

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

24 June 2005

ACTION NOTE

Attendees:

Martin Tugwell	South East England Regional Assembly (Chairman)
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
Nicky Linihan-Mardon	West Berkshire Council
Mike Ford	Highways Agency
Peter Brunskill	Southampton City Council
David Cooper	Government Office for the South East
Liz Motherwell	Slough Borough Council
Andrew Renault	Brighton & Hove City Council
James Waight	Strategic Rail Authority
George Burnett	Surrey County Council
Marcus Rogers	Buckinghamshire County Council
John Disley	Oxfordshire County Council
Pat Baxter	Reading Borough Council
Paul Denyer	Portsmouth City Council
Roger Jones	West Sussex County Council
Geoff Cornford	Southampton City Council
Geoff Walters	Medway Council

1. Apologies

Paul Bevan	South East England Regional Assembly
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
David Hackforth	Milton Keynes Council
Sheila Holden	Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Iain Reeve	Hampshire County Council

2. Action Note of the Last Meeting

2.1 The Action Note of the meeting of 14 April 2005 was approved without amendment.

3. Prioritisation Methodology

- 3.1 The first part of this item was the presentation of the draft output from the application of the methodology. A paper was circulated to the Group showing the draft list of prioritised interventions.
- 3.2 The Group was informed that the list of prioritised interventions is by no means definitive. The Chairman stressed that it is work in progress and that a limited number of issues associated with the methodology were the subject of further debate with TAG.
- 3.3 The Group's feedback on the new version of the questionnaire was positive. Group members felt it is now shorter, clearer and better reflects the policy context. The Group also felt that, despite some particular issues to be addressed, the list circulated was a reasonable representation of the priorities across the region.
- 3.4 The next steps of the application of the methodology were outlined; TAG will provide further technical advice on 26 June. A paper will then be prepared for the RTB scheduled to meet on 8 July. This would outline the work undertaken in the last few months and include a copy of the initial draft of priorities.
- 3.5 During the ensuing discussion the following issues were raised:
 - It was suggested that greater weight should be given to consideration of inter-regional or cross-border interventions. It was agreed that the balance between regional and local proposals should be explored further.
 - The relatively poor performance of proposals along the South Coast was commented on. It was agreed that further discussions would take place with the HA and the Local Transport Authorities in order to determine whether this is due to the quality of the data submitted or to the specific characteristics of these proposals.
 - It was suggested that there is a need to explore further whether the information being used captures fully the linkages and inter-relations between schemes (e.g. HA schemes related to particular LTP interventions).
 - The timing of the proposals and the influence this has on the prioritisation process was raised. Some of the interventions are priorities in the short term while some others are only expected beyond 2016. It was agreed that there is scope to debate the inclusion and role of studies, longer term priorities and consideration of infrastructure requirements to accommodate forecast growth.
- 3.6 It was noted that funds for new schemes are likely to be available only from 2008/9 as funding for the next two years is tied by previous commitments. It was also shown how the cost of all the interventions included in the prioritisation process is likely to far exceed the level of funding available.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Secretariat to provide guidance to scheme promoters to add in further evidence to support interventions.
- 2) Secretariat to notify members of this Group when the paper on prioritisation for RTB will be in the public domain.

4. Regional Transport Board Update

- 4.1 A verbal update was given to the Group. The next Regional Transport Board meeting is scheduled on 8 July.
- 4.2 It was noted that an official announcement is expected shortly from the government on Regional Funding Allocations as part of the Government's response to the consultation on Devolving Decision Making.
- 4.2 The Group was advised that the membership of the RTB was likely to be reviewed. Amongst the issues to be considered were whether the level of representation (through nominations via the Assembly) of Local Transport Authorities should be increased, and whether there is a need to enhance the business voice on the RTB.

5. Schemes Progress

Key Schemes Progress Updates

- 5.1 A verbal update was given to the Group. The main issues arising were as follows:
 - **Crossrail** – the Group was informed that the Assembly had agreed to petition against the Bill. The reasons for this lies in concerns arising from the use of station capacity at Heathrow Terminal 5 and in particular the fact that it may not allow for the development of Airtrack. In addition the proposals in the Bill could adversely affect services on the Great Western main line. Similar worries were shared by some members of the group.
 - **Southampton to West Midlands Gauge Enhancement** – A deliverable scheme has been developed and costed. The issue remains one of affordability. Regional partners were pressing the need for the funding to be made available in meetings with Ministers.
 - **Reading Station** – In the last year the scheme cost fell from the original £500m+ to something in the order of £68m. The core scheme focuses on addressing the rail bottleneck and is good value for the associated benefit. Regional partners continue to work with and support the development of the business case and to press the need for funding to be made available to enable the work to proceed alongside the programmed signalling renewal work.

- **AirTrack** – Work on the most recent technical study will shortly be completed. The business case remains extremely robust and offers extremely good value for money. Regional partners are supporting the Forum to press the case for funding of the proposal.
- **East-West Rail** – Work continues on the study that is focused on quantifying the additional development that the proposal will unlock. This study, funded by ODPM, is scheduled to report shortly.
- **SHRT** – A Government announcement on this proposal is expected shortly as part of a package of announcements on tram schemes.
- **BML RUS** – No decision expected shortly. It was noted that, unlike other rail interventions, the identified pressures don't lead to any investment.

The meeting noted that the process of transferring the powers of the SRA was underway. The SRA would effectively be wound up by late August. The group recorded its thanks for the support and contribution of James Waight and wished him good luck for the future.

6. Date of next meeting

Confirmed as being Thursday 5 September 2005

14.00 – 16.00

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