

TRANSPORT EAST Forum
Tuesday 3rd November 2020 via Teams

In attendance:

Core Members		TESOG Officers		Guests and Observers	
Cllr Kevin Bentley (Chair)	Essex County Council	Andrew Summers	Transport East	Cllr Linda Haysey	East Herts Council
Cllr Martin Wilby	Norfolk County Council	Esme Yuill	Transport East	Carly Freeston	DfT
Cllr Andrew Reid	Suffolk County Council	Rebecca Rangi	Transport East	Sean Perry	Jacobs
Cllr Graham Butland	Braintree District council	Adam Thorp	EELGA	Jenny Jones	Jacobs
Cllr Phil Smart	Ipswich Borough Council	David Cumming	Norfolk County Council	Karen Gearing	Southend County Council
Neil Hoskins (sub)	Southend Borough Council	Karen Chapman	Suffolk Growth Partnership	Tom Warren	Copper Consultancy
Andy Walker	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce	Matt Kiely	Thurrock Borough Council	Kellie Moore Mulveen	Copper Consultancy
Nova Fairbank	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce	Suzanne Buck	Suffolk County Council	Caitlin Tyrell	
Laura Waters	New Anglia LEP	Graeme Mateer	Suffolk County Council	Matt Stafford	Highways England
Trevor Scott (sub)	SELEP	Francesca Day	Essex County Council	Chris Griffin	Highways England
Mark Lucas	UK Innovation Corridor	Alistair Southgate	Essex County Council		
John McGill	UK Innovation Corridor	Davinia Farthing	Southend Borough Council		
		James Bradley	Network Rail		
		Matthew Taylor	Highways England		

Apologies:

Cllr Chris Seaton	Fenland District Council	Mayor Dave Hodgson	Bedford Borough Council
Cllr Ron Woodley	Southend County Council	Perry Glading	South East LEP
Cllr Mark Coxshall	Thurrock Borough Council	Cllr Graham Plant	Great Yarmouth Council
Cllr Roger Hickford	Cambridgeshire County Council	Neil Hayes	Hertfordshire LEP
Cllr Mark Howell	South Cambridgeshire Council		
Cllr Ian Bates	Cambridge City Council		

1.	Welcome and apologies, and Declaration of interest Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chairman of Transport East Andrew Summers, Strategic Director Transport East	<u>Actions</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
2.	Forum approved previous minutes 22nd July 2020		
3.	Transport East Update		

	<p>Andrew Summers updated the Forum on the four work programme priorities of TE, as set out in the 100-day plan, and which form the agenda items today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Transport East governance and resources b) Transport Strategy c) Investment and Delivery Plan d) Communications, partnerships, and engagement <p>On item (a) Andrew introduced Esme Yuill and Rebecca Rangi to the Transport East team. Their recruitment completes the core team alongside Adam Thorp from EEGLA providing programme management support. Andrew confirmed TE have been awarded £425k for this financial year from DfT and he formally thanked Department of Transport colleagues Carly Freeston and Dr Liz Smith for their support over recent months.</p>		
<p>4.</p>	<p>Communications, partnerships and engagement</p> <p>Communications Plan Update</p> <p>Esme Yuill provided a progress update on the TE Communications Plan (see attached paper). Key priorities were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Building our cross-channel messaging o Securing an evidence base of a wide range of views from stakeholders and partner organisations through the Transport Strategy engagement. o Decarbonisation report to be published by mid-November. The report will be accompanied by a social and media campaign. <p>Transport East are presenting at national events (e.g. the Highways UK Conference) over November. Next steps to include a joint signatory letter for Treasury and continued peer and MP engagement, along with the formal publication of our Investment and Delivery plan and Interim Business Plan Statement (2020/21).</p> <p>Key feedback from Forum members included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ensure all Transport East Forum members are actively involved in media communications o Ensure we are working with all media outlets across the sub-national area. This included inviting the media to attend appropriate Forum items in the future. o MP engagement is vital. Transport East already working with MPs, e.g. Dr Dan Poulter MP <p>English Sub-National Transport Body Update</p>	<p>Esme Yuill to arrange a meeting with Cllr Andrew Reid regarding Communications</p> <p>Esme Yuill to arrange a meeting with Andrew Summers, Cllr Andrew Reid and Dr Dan Poulter MP. Dr Poulter MP to be invited to the next meeting</p>	<p>EY</p> <p>EY</p>

	<p>Cllr Bentley updated on recent English pan-STB chair discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The seven English STB chairs met for the first time in September, where a future collaborative approach was welcomed. Transport East chaired this meeting. ○ A further roundtable meeting was held with Baroness Vere in late September. Key items discussed were the roles of STBs, strategy development and prioritisation ○ STBs will be writing to the Minister to follow-up on the emerging partnership. 		
<p>5.</p>	<p>Transport Strategy</p> <p>Work programme overview</p> <p>Andrew Summers presented a paper on the Transport Strategy. Key updates were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Successful appointment of Jacobs and Copper through Crown Commercial Service to work in partnership with TE, to produce our draft strategy. ○ Project inception has taken place with TESOG Steering Group. ○ The very challenging delivery timescale means the strategy will be TE’s primary focus over the next 5-6 months. ○ A draft strategy will be produced for the forum to review followed by a public consultation starting in summer 2021. <p>Strategy – Technical assignment</p> <p>Jenny Jones, Project Director for Jacobs, introduced her team and provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jacobs will be producing a unique strategy - the first by a STB post COVID. Sean Perry will be embedded with the TE team and provide the technical support required alongside the broader Jacobs team. ○ The strategy will be broken into three parts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stage 1 – Non transport outcomes (including reviews of Local Plans, Local Industrial Strategies, health guidance and environmental plans) ○ Stage 2 – Transport Outcomes and Strategic Approach ○ Stage 3 – Investment and Delivery Plan to achieve the outcomes ○ Stage 4 – Draft Transport Strategy ○ ‘Deep dives’ will be undertaken in the following areas: re-energising coastal/rural communities, post COVID recovery, and unlocking international gateways. ○ During stage one Cambridge Econometrics will be supporting Jacobs to model future scenarios. 		

Feedback from Forum members included the following points:

- The inclusion of Visit England would be welcome to evidence the link between tourism and transport
- The potential conflict between tourism and energy to be considered. COVID has changed the way our coastline is accessed, and we need to ensure the correct transport infrastructure is in place to support continued growth.
- Brexit considerations to be taken into account in managing road systems that support our ports.
- Great Eastern and West Anglian Main lines, and East/West rail all support our region's growth – we must ensure the relevant stakeholders and MP's are engaged with the strategy.
- Rail improvements at Ely junction are critical to unlocking rail travel, particularly freight.
- All modes of sustainable transport to be included with the strategy
- Included East-West rail connections consortium to support the ongoing partnership. It is important for parliamentary connections to be utilised.

Strategy – Engagement Assignment

Esme Yuill and Tom Warren of Copper Consultancy provided the forum with the following update:

- Copper are developing an engagement programme to work alongside the Transport Strategy.
- A successful stakeholder mapping exercise has been completed and a series of thematic workshops will be undertaken in the coming months.
- Essential considerations will be engaging people whilst in a national lockdown and ensuring a wide range of stakeholder views are gathered.
- Engagement with Forum members will be key, and contact will be made over the coming weeks.

Carly Freeston Deputy Director for London, South East and Housing for DfT introduced herself and reiterated the importance of the Transport Strategy, and the need to build on the good relationship emerging between DfT and Transport East.

Passenger Transport / Rural and Active Travel

Andrew Summers provided an update on the active travel and rural / passenger connectivity studies that will also be delivered through the DfT funding:

- Following a meeting with DfT, the Active Travel subgroup has scoped a brief to help understand the DfT's Gear Change strategy for our region, and how Active Travel in our region can strategically support Government goals.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ With significant challenges around passenger transport exacerbated due to COVID, we will also be taking forward a piece of work to better understand connectivity issues in rural and urban areas and how these can be supported through improved transport delivery models. <p>Key Feedback included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 80% of car journeys start in rural areas and end in urban areas - we need to think of a better way to bring the public into our towns and cities using sustainable transport modes. ○ Improvement are needed to support the bus network <p>The group endorsed the Business Plan Statement for publication on our website to cover the 2020/21 DfT funding, subject to the following change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interim Business Plan, page four bullet point – the mention of MRN should also include rail and other sustainable transport measures. 	<p>2020/21 Business Plan Statement to posted on website with updated wording</p>	<p>RR</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Investment and Delivery Planning</p> <p>Highways England Update Matt Stafford and Chris Griffin gave a presentation on Highways England investment and delivery in the region (see attached presentations).</p> <p>Forum members raised the recent correspondence from the A47 Alliance to DfT regarding investment in the A47 and sought advice on how we can work closely together to progress the scheme. The route strategies process was identified as an opportunity to progress priorities and influence RIS spending.</p> <p>Network Rail Update</p> <p>James Bradley provided an update on Network Rail (see attached presentation for key points). Comments from Forum members included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The West Anglia Mainline is critically important to the region ○ Ely junction is critical to decarbonising our transport and supporting the economy. We need to work with stakeholders along the entire route to build the case for funding from government to achieve this. 		

- TE should support merging of Rail and Bus scheduling. Could we look at integrated travel with real time information about timings for onward journeys using different modes?

James Bradley responded with the below comments:

Ensuring the right evidence base to government is key. We need to explore what provides value for money and the cost of doing nothing. Scale of benefits and distribution of this nationally to be conveyed.

In terms of integrated bus and rail, this is an area of opportunity to work in partnership with TE. We have started an initiative called 'Last Mile' to look at North Anglia connectivity. We want to do a pilot to explore how we can better integrate bus and rail

The meeting also focused on the Coronavirus-related rail challenges. Key points were:

- We did have one of the fastest growing passenger capacities in the East of England until the beginning of this year
- Nationally, we went from over 2.5m passengers / day to around 100,000 / day
- Going forward from here, there are a variety of views on the return of demand. A Rail Covid focus-group has been set-up to investigate this
- In the short to medium-term it will take more than a year to return to previous levels of passenger demand
- The evidence still points towards long-term growth
- Rail freight has been more resilient than passenger transport in the last few months
- We have an opportunity to work with TE to promote rail improvements in the region to Government.
- We are a net contributor to the country, there are certain things we need investment for to continue in this position

Major Road Network & Large Local Major Annual Programme Update

Andrew Summers presented the MRN / LLM paper (see papers):

- One year ago, this Forum endorsed a programme that prioritised MRN and LLM schemes. The first schemes are now progressing through the DfT gateway.
- Transport Authorities have requested the TE partnership provide a letter of endorsement for each project to support DfT funding process

Ensure the Transport East Communications Plan includes engagement with stakeholders on Ely Junction.

EY

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alastair Southgate further explained that the Army and Navy scheme in Essex has also been asked to amend the scope of the project to include sustainable transport measures. DfT have sought Transport East support for the change of scope of this scheme. ○ In addition, Cllr Wilby requested a letter of endorsement from TE for the Third River Crossing project <p>The forum endorsed all the requests for letters of support, including the scope enhancement to the Army and Navy Scheme and additional letter for the Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing.</p> <p>Investment and Delivery Plan</p> <p>Andrew Summers updated the forum regarding the comments received and changes requested after the last forum. All comments have been considered and updated where appropriate. The main changes focussed on the South Essex area to create one corridor, in agreement with Thurrock, Southend and Essex officers.</p> <p>This is a ‘bottom-up’ programme that we will use to articulate our region’s investment priorities until completion of the strategy, at which point we will create a more complete set of investment priorities. We are seeking approval from the Forum on this initial version of the Investment and Delivery Plan.</p> <p>Forum endorsed the plan for publication and interim use until completion of the Transport Strategy.</p>	<p>Ensure letters of support are co-ordinated with TESOG members</p>	<p>RR / EY</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>AOB Cllr Smart requested copies of the presentations from today be circulated.</p>	<p>RR to forward to members</p>	<p>RR</p>