

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

11 January 2006

ACTION NOTE

Attendees:

Paul Bevan	South East England Regional Assembly (Chairman)
Martin Tugwell	South East England Regional Assembly
Andy Mak	South East England Regional Assembly
Giuseppe Tripodi	South East England Regional Assembly
Mick Sutch	Kent County Council
Bob Wilkins	East Sussex County Council
Mike Ford	Highways Agency
David Cooper	Government Office for the South East
Andrew Renault	Brighton & Hove City Council
Lyndon Mendes	Surrey County Council
Marcus Rogers	Buckinghamshire County Council
Peter Mann	Oxfordshire County Council
Pat Baxter	Reading Borough Council
Paul Denyer	Portsmouth City Council
Mike Link	West Sussex County Council
Geoff Walters	Medway Council
Iain Reeve	Hampshire County Council
Gary Bartlett	Buckinghamshire County Council

1. Apologies

Peter Brunskill	Southampton City Council
Andy Roberts	Government Office for the South East
Paul Hudson	SEEDA
Jon Freer	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Kevin Whiteside	Milton Keynes Council
Liz Motherwell	Slough Council

2. Action Note of the Last Meeting

2.1 The Action Note of the meeting of 05 September 2005 was approved without amendment.

3. Regional Transport Board – Report back from the meeting held on 6 January

3.1 The Chairman gave a verbal update on the outcome of the Regional Transport Board meeting held on 6 January.

3.2 It was reported that further to a meeting with DfT, the Board agreed to re-introduce A3 Hindhead in the forward programme 2006-2011 as being funded

from the RFA since no alternative funding had been identified. The Group was informed that the Board had agreed to support the earliest possible implementation of this proposal.

- 3.3 However, given the impact on the other schemes in the programme, concern had been raised by the Board on the delay of critical pieces of infrastructure for the region. The Board had therefore proposed that the region's case for an additional 10% of Regional Funding Allocation could be made strongly on the basis of this knock-on effect.
- 3.4 It was clarified that the Transport Board is a partnership body which advise ministers directly. As such, it does not report formally to any other organisation; however its members report to the organisations they represent on the Board.

ACTION:

Secretariat to set up an e-mail alert in order to notify members of this Group and of TAG, members of the Regional Transport Board, Transport Portfolio holders in Local Authorities and their respective officers, when papers for the RTB are published on the Assembly's website.

4. Regional Funding Allocation process – Update

- 4.1 A verbal update on the development of the Regional Funding Allocation document was given to the Group.
- 4.1 It was reported that the document is reaching its final draft and will be more widely available from 20th January. The work has been co-ordinated by GOSE.
- 4.2 The Chairman outlined the general structure and content of the document touching on specific issues such as: transport, economic and housing priorities, budget constraints, gateways and inter-regional linkages, rail issues, brownfield developments and the city-region agenda.

ACTION:

Secretariat to notify members of this Group when the Regional Funding Allocation document will be in the public domain.

5. Forward Programme – Post 2010/11

- 5.1 It was clarified that the Transport Board will submit its advice to government only on regional priorities to 2010-11. Priorities for the next 5-year block will

have to reflect new proposals identified through sub-regional advice received on 9 December 2005. This will also provide an opportunity to further refine the prioritisation methodology. The Group agreed that TAG would be the most appropriate forum to bring this work forward.

- 5.2 The Chairman of TAG (Peter Mann) welcomed the initiative and reassured that all Local Transport Authorities and Delivery Agencies would be involved in the process. He also encouraged them to express their views and feedback on the current methodology. Given the short timescale, this work should be progressed as soon as possible.
- 5.3 It was noted that this Group should also be looking at innovative ways to address transport issues in the future, and give more consideration to smarter choice issues.

ACTIONS:

- i) **Secretariat to circulate a note to members of this Group, describing how the current prioritisation methodology works.**
- ii) **TAG to start the review of the methodology as soon as possible.**

6. Olympics – Implications for the South East transport system and infrastructure

- 6.1 The Chairman introduced this item as an opportunity for the region as a whole to consider the implications of the London 2012 Olympic Games on transport and infrastructure in the South East.
- 6.2 The Chair informed the Group that he had been invited to be a member of a Regional Olympic Co-ordination Group (ROCG), reporting directly to the Nations and Regions Olympic Group.
- 6.3 It was reported that, as part of the work of the ROCG, Consultants Symonds had been appointed to provide some initial advice on the basis of a SWOT analysis of the capacity of the region's infrastructure to contribute to the Olympics.
- 6.4 A copy of the brief will be circulated to this group; the Chairman encouraged all local authorities and delivery agencies that had completed studies or researched on these issues to contribute to the development of this work.

ACTIONS:

- i) **Secretariat to circulate a copy of the brief to members of this group.**

- ii) **Members of this group with relevant expertise and who have completed related studies to feed these into the consultants' work.**

7. Regional Transport Board Work Programme

a. South East Rail Prospectus

- 7a.1 At its last meeting the Board supported the development of a rail prospectus that identifies the priorities for rail investment across the region and that this is promoted by the region as an input into the preparation of the Government's High Level Output Statement.
- 7a.2 It was reported that a much wider suite of rail data is now available; it will help understand sub-regional and inter-regional patterns of rail passenger movements and will be used as empirical evidence to build the case for more rail investment in the region. A detailed proposal for the project will be presented at the next meeting.
- 7a.3 The group welcomed the proposal as a very good opportunity for the region to identify needs and make the case for rail investment in the South East. Members of the group will provide expertise and support to the project.

b. Regionally Significant Studies

- 7b.1 Another task for the Board is to identify whether there are any regionally significant issues that require further study; it was proposed that TAG could look at this issue in greater detail whilst this group could then advise the Regional Transport Board.
- 7b.2 It was suggested that these studies should identify problems rather than outcomes. This process should also consider previous studies (i.e. MMSs), gaps in funding and delivery in the context of current budget limits.

c. Funding Arrangements for Major Proposals

- 7c.1 Members of the group expressed their concerns regarding funding arrangements for major transport proposals.
- 7c.2 It was reported that the development of a major proposal has a considerable impact on LTA's budget. Existing funding tools such as supported borrowing are not particularly helpful, as they do not impact on the ability of the authority to raise money.
- 7c.3 Some members of the group felt that the whole Regional Funding Allocation process (and the uncertainties related to it) doesn't take into account implications for Local Authorities' delivery and finance.
- 7c.4 In particular it was stressed that for small authorities such as Unitaries the cost of preparation and development of the proposal through the planning

system is too high. As a consequence many smaller authorities are not developing any major proposals. Future papers for the Transport Board should reflect this more clearly.

ACTIONS:

- i) Secretariat to present an update of the Rail Prospectus at the next meeting**
- ii) Members of this group to contribute and provide support to the Rail Prospectus**
- iii) TAG to consider regionally significant transport studies in detail and feedback advice to this group**
- iv) This group to examine the financial implications related to development of major proposals.**

8. National Schemes

- 8.1 Mike Ford informed the group that the work on the first of the suite of M25 schemes being delivered by DBFO is due to start next year.**

9. Dates of future meetings (2006)

24 / 25 April to be confirmed

05 July

13 October

All meetings to be held from 14.00 to 16.00

The venue for these meetings to be confirmed.

Contact: Giuseppe Tripodi, Regional Planner
T: +44 (0)1483 555238
E: giuseppetripodi@southeast-ra.gov.uk