

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Date: 6 March 2001

Subject: **Regional Transport Strategy – Progress Report**

Report of: Head of Regional Transport Planning

**Recommendations:**

That progress with the development of the Regional Transport Strategy is noted, and the intention to bring a final report on vision and objectives to the May Committee.

---

**I Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the work in hand to develop the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS).

**2 Overview of Process**

- 2.1 The aim of the Regional Assembly is to have a revised RTS ready for consultation by the end of 2001.
- 2.2 In December 2000 the Secretary of State published a draft of Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9) for consultation. With the exception of the spatial distribution of the housing figures, it is expected that this draft will form the final version of the current round of RPG9. The transport chapter of RPG9 forms the current version of the RTS and will be used as the basis for the work now underway.
- 2.3 The development of the RTS will draw upon a number of pieces of work that will address the weaknesses already identified with the current contents of RPG9. Section 3 of this report outlines these areas and summarises the current state of progress.

- 2.4 The revision of the RTS also provides an opportunity to take into account the output of the results from the programme of Multi Modal and Road Based Studies now underway. The first three studies in the South East (Access to Hastings Multi Modal Study, M27 South Hampshire Integrated Transport Study and A3 Hindhead Roads Based Study) have now reported and the Regional Assembly's views on their recommendations have been passed onto the Secretary of State. The Regional Assembly awaits the decision of the Secretary of State on the output of the studies with interest. In the meantime, the final reports of these studies provide a useful input into the development of the RTS.

### **3 Work in Progress**

The Regional Transport Forum, held in November 2000, assisted on the strategy thinking and a copy of the Survey of Proceedings is enclosed.

- 3.1 The Regional Assembly Secretariat, working closely with the Transport Advisory Group is now overseeing activity on the following streams of work:

#### *Developing a Vision and Objectives*

- 3.2 This is a key area of work, in that the Vision and Objectives will set the framework for the RTS. It is important that the Vision and Objectives attract a high degree of support amongst key stakeholders. Accordingly the Secretariat has identified a number of mechanisms through which this work will be undertaken:

- 2 half-day seminars (to be held in Reading on 27 February and Lewes on 28 February) with invited specialists in transportation planning. The seminars will discuss at length the nature and content of the Vision and Objectives; and their results will be reported orally to the Committee
- Holding bi-lateral discussions with and seeking written comments from all local authorities, statutory bodies, regional stakeholders;
- Bi-lateral discussions with other stakeholders in the region;
- Discussions with members of the Transport Advisory Group;
- Liaison with a small number of technical advisors.
- A Final Report to the May Regional Planning Committee

#### *Identification of Strategic Networks*

- 3.3 Another key area of work and one to be taken forward by a small sub-group of the Transport Advisory Group drawing on the work on the Vision and Objectives. This stream of work will:

- Establish the current definitions used to identify the strategic networks;
- Review these networks in the context set by the Vision and Objectives and identify potential blockages that prevent it fulfilling its proper function. As

part of this work it will be necessary to consider the implications of the spatial strategy, including the role of regional centres and the transport implications arising there from;

- Arising from the consideration of potential blockages, begin to identify potential priorities for investment in transport infrastructure;
- Develop assessment criteria that would allow priorities for investment to be determined.

#### *Sustainable Distribution*

- 3.4 The movement of freight, sustainable distribution in general, is sufficiently specialised to merit separate consideration, although in due course this work will need to feed into that being undertaken to identify the key strategic networks. A discussion paper has been commissioned from experts within the distribution industry. This paper will aim to identify key issues and elements of the strategic network that influence the distribution industry and will be used as the basis for more detailed discussion with all interested parties.

#### *Airports*

- 3.5 With work still underway on the regional air study (SERAS), it is not envisaged that major progress on the development of potential RTS policies will be possible much before Summer 2001. However, work on developing a regional perspective on airport/aviation matters will begin in advance of the publication of the output from SERAS. To this end a sub-group of the Transport Advisory Group has been established, with the aim of moving this work forward.

#### *Ports*

- 3.6 The principal mechanism for developing this aspect of the RTS will be the work commissioned through SEAPLAG to develop a Regional Ports Strategy. This work is scheduled to report by November 2001. The sub-group of the Transport Advisory Group referred to in relation to airports will also undertake preliminary work on this aspect.

#### *Managing Travel Demand*

- 3.7 A key area of work will be the development of a comprehensive framework of policies and proposals that encourage a more sustainable approach to managing travel demand.
- 3.8 A number of discrete pieces of work that will inform the development of such a framework have already been identified, specifically:
- The development of accessibility criteria for major new development proposals;
  - The development of guidance on the management of car parking, including a review of car parking standards for new development, their implementation and possible revision;

- Consideration of the potential role for road user charging and/or workplace parking levies;
- The development of guidance on the role of travel planning

3.9 The Assembly Secretariat is working with members of the Transport Advisory Group to develop in greater detail the nature and extent of the work outlined above. Given the specialist nature and sensitivity of some of these pieces of work it is envisaged that there will be a requirement to commission consultants to assist some of this work.

*Targets and Monitoring*

3.10 Although identified as a single stream of work, there are in effect two distinct pieces of work to be undertaken under this heading. The development of targets (and their associated indicators) will take place within the policy framework set by other regional documents and the agreed Vision and Objectives set for the RTS.

3.11 Monitoring the implementation of the current version of the RTS is a piece of work on which progress can be made at an earlier stage in the development of the RTS. To that end the Assembly Secretariat are preparing a brief to commission consultants to undertake this work.

*Sustainability Appraisal*

3.12 This is likely to be a substantial piece of work and one that will be on-going throughout the development of the RTS. The Assembly Secretariat is drawing upon experience of member authorities in defining the extent and detail of the work that will need to be undertaken by the Regional Assembly, with a view to developing a brief that will allow consultants to be commissioned.

**4 Next Steps**

4.1 Work on developing the RTS continues to be a priority for the Regional Assembly. Further reports on progress will be brought to this Committee in due course.

**Martin Tugwell**  
**Head of Regional Transport Planning**

26 February 2001