

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND
REGIONAL TRANSPORT BOARD**

Date: 26 April 2007

Subject: **Making the Case**

Report of: Planning Implementation Director
South East England Regional Assembly

It is recommended that the Board note the position in respect of the preparation of the 'Making the Case' document.

Purpose of Report:

To provide the Board with an update on the preparation of the 'Making the Case' document.

I. Progress Report

- I.1 At its meeting on 1 February 2007 the Board considered the broad outline and content of the 'Making the Case' document. Members will recall that the purpose of this document is set out the need for additional funding for investment in the region. As such the document is the region's response to the Board's view that the current Regional Funding Allocation (RFA) is insufficient to meet the identified needs of the region.
- I.2 Subsequent to the Board's consideration of the previous paper the secretariat has continued with the development of the document. It is interesting to note that the publication of the Nichols and National Audit Office reports into the development and management of major highway schemes has supported the Board's concerns that the impact of construction price inflation will have a major impact on the ability to deliver the regional programme of investment.
- I.3 The slippage in the timing of the Comprehensive Spending Review to the autumn provides the region will more time in which to prepare its arguments as set out in this document. However there remains a need to ensure that the final document is ready at the earliest possible opportunity.
- I.4 To that end the secretariat will circulate a revised version of the document for the consideration of Board member by mid-May.

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