

**Transport East Forum Meeting Notes  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022,  
Virtual Teams Meeting**

**In attendance:**

<b>Members</b>		<b>Officers</b>	
Clr Kevin Bentley (Chair)	Essex County Council	Andrew Summers	Transport East
Clr Lesley Wagland	Essex County Council	Esme Yuill	Transport East
Clr Richard Smith	Suffolk County Council	Rebecca Rangi	Transport East
Clr Norman Brooks	Suffolk district councils	Suzanne Buck	Transport East
Clr Steven Wakefield	Southend City Council	Alastair Southgate	Essex County Council
Clr Graham Butland	Essex district councils	Karen Gearing	Southend City Council
Clr James Bensly	Norfolk County Council	Karen Chapman	Suffolk Growth Partnership
Clr Graham Plant	Norfolk district councils	Luke Barber	Suffolk County Council
Paul Simon	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce	Mat Kiely	Thurrock Borough Council
Clr Alexander Nicoll	Suffolk County Council and Chair of the East West Rail Eastern Board	Richard Doleman	Norfolk County Council
		Howard Davies	SELEP
Nova Fairbank	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce	James Bradley	Network Rail
		Mark Lucas	UK Innovation Corridor
		Andrew Cook	Suffolk County Council
		Liz Smith	DfT

**Apologies**

Clr Martin Wilby	Norfolk County Council	Nicola Beach	Chief Exec Suffolk County Council
Perry Glading	SELEP	Adam Thorp	EEGLA
		David Glason	Norfolk Districts
		Trevor Wiggett	Norfolk Districts

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and apologies, and Declaration of interest</b>  Minutes approved from September 2022	Action
<b>2</b>	<b>Communications Update</b> Esme Yuill provided a summary of communication and engagement activity since September. Slides attached here.	



20221214 Comms  
slides.pdf

**Key points:**

- Transport East Regional Strategy has been endorsed by all five LTAs and final preparations are taking place to submit to DfT in early 2023
- TE held a successful Rail Roundtable held in Parliament with regional taskforce chairs and key industry stakeholders in November
- Successful completion of most of the Transport East / District Leaders 1-to-1 in person meetings
- Transport East speaking events included Highways UK and Clean Growth for Business
- Eastern Promise Podcast on the Norwich to Cambridge Line
- Introductory letters sent to all new DfT Ministers using the opportunity to advocate for short-term priorities
- Meeting with new DfT Minister Richard Holden MP being arranged

### 3 Business Plan 2023/24, Private paper

Andrew and Suzanne summarised TE proposals for the 2023/24 Business Plan.



2022 12 14 Forum  
Business Plan dft.pptx

**Key points:**

- This Business Plan will represent year two of TE's 3-year plan submitted into the Comprehensive Spending Review
- Indicative allocation of £944k for 2023/24. DfT has raised possibility of a 10 or 20% reduction in funding. Final funding allocations would be known in January 2023.
- DfT noted TE achievements in the last four years and recommended workstreams developed in line with available resource to deliver. DfT would like to build the resource within TE to strengthen capacity to ensure successful outcomes and work closely with other STBs to avoid duplication.
- Proposed priority work areas for 2023/24 are:

- Corridor Connectivity
- Regional Rail Plan for the East
- Rural Centre of Excellence
- Evidence base development

## Forum comments and discussion included:

- As local government bodies we need to continuously challenge ourselves on budget and work priorities ensuring we are continuously getting the most effective solutions.
- A devolution deal has been agreed between Norfolk and Suffolk Local Authorities and talks on ongoing in Essex, Southend and Thurrock. If all LTAs within the region agree a devolution deal, then transport delivery could look vastly different in the future, with the potential of transport powers being devolved.
- Quality over quantity - agreement that fewer core items should be focused on to ensure we get better outcomes
- Collaboration and partnership working is essential. We must build on work that others have done and not be reinventing the wheel.
- The corridor studies should include early focus on the South Essex Corridor to support the growth planned in South Essex
- On freight, TE should support the work already being undertaken and not start fresh. TE relationship with freight is particularly important and we need to be co-ordinating the work to ensure duplication is not happening.
- Business continuity and resilience of the transport network should be a golden thread running through all our workstreams, with planning for short, medium and long-term capacity
- Need to ensure liaison with Freeports, particularly on alternative fuels and applying a business perspective
- Paper recommendations endorsed.

## Collaboration Agreement

Andrew Summers introduced the Collaboration Agreement for subscribing partners. The Forum endorsed the draft version for onward submission to LTA and District colleagues for signing. Draft embedded below.



Transport East - MoU  
Final Draft.pdf

**ACTION:** TE to organise a meeting with LTA political leads to finalise the business plan before submission to DfT

TE to draft a letter alongside the MoU explaining the document and ensuring there is a full understanding by all members.

## 4. Transport East Strategic Advice to Government on RIS3

Dan Johnson led the discussion on TE strategic roads advice which will be submitted to government early 2023 for the next route investment period, 2025 to 2030. The total investment required by the region and across England is competitive and is likely to exceed the available funding.

Slides were shared and are below.



App 1 Strategic Road  
Advice Prog Update \_

### Comments and Discussion

- Judicial reviews (JR) are causing delays in scheme progress in Norfolk. Five schemes funded in 2014 but none delivered due to delays related to JR. It was agreed we need a regional strategic view on scheme delays caused by JRs and agreed the five legal departments of the LTAs come together to review advice and guidance
- The business community should be engaged on the next phase of the Roads advice and the business narrative will be strengthened in the final report to government. It was agreed Chamber of Commerce members of the Forum should be engaged in this phase in the New Year.
- Members endorsed the paper, and a further meeting will be arranged to discuss the final Roads Advice in the New Year (set for 6<sup>th</sup> February).

**ACTION:** TE to organise a meeting with LTA legal teams to discuss JR issues.

**ACTION:** TE to engage with Chambers of Commerce on next phase of the Road Advice

## 5. Transport East Rail Plan Update

Members were updated on Transport East Rail Plan and the successful rail roundtable that was held in Parliament in November. The roundtable brought together the three chairs of the regional rail taskforces and key industry stakeholders. It endorsed the Rail Plan approach and agreed to meet in the New Year to agree ToR. TE will launch the rail plan in a Parliamentary Reception in February, with the Rail Minister invited.

### Comments and discussion

- Cllr Nicoll noted his thanks to Transport East for their support to EWR Eastern Section Board Meeting. The board meets prior to the main partnership meeting chaired by EEH. The Board objective is to now cement their 'asks and position' to continue to press for further development with a single voice.

	<p><b>6. Technical Programme Update:</b></p> <p>Suzanne Buck provided details of the call-off contract that Transport has put in place for itself and partners to secure transport planning consultancy support. The contract will come into place in early January, and is available to all LTAs and districts to engage specialist resource. Members and colleagues will be updated in the new year with the successful supplier.</p>	
	<p><b>7. AOB</b></p> <p>No further business.</p>	