

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
REGIONAL TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATION GROUP**

7 February 2005

ACTION NOTE

Attendees:

Paul Bevan	South East England Regional Assembly (Chairman)
Jon Freer	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Bob Wilkins	East Sussex County Council
Mick Sutch	Kent County Council
David Hackforth	Milton Keynes Council
David Cooper	Government Office for the South East
Iain Reeve	Hampshire County Council
Richard Carr	Oxfordshire County Council
Liz Motherwell	Slough Borough Council
Martin Tugwell	South East England Regional Assembly
Giuseppe Tripodi	South East England Regional Assembly
James Waight	Strategic Rail Authority
George Burnett	Surrey County Council
Colin McKenna	West Sussex County Council
Mark Moon	Wokingham District Council
Marcus Rogers	Buckinghamshire County Council
David Elworthy	Reading Borough Council
Robin Cooper	Medway Council
Andy Mak	South East England Regional Assembly

1. Apologies

Andy Roberts	Government Office for the South East
Mike Ford	Highways Agency
Pete Brunskill	Southampton City Council
Geoff Cornford	Southampton City Council
Peter Mann	Oxfordshire County Council
Pat Baxter	Reading Borough Council
Sheila Holden	Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Paul Hudson	SEEDA
Gary Bartlett	Buckinghamshire County Council
Andrew Renault	Brighton & Hove City Council
Nicky Linihan-Mardon	West Berkshire Council

2. Action Note of the Last Meeting

2.1 The Action Note of the meeting of 6 July 2004 was approved without amendment.

3. Regional Transport Board Update

3.1 The latest meeting of the Regional Transport Board (RTB) pilot had taken place on 28 January. The papers for that meeting were circulated to this Group prior to this meeting.

3.2 The three main agenda items from the RTB meeting were reported and discussed as follow.

3.2.1 Evaluation of Experimental Regional Transport Boards (by DfT).

- The paper was circulated. It was noted that, despite not achieving all the objectives set for the pilot, the RTB is committed to carry on with its work.
- It was discussed that the approach undertaken by the Yorkshire and Humberside RTB pilot, albeit more focused on the timeframe, could lead to a less transparent and democratic process.
- Concerns were expressed about the following: the criteria for identifying local, regional and cross-boundary interventions; and the need for a more inclusive mechanism, based on more local involvement and representation in the RTB.

3.2.2 Devolving Decision Making.

- It was noted that the process of devolving decision making to the regions is currently a developing approach. It was suggested that there is potential for aligning regional priorities (through economic, transport and housing budgets). It was also discussed that the role of the RTB has to be defined more clearly.
- The Chairman noted that the document does not mention the Integrated Regional Framework and the Regional Spatial Strategy as tools for co-ordinating regional priorities.
- It was announced that GOSE will hold a workshop on 21 February to consider the contents of the consultation and identify common themes amongst partners.

An informal discussion on the funding formula criteria took place. Congestion, population and consideration of international gateways were considered some good variables to address the needs of the region.

ACTION: To Note.

3.2.3 Prioritisation Methodology.

- The Group was advised that a presentation of the Prioritisation Methodology was given to the RTB.
- An updated presentation was given to this Group, in light of the advice received from the RTB.
- The Group was advised that the next stage in the process was to apply the methodology to schemes in the RTS. The Assembly would be contacting delivery agencies shortly to obtain further information from them regarding their proposals.
- The output from this work would be discussed at the RTB Officers Group on 1 April. It was agreed that this group would meet prior to the meeting of the RTB in order to provide it with the opportunity to comment on the work to date.
- It was commented that there was a need to be aware that interventions designed to address a particular problem (e.g. safety), might be valued less than those addressing (even only partly) several issues.

ACTION: 1) Assembly to write to delivery agencies seeking information on specific proposals.

2) Next meeting to consider output from next stage of the process of applying the methodology.

4. Schemes Progress

Key Schemes Progress Updates

4.1 The Group discussed the key schemes contained on the updated progress chart that had been circulated prior to the meeting, and the following **ACTIONS** were agreed:

- **Crossrail** – the Assembly and all partners to check progress and re-state the importance of Reading and Ebbsflith as western and eastern terminals.
- **East West Rail link** – sponsoring authorities, SEEDA and the Assembly would help support the consortium.
- **Southampton to West Midlands freight upgrade** – Regional Authorities to push strongly for its implementation.
- **SHRT** – Hants CC to re- submit the intervention to the Secretary of State as a brand new major scheme this spring. Decision expected in July.

Hampshire County Council to liaise with SEEDA and the Assembly to ensure that regional content fully reflected in the submission.

- 4.2 The need to keep under review the list of schemes monitored was accepted. With the work now underway on prioritisation, this issue would be reviewed at the next meeting.

5. Date of next meeting

14 April 2005

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