

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

**30 MARCH 2007
ACTION NOTE**

Attendees:

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| Martin Tugwell | South East England Regional Assembly (Chairman) |
| Andy Barton | South East England Regional Assembly |
| Andy Mak | South East England Regional Assembly |
| James Renwick | South East England Regional Assembly |
| Bob Wilkins | East Sussex County Council |
| Mike Ford | Highways Agency |
| Peter Mann | Oxfordshire County Council |
| Detlef Golletz | SEEDA |
| Lyndon Mendes | Surrey County Council |
| John Bucket | Hampshire County Council |
| Andrew Renaut | Brighton & Hove City Council |
| Peter Hayward | East Sussex County Council |
| Liz Motherwell | Slough Borough Council |
| Paul Denyer | Portsmouth County Council |
| Lee Sambrook | GOSE |

1. Apologies

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| David Cooper | Government Office for the South East |
| Gary Bartlett | Buckinghamshire County Council |
| Roger Jones | West Sussex County Council |
| Gail Kenyon | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead |
| John Slater | Portsmouth City Council |
| Julian Lomas | Portsmouth City Council |
| Mick Sutch | Kent County Council |
| Pete Brunskill | Southampton City Council |

2. Action Note of the Last Meeting

- 2.1 Item 5: Making the Case Document. The Assembly reported that the pressures of the South East EiP have delayed progress with this document. The immediate deadline is no longer there as the CSR has now been pushed back to autumn 2007.
- 2.2 The Action Note of the meeting of 12 January 2007 was otherwise agreed as a true record of the meeting and was approved without amendment.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 There were no matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.

4. Programme Management and Monitoring

4.1 Item 4B - Scheme Progress Monitor.

4.1.1 Airtrack: The group was informed that BAA will be funding the Transport and Works Act (TWA). It is understood that BAA have appointed consultants that will assist with developing the project. The timetable of the TWA process isn't clear, but it is anticipated this could be between 18-24 months (from January 2007). It is therefore expected that the inquiry will take place from autumn 2008.

4.1.2 Gatwick Airport Station: Andy Barton recently met with Passenger Focus. An announcement is expected soon on the Brighton mainline proposals. Three different designs for the Airport Station proposal have been put forward and the work is progressing well.

4.1.3 East West Rail: At present, the East West Rail Consortium are developing a programme of work to take the project to its next stage.

4.1.4 Reading Station: A business case developed by Network Rail, with additional joint funding from Reading Borough Council and DfT was submitted to Government on 30 March 2007. This is a significant step forward in the Reading Station work. The group were informed that the proposal submitted is a bigger scheme than originally suggested and largely reflects the drive from DfT to look at the longer term needs of Reading Station and that part of the network. The scheme includes plans to create 4 through mainline platforms (currently there are only 2); add 2 twin sided platforms to the North side of the station to assist with future proofing and the creation of elongated platforms 4a and 4b and a new platform 4c among others. The scheme will cost in the region of £500million. There is a strong business case that demonstrates that there are benefits for the entire network.

4.1.5 SMART: The group were informed that the project is close to identifying appropriate mechanisms on how to bring the various funding groups together. The three lead parties in SMART (Network Rail, ABP and SEEDA) are beginning to come to one shared view of a feasible proposal that they are keen to put forward to DfT.

4.2 Item 4C - Thames Gateway.

4.2.1 Development of the Thames Gateway strategic framework as a whole is related to the CSR timescales. The Assembly is currently working with East of England Regional Assembly, TFL and GLA to determine in greater detail the transport infrastructure requirements associated with delivering growth across the gateway as a whole.

4.2.2 Schemes both above and below the £5-million threshold for major schemes are being looked at as part of this process. Discussions with CLG will help identify a realistic financial framework within which to undertake the initial work. The first draft of the work will be going to the Thames Gateway Strategic Partnership (TGSP) in July.

4.3 Item 4D - TIF.

4.3.1 At the last Regional Transport Board (RTB) it was agreed that there was benefit in looking at identifying a series of criteria that can be used to identify potential schemes that the region might wish to support for TIF funding. Draft criteria were tabled to the group for discussion. The Group were advised that at this stage individual schemes had deliberately not been listed as the criteria need to be agreed by the Board first.

4.3.2 The group expressed concern that there was a lot of duplication with the criteria in the paper. They advised that there is a need to rationalise and simplify this document and put it in the context of a regional approach to focus on the three key themes from the Eddington review.

4.4 Item 4A - Programme Management & Monitoring.

4.4.1 Summary of the Points Discussed.

- While the catalyst for the discussion was the cost increase associated with the Bexhill - Hastings link road, it was important for the group to be aware that the issues raised have a wider impact.
- A 6-monthly review meeting with the Regional Assembly, GOSE, SEEDA and DfT is taking place on 12 April. Our suggestions following this meeting will inform the discussion at that meeting. After that meeting, the Secretariat will have a firm idea of how to progress and present this case to the Board.
- East Sussex County Council confirmed that a planning application for the scheme will be submitted on 12 April 2007.
- Peter Hayward (East Sussex County Council) ran through the main features of the Bexhill - Hastings planning application.
- Peter gave the group a run down on where they are currently in terms of progress on budget, timescales etc.
- It was suggested that East Sussex County Council should be allowed to present to the board in order to set out the context of the scheme and the reason for the cost increase.
- The group were comfortable with the idea that we need to establish a process to apply in these circumstances in the future. There needs to be protocols and a rigorous way of handling these situations put in place. We need to identify when the board needs to get involved.
- There is a need to give further consideration to how to manage risk associated with slippage in the programme.

4.4.1 The Assembly were aware of many of the point raised, and it was clear that there was a need for a protocol to be developed to address these types of issues that the Board will face. This will be the subject of a report to the Board. Many of the issues also raised by the group would need further consideration, and particularly in light of a meeting scheduled with DfT on the 12 April. Once this had been held, papers for the Board could then be drawn up.

5. Review of Regional Programme

- 5.1 The paper presented to the group sets out the broad issues and the RTB paper will set out more fully the basis of the review; it would identify what we are and what we aren't looking at; what is and what isn't within scope of the review.
- 5.2 The group were advised that the important points to note within the paper were the bullet points in paragraph 2.3 - these will start to shape the scope for the 2008 review and will set out the key issues to present to RTB.
- 5.3 The Assembly are working on setting up a meeting with the local transport authority portfolio holders and this will take place on 28 June (post meeting note - this has now been moved to the 4 June). This meeting will provide the basis for engaging with portfolio holders and senior officers about the scope of the review and how the RTB is working more generally. Andy Barton confirmed that the invitation will be sent to the current portfolio holders. A copy will be sent to the relevant officer.

6. Regional Planning Assessments & Rail Strategy for London's Future

- 6.1 The paper provides the group an update of what has been published and what the recommendations are following the Regional Planning Committee's meeting on 21 March 2007.

7. Smarter Choices & Mobility Management

- 7.1 Progress was being made with the work designed to help develop a mobility management toolkit. The paper summarised a suite of possible approaches as to how the Board might support 'Smarter Choices', but there was a need for all LTAs to feed into the scoping work.
- 7.2 Andy Mak informed the group that the Regional Travelwise group has now met and wants to re-energise their work. The national contact is leading this but unfortunately, current attendance is light. The next meeting is in Buckinghamshire W/C 2 April 2007.
- 7.4 The group were informed by Paul Denyer that a pilot scheme is being rolled out in the Southampton / Solent area. The scheme is similar to the 'Oyster Card' scheme and Paul agreed to share this with the group once further information is available.

8. DfT Consultation Document - Putting Passengers First

- 8.1 Due to time constraints, the Chairman suggested the group review this paper away from the meeting and submit any comments to the Assembly via email. The proposal is that a paper will be put forward to a future meeting of the Board.

8.3 Lee Sanbrook (GOSE) advised that a seminar is being run on 10 May 2007 at the Mandolay Hotel, Guildford.

9. AOB

- 9.1 Mike Ford (Highways Agency) wanted to remind the group that DfT Circular 02/2007 - Planning and the Strategic Road Network was published in March 2007. The document can be found here: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/162259/165237/circular207planningsrnpdf>. Mike recommended to the group that they read this document and bring it to the attention of their transport and planning colleagues. Transport Assessments are required for all Local Development Framework's (LDF's) and is concerned that there are some local authorities who aren't completing them.
- 9.2 The Chairman informed the group that the Assembly are in a position to be able to consider assisting with funding for developing pieces of work if they can be identified as helping take forward regional priorities. The group were advised to write a letter of interest to the Secretariat if they have a project / scheme they feel could benefit from additional funding.
- 9.3 Bob Wilkins informed the group his successor has been appointed; Rupert Club. Rupert will join East Sussex County Council on 18 June 2007. Bob's last day will be 15 June. As he is unlikely to attend a further meeting, Bob expressed his enjoyment at being a member of the group and wished them well. The chairman & group thanked Bob for his contribution to the group and also wished him well.

Meeting Closed at 16.40pm

**South East England Regional Assembly
April 2007**