

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

**11 OCTOBER 2007
ACTION NOTE**

Attendees:

Martin Tugwell	South East England Regional Assembly (Chairman)
James Renwick	South East England Regional Assembly
Fiona Thorp	South East England Regional Assembly
Pat Baxter	Reading Borough Council
Peter Hayward	East Sussex County Council
Peter Mann	Oxfordshire County Council
Mark Heverin	SEEDA
Lyndon Mendes	Surrey County Council
John Bucket	Hampshire County Council
Andrew Renaut	Brighton & Hove City Council
Liz Motherwell	Slough Borough Council
David Cooper	Government Office for the South East
Susan Stuart	Government Office for the South East
Gary Bartlett	Buckinghamshire County Council
Mike Link	West Sussex County Council
Gail Kenyon	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
John Slater	Portsmouth City Council
Mike Ford	Highways Agency
Kate Smith	West Sussex County Council

1. Apologies

Andy Barton	South East England Regional Assembly
Andy Mak	South East England Regional Assembly
Mick Sutch	Kent County Council
Pete Brunskill	Southampton City Council
John Harper	Milton Keynes Council

2. Action Note of the Last Meeting

2.1 The Action Note of the meeting of 30 March 2007 was agreed as a true record of the meeting and was approved without amendment.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Martin updated the Group on work that had been approved at the Board meeting of 10 July 2007. In particular, it was highlighted that the Board had approved the Protocol to consider action to be taken in light of scheme cost increases to the RFA. Martin also informed the Group that while future exceptional maintenance schemes will need to be funded from the RFA, we

now had firm clarification that bids received by the Department before the end of August would be funded centrally.

ACTION: The Secretariat agreed to distribute the final Protocol to the Group.

4. Update on Policy Context

4.1 Recent Announcements and Impact on the Board's Work.

4.1.1 Martin introduced a paper which sought to provide a summary of the panel report and indicate potential areas for further work.

4.1.2 In addition, the Government Office also pointed out that the proposed modifications to the South East Plan are expected to be released early next year, and that in the interim attention should perhaps be focussed on assisting implementation and fostering sub-regional working arrangements. Attendees were also alerted to the potential impacts of the Housing Green Paper.

4.1.3 The Government Office also provided feedback on the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). In particular it was noted that the indicative RFA amounts would be rolled forward for an additional 2 years (2016-18), and that there was no commitment on a Planning Gain Supplement (PGS)

4.2 Future of Local Transport Plans.

4.2.1 James presented a paper to the Group which outlined the Government's intentions for the future of Local Transport Planning. Although there were few firm proposals in the consultation, it was considered that the document provided an opportunity to report to the Department the views of both the Regional Assembly and Local Transport Authorities.

4.2.2 The Group held a short discussion on the key issues surrounding current local transport planning. The main concerns raised were in regards to resource implications from Local Development Framework preparation, and that the indicator base for Local Area Agreements may not accurately report transport issues.

4.2.3 In addition, the group felt that the consultation misrepresented issues relating to funding, in particular the impact of funding availability due to an Authority's status as a 'floor authority'.

ACTION: The Secretariat requested that the group submit evidence on to James on the level of disruption floor status has on scheme delivery.

5. Regional Programme

5.1 Major Schemes Guidance

- 5.1.1 Martin and James presented this paper to the Group which explained the revised requirements for promoters seeking funding from the RFA; including the effect on current priorities within the programme.
- 5.1.2 While the Department for Transport will ultimately control spending, there is a regional responsibility to take a view on affordability. As such, Board members will need to know the full implications and impacts of scheme reprofiling or cost increases.
- 5.1.3 The guidance states a requirement to insert an 'additional risk layer' onto the value of all schemes in the programme. As such, it is likely that the manner in which regional priorities are presented will need to be changed. An assessment of the impact on affordability will be made during the 2008 refresh.
- 5.1.4 In addition, the group raised a specific concern that guidance contained a caveat that the Department could withdraw funding late on in project delivery; however, the guidance offers no clarity on where this may occur.

ACTION: The Secretariat will raise the concerns with the Department

5.2 Scheme Development Fund

- 5.2.1 The group were updated on the findings of a workshop attended by members of RTCG on whether there were particular issues that could be addressed to ensure that regional priorities progress to delivery. A draft suggestion on how the process outlined in the current major schemes guidance could be optimised was presented for discussion.
- 5.2.2 It was agreed that further time was needed by the Group to fully consider these questions and as such it was agreed that this would be addressed more fully at the next meeting in December.

ACTION: The Secretariat requested that the Group email their thoughts or any questions to James by the end of the following week, these will be dealt with and brought back to the December meeting.

5.3 Refresh of Regional Programme – 2008

- 5.3.1 Following a short discussion on this paper, it was requested that the Group have more time to consider the questionnaire more fully. In addition, it was agreed that the discussion should be carried over to the December meeting, where the issue of weighting would also be discussed.
- 5.3.2 On the matter of the revised questionnaire, it was felt that better use of discussion time would be to take this away with them, examine it more fully and then come back with questions or comments electronically.

ACTION: The Group agreed to feed back comments or questions electronically to Fiona. If there are no fundamental changes required then a discussion will be held next meeting, if the form needs considerable changing, the Secretariat will produce a revised version for consideration.

5.4 Thames Gateway Priorities

- 5.4.1 The Assembly have been working with Kent County Council and Medway Council to produce a list of prioritised transport interventions to help deliver the agenda for growth in the Thames Gateway. A further piece of work is now underway and the South East part of the Gateway will have the final priorities considered by the next meeting the Board on 26 October. The final listing will probably be published in November 2007.

6. Rail White Paper

- 6.1 The Regional Planning Committee held a debate at the last meeting and agreed a response which had been sent to the Secretary of State, Network Rail and the Office of Rail Regulation. On regional issues, Crossrail has now been given the funding to go-ahead.
- 6.2 It was also reported that the proposal to have a South East regional representative on the TfL Board has yet to be concluded. The Regional Transport Board will write to the Mayor again and ascertain what is happening with that issue.
- 6.3 The Government Office informed the Group that the South Central Franchise will be happening soon and consultations will commence in Spring 2008. Views will be welcomed on the issues and a presentation will be made to the Board sometime next Spring which will provide an opportunity for early input into the process.
- 6.4 Network Rail also informed the Group that other Route Utilisation Strategies were forthcoming which are Great Western RUS, Kent RUS and Sussex RUS. Responses were also expected for HLOS at the end of October.

ACTION: Network Rail agreed to provide a more substantive debate at the next meeting in December.

7. Smarter Choices

7.1 Mobility Management

- 7.1.1 Fiona reported to the Group that the final report had been received from Addisons, and has provided an important overview of issues that need to be taken forward. While work is still ongoing to develop the reports findings, the Assembly would be looking for the Board to endorse the four 'areas of work' identified in the paper. The Group broadly expressed agreement with the

proposed work streams, and expressed a willingness to be involved in their development.

- 7.1.2 It was also reported that there was scope within the current RFA programme to implement some of the measures called for in the report (i.e. through the Guildford and Redhill/ Reigate hub schemes)

ACTION: The Group agreed to let Fiona know via email which particular area of work they wished to have further engagement in. A copy of the Addison's report would also be sent out to the group

7.2 Bus and Coach

- 7.2.1 The Group were informed that the Assembly now had a secondee from the Department for Transport working with them for approximately 18 months to move the bus and coach agenda forward.
- 7.2.2 The Group endorsed the content of this paper to be put forward to the Board at their next meeting on 26 October.

8. Standing Items

A. Programme Management and Monitoring

- A.1 A short discussion took place mainly around the Olympic issues, the RBWM had written to Hugh Sumner to express their concern regarding the lack of funding for the initiatives and a meeting has been set for later this month between the Chief Executive of RBWM and Hugh Sumner.
- A.2 It was pointed out by the Government Office that the South East Offer document which is part of the Olympic structure, clearly maps out what needs to happen.

ACTION: It was agreed that the Secretariat would distribute the papers which had gone to the previous Executive Committee to the Government Office to enable them to take a view on how best they could help and influence these issues.

B. Items for Information

- B.1 These were duly noted by the Group, no action required at this meeting.

11. Future Dates

11 December 2007

Mandolay Hotel, Guildford

2008 Dates

14.00 – 17.00	3 April 2008	Mandolay Hotel, Guildford
14.00 – 17.00	19 June 2008	Mandolay Hotel, Guildford
14.00 – 17.00	26 September 2008	Mandolay Hotel, Guildford

Meeting Closed at 16.00pm

**South East England Regional Assembly
October 2007**