

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND
REGIONAL TRANSPORT BOARD**

Date: 01 February 2007

Subject: **Items for Information**

Report of: Planning Implementation Director
South East England Regional Assembly

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this report.

1. Planning Gain Supplement (PGS)

- 1.1 On 31 January 2007 the Regional Assembly's Regional Planning Committee will be presented with a proposed response to the Government's consultation on proposals to implement a Planning Gain Supplement.
- 1.2 The consultation contains a specific reference to how PGS may operate in terms of contributions towards transport, and hence is of relevance to the Boards work. The deadline for responses to all three consultations is 28 February 2007. Further announcements on PGS are anticipated in spring 2007.
- 1.3 A verbal update on the outcome of the RPC debate will be given to the Board at its meeting.

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2. Annual Monitoring Report

- 2.1 The Regional Assembly has a statutory duty to prepare an annual Regional Monitoring Report (RMR). The 2006 report must be submitted to the Secretary of State by 31 March 2007.

2.2 As with previous years the RMR will contain a chapter on transport. Notable headlines in this chapter are likely to be:

- Car use for trips to work has reduced marginally from the previous year, from 76% to 75% while walking, cycling and national rail remains static at compared to the previous year.
- The South East has the highest proportion of trips to school undertaken by car, at 38%, a rise of 3% on the previous year and is now the joint highest in the country.
- Overall motor vehicle flows remain static at 5,000 vehicles per day on average.
- Over half the total distance travelled per person (54%) in the region in 2004/05 was as the driver of a private car (4,431 miles). This is followed by travel as a car passenger, which takes 28.5% of total distance travelled by South East residents (2,345 miles).
- The total distance travelled per person per year in the South East has slightly increased since 2003/2004.
- Road safety: total casualties (killed and seriously injured) continues to reduce year on year, from 5429 for the 5 years to 2004 to 5129 for the five years to 2005, as compared to the 5 year average of 6039 for the five years to 1998, the benchmark being measured against. This represents a 15% reduction which remains well behind the target to reduce casualties by 40% by 2010 compared to the five years to 1998.
- For child casualties, the five year average to 2005 was 440 compared to 491 for the five years to 2004. Against the benchmark of 665 casualties for the five years to 1998, this is a 34% reduction and so remains broadly on target.
- Freight mode share nationally has not significantly altered since last year.

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3. Policy for Service Areas and other Roadside Facilities

3.1 On 31 January 2007 the Regional Assembly's Regional Planning Committee will be presented with a proposed response to the Highways Agency's consultation on a 'policy for service areas and other roadside facilities'.

- 3.2 The consultation document does not contain any firm proposals instead the intention was to open the debate into developing a more effective policy. However, the document does explore some policy changes that are incompatible with current land use policy at a local, regional and national level. The proposed response seeks clarification on a number of key issues, and urges the Highways Agency to consider broader land-use policy implications in any further consultation release.
- 3.3 The consultation document contains reference to the use of future service areas of strategic transport purposes, such as park and ride or lorry parking. This element of the consultation could have a bearing on the future work of the Board. As such the Board will be kept updated of progress on this issue.

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