

## TRANSPORT EAST Forum

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March

held in London Cruise Terminal, Tilbury

In attendance:

Core Members		TESOG Officers		Guests and Observers	
Cllr Kevin Bentley (Chair)	Essex County Council	Andrew Summers	Transport East	Emma Healey	DfT
Cllr Martin Wilby	Norfolk County Council	Esmé Yuill	Transport East	Trevor Scott	Simarco
Cllr Lesley Wagland	Essex County Council	Rebecca Rangi	Transport East	James Bradley	Network Rail
Cllr Mark Coxshall	Thurrock Borough Council	Mat Kiely	Thurrock Borough Council	Cllr Linda Haysey	East Herts District Council
Cllr Richard Smith	Suffolk County Council	Graeme Mateer	Suffolk County Council	Cllr Phil Bibby	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr Graham Butland	Braintree District Council	Howard Davies	Southeast LEP	Adam Thorp	EEGLA
		Karen Gearing	Southend Borough Council	Andrew Cook	Essex County Council
		Alastair Southgate	Essex County Council	Nigel Allsopp	Highways England
		Karen Chapman	Suffolk Growth Partnership		
		Luke Barber	Suffolk County Council		
		Howard Davies	SELEP		

### Apologies

Suzanne Buck	Transport East	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	Matthew Taylor	National Highways
Mark Lucas	UK Innovation Corridor	Cllr Peter Hiller	Peterborough City Council
Cllr Ron Woodley	Southend County Council	Nova Fairbank	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Phil Smart	Ipswich Borough Council	Richard Doleman	Norfolk County Council
Louise Flavell	Braintree District Council	David Glason	Great Yarmouth District Council
David Cumming	Norfolk County Council	Ellen Goodwin	New Anglia LEP

<p><b>Welcome and apologies, and Declaration of interest</b>          Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chairman of Transport East          Andrew Summers, Strategic Director Transport East</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p><b>Forum approved previous minutes</b>          Minutes were approved. Andrew noted that Chair of Transport East had written to the Chief Executive of National Highways to request a meeting, with a positive reply received. Meeting to be arranged.</p>	
<p><b>Transport East Strategy and Public Consultation</b></p> <p>Esme Yuill provided analysis on the completed consultation for the draft transport strategy and investment and delivery Programme. Slides were shared (see below) and highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 586 consultation responses, 118 from stakeholders including LEPs, MPs, transport operators and energy groups.</li> <li>• Strong level of support for TE vision and approach.</li> <li>• Challenges raised around existing public transport provision and desire to see improvements both in rural and urban areas</li> <li>• Concerns raised around sustainable growth of the region</li> </ul> <p><b>Next steps and endorsement</b>          The consultation closed on 30<sup>th</sup> January with analysis being completed during February. Proposed next steps include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish consultation report by 31<sup>st</sup> March</li> <li>• Revised strategy and IDP will be shared on the 7<sup>th</sup> June for Forum approval</li> <li>• Revised ISA will be shared on the 7<sup>th</sup> June for Forum approval</li> <li>• LTA endorsement to be sought in Summer 2022</li> <li>• Submission to DfT after LTA endorsement</li> </ul> <p>The forum approved the Chair be given authority to approve the final consultation report once completed for publication.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;">  <p>20220304 Forum          Consultation summar</p> </div>	

## Transport East Business Plan

Andrew Summers guided members through the draft business plan, seeking endorsement for the three-year plan and the detailed work Programme for 2022/23 set out in appendix 1.

It was noted the Plan is conditional on receiving required funding from DfT for 2022/23. At present, Transport East has not received confirmation of a settlement for future financial years.

The business plan sets out four key areas of work over the next three years which include:

- Become a leading English Sub-national Transport Body
- Plan the next generation of transport projects for the East
- Accelerate delivery of our transport projects in the East
- A Single Voice - put the East's transport priorities on the UK map

During this time TE will led on our commitments in the draft transport strategy, which include an integrated rail plan, detailed plans for electric vehicles, mass rapid transit, alternative HGV fuels, active travel, freight and rural mobility.

TE will expect to grow during the next year, with four new members of staff proposed. it was agreed that a 10% increase in LTA contributions for 2022/23 would be granted, and furthermore Transport East to launch an independent review of future funding options. This will include a review of district contributions for future years, in partnership with district reps. The review will be conducted early in the next financial year and their findings reported back to this Forum.

The Forum endorsed the recommendations in the paper, in addition to the following actions:

- Circulation of the job description for the new staff members (see below)
- A meeting to be arrange with the district leds before the review is undertaken



JE2483 Regional Rural Transport Lead



JE2487 Senior Strategic Transport PI



JE2488 FINAL JPP Communications Office



JE2482 Rail Mass Transit Lead.pdf

## MRN / LLM Transport East Programme Review

Suzanne Buck and TESOG officers have led a review into the MRN / LLM programme for TE following the letter received from DfT on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January. The letter asked TE / LTAs to reconsider the schemes in the current programme, through the prism of:

- Reducing congestion
- Supporting economic growth and rebalancing
- Supporting housing delivery
- Supporting all road users
- Supporting the strategic road network

And more recently:

- Strategic case – does the scheme still meet the objectives of the MRN programme and/or the latest objectives/policies of the LA or STB?
- Value for money (VfM) – because of recent changes to Transport Analysis Guidance and other issues, is the scheme likely to be low or poor VfM?
- Timely progress – what progress has been made on the scheme since it was added to the programme in 2019 and will the scheme be ready to start construction by the end of the forthcoming Spending Review period i.e., March 2025
- Local support – is the scheme actively supported by the local MP(s) and others in the wider community

TE held meetings with all the LTAs to understand their current position. The Forum endorsed the paper submitted and the response has been sent to DfT.

Comments from members:

- Request to calculate the total funding we have saved DfT through the refinement/removal of some schemes in the programme since 2019, and the total costs that LTA have individually contributed to this process so far
- These schemes are critical to the region and emphasising the importance of them to Government is essential

## Strategic Update

### Network Rail

James Bradley provided a brief update on NR in the region. Key points were:

- Passenger numbers are at 90% of pre covid numbers
- The Anglian route is currently the best performing route in the country with all new stock rolled out
- WAML study has been published and can be found [here](#)
- NR is currently working with government to look at slippage and the scope for potential rail improvements across the region.
- Increasing Felixstowe capacity will unlock other areas of rail
- The call for evidence for the Whole Industry Strategic Plan has been completed, with TE response (in meeting papers) noted by Network Rail and the Great British Railways Transition Team (GBR TT).
- NR priorities for the region are set out the slides (see below)



Anglia and London  
draft rail priorities 20:

#### Comments from members:

- The proposed electrification of both Thames Gateway and Felixstowe to connect with the mainline electrification is vital. It was confirmed these are in NR plans - both are within the top 10 locations for NR.
- A Rail Recovery Group is leading on the post COVID recovery for railway usage.
- Further engagement will be undertaken with STB on the formation and decision process of GBR TT. NR will be in touch to arrange meeting in due course.
- The capacity of the East Suffolk Rail Line for use in the construction of Sizewell C is being explored by NR and they are working with EDF.

#### National Highways

Nigel Allsopp summarised the National Highways work to date in the Transport East area. Route Strategies workshops have been held and responses are being collated with the first draft of the report to be shared with Transport East.

Further engagement workshops will be held in April to discuss these findings and the final report to published in late spring.

#### Comments from Members

- Letter of support to be written to National Highways for the Tilbury link road.

**ACTION: TE to write a supporting letter to Government outline the strategic importance of electrification**

**ACTION: NR to provide further clarity on the capacity for movement of aggregate by rail**

**No further business was recorded**



TEP briefing  
summary March 2022