

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

**14 April 2005**

**ACTION NOTE**

Attendees:

Paul Bevan	South East England Regional Assembly (Chairman)
Mick Sutch	Kent County Council
Nicky Linihan-Mardon	West Berkshire Council
David Hackforth	Milton Keynes Council
Sheila Holden	Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Iain Reeve	Hampshire County Council
David Cooper	Government Office for the South East
Martin Tugwell	South East England Regional Assembly
Andy Mak	South East England Regional Assembly
Giuseppe Tripodi	South East England Regional Assembly
Liz Motherwell	Slough Borough Council
James Waight	Strategic Rail Authority
George Burnett	Surrey County Council
Marcus Rogers	Buckinghamshire County Council
Peter Mann	Oxfordshire County Council
Pat Baxter	Reading Borough Council
Paul Denyer	Portsmouth City Council
Roger Jones	West Sussex County Council

**1. Apologies**

Andy Roberts	Government Office for the South East
Paul Hudson	SEEDA
Gary Bartlett	Buckinghamshire County Council
Jon Freer	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Mark Moon	Wokingham District Council
Mike Ford	Highways Agency
Andrew Renault	Brighton & Hove City Council
Bob Wilkins	East Sussex County Council
Steve Matthews	Isle of Wight Council
Geoff Cornford	Southampton City Council

**2. Action Note of the Last Meeting**

2.1 The Action Note of the meeting of 7 February 2005 was approved without amendment.

**3. Regional Transport Board Update**

### 3.1 Update

A verbal update was given to the Group. The next Regional Transport Board meeting is scheduled on 22 April. It was reported that there is a possible postponement of the meeting due to the need to consider election purdah. Alternative dates are being sought.

### 3.2 Devolving Decision Making.

- The Chairman noted that the process of devolving decision making to the regions offers potential for aligning regional priorities (through economic, transport and housing budgets).
- It was reported that the Assembly had produced a formal response to the consultation.
- It was noted that no official announcement is expected from the government on this matter, due to the general election purdah.
- The Group was informed that the Regional Transport Board membership will be reviewed only after the Assembly's new members are chosen (in light of the election's results). The Board with its current members will carry on with its work until members are replaced.

**ACTION: To Note.**

## 4. **Prioritisation Methodology.**

An updated presentation was given to this Group, in light of the experience gained so far in the process of applying the methodology.

Two detailed examples of interventions were presented to illustrate the key issues that need to be addressed. It was noted that this is a "work in progress" process, which needs to be refined. For this reason it was proposed that the output from the prioritisation would need further consideration before being presented to the RTB.

A debate was held and the major issues arising were as follow.

- Clarification was sought about the weightings in the Policy Compatibility section and the related questionnaires. It was acknowledged that the questionnaires need to be revised in order to be clearer and more consistent.
- An issue was raised about identifying the right forum to assess the questionnaires.
- 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.

- Clarification was sought about the default assumptions used in the Value for Money section and it was noted that the national definition of value for money differs from the one used in the methodology.
- It was noted that many small major interventions costing just above £5 million are not of regional significance. A possible solution to this problem could be to raise the threshold for major schemes to £10 million.

**ACTION: 1) more detailed debate on key technical issues to take place at the Transport Advisory Group meeting on 10 May.**

**ACTION: 2) to report to the next meetings the output of further iterations of the methodology.**

## 5. Schemes Progress

### Key Schemes Progress Updates

- 5.1 The updated progress chart was circulated to the Group. Progress of the key schemes was debated. The main issues arising were as follows:
- **Crossrail** – Main comments arising from the Crossrail Bill related to the importance of safeguarding Reading and access to the Southeast was re-stated.
  - **AirTrack** – Delays reported in the analysis of the Consultants' study due to modelling problems, but hopeful that this could be overcome.
  - **Brighton Main Line** – Publication of the final strategy shifted to December 2005.
  - **SHRT** – Hants CC just re-submitted the intervention to the Secretary of State as a brand new major scheme. Decision expected this summer.

## 6. Date of next meeting

The following dates were agreed.

Friday 24 June 2005	11.00 – 14.00 with buffet lunch provided.
Thursday 5 September 2005	14.00 – 16.00

Contact: Giuseppe Tripodi, Assistant Regional Transport Planner  
 T: +44 (01483) 555238 E: [giuseppetripodi@southeast-ra.gov.uk](mailto:giuseppetripodi@southeast-ra.gov.uk)