

## TRANSPORT EAST FORUM

Held at 14.00 – 16:30 on 22nd July 2020, Virtual Meeting through Microsoft Teams

### MINUTES AND ACTIONS

1.	<p><b>Welcome, Apologies and Introductions, and Declarations of Interest and Scene Setting</b>  Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chairman of Transport East  Andrew Summers, Strategic Director Transport East.</p> <p>In Attendance:</p> <p>Cllr Kevin Bentley - Essex County Council (Chair), Cllr Martin Wilby - Norfolk County Council, Cllr Mark Coxshall - Thurrock Council, Cllr Phil Smart – Ipswich Borough Council, Cllr Andrew Reid – Suffolk County Council, Cllr Ron Woodley – Southend-on-Sea Council, Cllr Graham Plant – Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Cllr Graham Butland – Braintree District Council</p> <p>George Kieffer - SELEP, Judy Cameron-Rollo – Hertfordshire County Council, Andrew Summers – Transport East, Adam Thorp – EELGA, Roy Elmer – EELGA, Keith Dove – Luton Borough Council, James Bradley – Network Rail, Alastair Southgate – Essex County Council, David Cumming – Norfolk County Council, David Glason - Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Davinia Farthing – Southend-on-Sea Council, Graeme Mateer – Suffolk County Council, Howard Davies – SELEP, Jeremy Smith – Cambridgeshire County Council, Karen Chapman – Suffolk Growth Board, Nicola Beach – Suffolk County Council, John McGill – LSCC, Matthew Taylor – Highways England, Trevor Scott – Simarco, Perry Glading – SELEP, Laura Waters – NALEP, Ben Foulser – KPMG, Hifzur Rahman – KPMG, Elizabeth Smith – DfT, Mark Lucas – UKIC, Suzanne Buck – Suffolk County Council, Andy Allsopp – Essex County Council, Francesca Day – Essex County Council, Nova Fairbank – Norfolk Chamber of Commerce, Kay Mead – East Hertfordshire District Council, Andy Walker – Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, Mat Kiely – Thurrock Council, Adam Mitchell, Jack Daniels – Essex County Council, Peter Hiller, Mark Carroll – Essex County Council</p>	14:00
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<p><b>2. Notes of the Last Meeting held on 26 February 2020</b> Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chairman of Transport East.</p> <p>Kevin Bentley asked for any objections to the notes of the last meeting. None were received</p>	<p>14:05</p>
<p><b>3. 100-day plan – Overview and progress</b> Andrew Summers, Transport East Strategic Director.</p> <p>Andrew Summers gave the Forum an overview of the context and work-to-date of Transport East (TE). He highlighted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TE is one of 7 Sub-national Transport Bodies in England</li> <li>• TE covers Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea</li> <li>• It is a partnership also across LEPs and businesses</li> <li>• Great foundations have been put in place for the STB. Our role is now to progress the 100-Day Plan</li> <li>• We are working in a challenging economic climate as a result of COVID19, Brexit and decarbonisation targets</li> </ul> <p>Andrew gave an overview of the Transport East 100-Day Plan:</p> <p>The plan covers 4 key areas of activity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Effective and representative STB:</li> <li>2. A clear strategic approach</li> <li>3. A clear delivery Plan</li> <li>4. A clear Communications Plan</li> </ol> <p>Forum Members asked whether there has been any work carried out with individual District Councils</p> <p>Andrew S clarified that the 24 Districts in our region are represented by three councillors acting as district representatives. He also highlighted that an introduction session with all District Councils was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020 to go through the work programme with them. Following the introduction session, there is an open invitation to continue engagement with individual districts</p> <p>Cllr Mark Coxshall highlighted his view that South Essex councils need to have a better presence at TE.</p> <p>Cllr Kevin Bentley responded to Cllr Mark Coxshall highlighting that Cllr Graham Butland has had conversations with all Essex District Councils</p>	<p>14:10</p>

4.	<p><b>Transport East Communications Plan</b> Andy Allsopp, Essex County Council</p> <p>Andy Allsopp Provided the Forum with an overview of the draft Communications and Public Affairs Strategy and Elevator Pitch document for Transport East. He also indicated that further changes could be made to this document if Members wish.</p> <p>Forum Members made the following comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We need to strengthen up the message that the East is of one of fastest growing regions</li> <li>2. In our region, we have major wind farms and nuclear energy production. Should we emphasise the energy sector more?</li> <li>3. We should highlight the fact that our region is going to host 30-40% of UK power generation in years to come</li> </ol> <p>Cllr Mark Coxshall highlighted his view that Transport East is a Transport Body and therefore we should talk about transport and logistics and not energy.</p> <p>Cllr Phil Smart stated that is it worth pointing out that in order to service offshore and nuclear energy, we do need improvements to transport access. In addition, there is a need to decarbonise the network. The energy coast helps with decarbonisation</p> <p>Cllr Graham Plant highlighted his view that you cannot disaggregate the energy coast from the transport network. We need to emphasise what we do in the region and the energy coast is a big factor in this.</p> <p><b>Communications Manager Role</b></p> <p>Andrew Summers provided an update on the recruitment exercise for a Transport East Communications Manager:</p> <p>The advert is now live and closes on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The job description requires a good all-round communications manager and will help lead our upcoming strategy engagement work and public affairs activities. Colleagues from Essex County Council Comms Team will support Andrew in the recruitment process.</p>	14:30

## Transport Strategy

To update the Forum on two core elements of our strategy – carbon reduction and COVID-19 recovery, then secure endorsement of project plan for the Transport Strategy and engagement:

### a) Decarbonisation: KPMG report and recommendations for Transport East

Ben Foulser / Hifzur Rahman, KPMG

## ACTIONS

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Transport East to carry out a piece of work to highlight the current state of the bus network regionally	Andrew Summers	August 2020
Carry out a meeting with regional ports to discuss opportunities related to short-sea shipping	Kevin Bentley/Andrew Summers	August 2020

Ben Foulser and Hifzur Rahman, KPMG, introduced the report and recommendations. They stated that:

- Decarbonisation is a government and local priority, the national target of net zero emissions by 2050 requires us to focus attention now on pathways to achieve this.
- KPMG have developed an evidence base for the region, setting out the opportunities available to us to decarbonise the transport network – which are set out in today's paper and presentation.
- A key focus for the work has been on making it specific to the region.

Following stakeholder engagement and desktop research, the following key themes and opportunities have been highlighted in the draft report (including short, medium and long term options):

1. Cross-cutting multimodal planning
2. Maritime

3. Logistics and freight
4. Public transport and Active travel
5. Renewable Energy
6. Electric/Fuel Cell Vehicles
7. Heavy Machinery and Equipment

Comments are welcome until Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July. KPMG will then produce a final draft for 31<sup>st</sup> July. Transport East aim to publish the report in early August.

Forum Members were asked to base their comments around the following 5 key questions:

1. Are these the right six priority areas for transport decarbonisation in the East of England?
2. Which initiatives would fall directly within Transport East's remit?
3. How can Transport East work with other (cross-regional) SNTBs to deliver some of the proposed decarbonisation initiatives?
4. For initiatives falling outside of Transport East's remit, how will these be delivered, owned, accounted for and tracked (in terms of benefits and progress)?
5. How will the decarbonisation report feed into the development of Transport East's wider Transport Strategy?

Forum Members made the following comments:

- We want to focus on how we make the vision for this region to be carbon neutral
- We need to consider multi-modal shift, including reducing car-based journeys into major towns and cities.
- Maritime, logistics and freight are key to decarbonisation. We are a key gateway region for the Midlands and the North and therefore developing our rail freight is key. There is insufficient capacity and only a third of containers currently go by rail,
- Rural connectivity is a key problem – buses need a longer-term solution (electric buses, hydrogen etc.). We could do some work alongside other rural areas to explore what models of public transport should be applied in the future. Could Transport East carry out a piece of work to highlight the current state of our bus networks?
- Norfolk is a rural county and therefore the first part of the journey is going to be a car. Therefore, we need to improve the infrastructure for EV vehicles. For the final part of the journey, we need hubs in the right places that support more sustainable modes to reach the final destination.
- Better broadband to support people to work from home is important and will reduce car journeys
- Spatial planning is a key lever – for example houses are increasingly in demand with short distance to train stations

- Home to School Transport in September will be a key issue. Parents will be driving children to school a lot more and therefore creating carbon emissions
- Ship to ship freight movement (Short-sea shipping) is an opportunity. This helps to take cargo off the road. It is advancing every year and going on right now. This group could look at enhancing this. We also need to work with ports to find incentives to get more freight onto rail.

Cllr Kevin Bentley highlighted an action to bring regional ports together to have a conversation around short-sea shipping opportunities

Andrew Summers highlighted that TE have been working closely with James Bradley from Network Rail. He also indicated that DfT are currently consulting on their national decarbonisation plan. We would like to respond to this consultation by 31<sup>st</sup> August.

Liz Smith provided a DfT update and stated that decarbonisation is still one of the most important government objectives.

**b) COVID-19 recovery: Transport East work programme**

Andrew Summers

Andrew Summers gave a brief overview of a short-term piece of work that has been carried out by TE in response to COVID-19. This has highlighted two specific challenges and opportunities. These are passenger transport and active travel. The need for passengers to social distance has reduced capacity of public transport network. This presents significant challenges ahead in September. In addition, as we come out of lockdown, traffic levels are increasing significantly.

Active travel increased over the lockdown period and this has presented opportunities for the region. The challenge is now to secure the funding needed and deliver increased active travel.

Sub-groups of officers have now been arranged to cover Active Travel and Passenger Transport. Andrew gave an update of the progress in each sub-group:

**Passenger Transport:**

- Comms to government has been carried out (officers and members letters)
- There will be a workshop with DfT in early August to talk through the issues in more detail

**Active Travel:**

- £5bn of government funding has been made available for sustainable travel. £2bn of this is for walking and cycling. However, the funding models seem to be suited to bigger cities. We want to explore how our region can get a bigger allocation of this funding.
- The group is also exploring what we can do nationally? What is better model of rural connectivity – Friday this week TE will be presenting at national STB day to talk through rural issues. This will lead to a proposition that we can share with DfT.

**c) Transport East Strategy: Outline proposal and methodology**

Adam Thorp, EELGA / Andrew Summers

**ACTIONS**

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Initiate a Members’ Steering Group for strategy development	Andrew Summers	Autumn 2020
Cllr Phil Smart to be on the Steering Group as above		

Andrew S highlighted that the Transport Strategy is the fundamental piece of work that needs to be delivered in the next 18 months. This is because a strategy is required by government and TE is one of a few STBs that hasn’t yet developed this.

Andrew highlighted that the Strategy will present:

- Our regional approach and our goals
- Our Transport Outcomes to achieve the goals
- An Investment and Delivery Plan to support delivery of our goals.

The Strategy will highlight our short-term goals linked to COVID-19 but also much longer term up to 2050.

The Strategy will be developed in 3 stages:

Stage 1 - Understanding role of transport and potential for change

Stage 2 - What our outcomes are and how we will deliver these

Stage 3 - A package of delivery measures locked in to delivery partners plans (Network Rail, HE, DfT etc.)

Andrew highlighted that TE want to carry out extensive engagement to cover a wide range of audiences

Andrew highlighted the key governance associated with the delivery and the need to carry out an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and formal public consultation

Forum Members made the following comments:

- There should be a Members Steering Group to support the development of the strategy
- Young people need to be engaged with throughout strategy development. Start with council youth forums/parliaments
- Cllr Phil Smart put himself forward to sit on the Steering Group.
- We need to explore what the optimum time is to develop a strategy that can lobby government when they are developing their funding processes.

Andrew Summers highlighted that the Interim Investment and Delivery Plan will ensure that we can lobby government for infrastructure funding prior to our strategy being completed.

### **Draft Investment and Delivery Plan (I&DP)**

Andrew Summers, Transport East Strategic Director

15:55

### **ACTIONS**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Provide final comments on the Interim Investment and Delivery Plan within 10 days	All	3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2020
Explore ways to prioritise projects in the Interim Investment and Delivery Plan	Andrew Summers	August 2020
Share re-drafted Interim Investment and Delivery Plan with Forum Members for approval	Andrew Summers	August 2020

Cllr Kevin Bentley indicated that this paper is currently a draft and that it had to be produced at pace for the Forum. There is a need to be clear about our immediate priorities.

Andrew Summers gave an overview of the context and aims of the Interim Investment and Delivery Plan. It is about being clear about our investment priorities here and now in advance of developing a longer-term strategy

Andrew asked Forum members to provide their views on the draft strategy

Forum members provided the following comments:

- The 'East West Corridor' currently includes Basildon (should Colchester and London Gateway be in there?)
- Some schemes appear more than once.
- We can endorse projects as presented. However, in terms of prioritisation, 33 schemes is a lot for treasury to digest. Could we go through create a 'top ten'?
- If we are prioritising schemes, we also need to think about the extent to which the scheme supports our decarbonisation aims and the degree of dependency other regions have on the project
- Could we just have a South Essex Corridor? (not north and south)
- Business should be involved in developing the final list

Cllr Kevin Bentley asked members to provide final comments within 10 days. Officers will then re-draft and explore project prioritisation. Officers will share a final draft with Forum members via email for approval

#### **AOB and future meeting dates**

#### **ACTIONS**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Explore ways to lobby government to support passenger transport companies that have been affected by COVID-19	Andrew	August 2020

**Mark Lucas (UKIC)**

16:20

<p>Mark highlighted that at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, DfT replaced the majority of passenger operating franchises with emergency agreements. These emergency agreements will expire in September. There is concern from companies that if emergency agreements are not extended – we will see many operators fail within days.</p> <p>It was suggested that officers take stock in August on the current position and the Chair may want to consider sending a letter to government seeking for an agreement to the issue.</p> <p>Forum Members made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion with government needs to include the plight of bus companies and not just rail.</li><li>• The government funding model to bus companies is wrong.</li><li>• We could lobby on behalf of the region.</li></ul>	
<b>Close</b>	16:30