-prime or leverage additional investment.
 - How can we better align land-use and transport planning regionally, and across the LTAs and LPAs to develop a more strategic approach maximise developer contributions?
 - This needs to be balanced with other income streams and consider the diversity of land value and property prices. Areas most in need of transport investment to level up will not be those which will generate large developer contributions and have greater additional needs for contributions to other social infrastructure. There is also risks around peaks and troughs which increases risk and doesn't facilitate a stable pipeline.

Next steps

TESOG will develop the Business Plan before returning to the Forum to seek endorsement in March 2022.

5. DfT Update

Liz Smith provided a summary from DfT on the following areas.

- Formally thanked TE for developing the draft transport strategy

In response to comments from members, NH referenced their recently published Decarbonisation Plan and confirmed that while EV charging along their network was generally led by commercial operators they were supporting as appropriate.

MRN endorsement for A12 Project

Luke Barber provided an update on the project, and the submission of the strategic outline business case to the DfT. The forum agreed that an endorsement letter will be sent in support of the A12 MRN scheme.

Comments from members:

- It was noted that Sizewell C is not funding any of this scheme and this is an example of where future planning and highways could have come together as extra traffic will be created.