

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY  
TRANSPORT ADVISORY GROUP  
Action Note**

**24 October 2005  
Berkeley House, Cross Lanes, Guildford**

Present:

|                    |                                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Peter Mann (Chair) | Oxfordshire County Council           |
| Iain Reeve         | Hampshire County Council             |
| George Burnett     | Surrey County Council                |
| Howard Holt        | Dover Harbour Board                  |
| Martin Tugwell     | South East England Regional Assembly |
| Andy Barton        | South East England Regional Assembly |
| Andy Mak           | South East England Regional Assembly |
| Giuseppe Tripodi   | South East England Regional Assembly |
| Lee Sambrook       | GOSE                                 |
| Mike Ford          | Highways Agency                      |
| (Andrew Ash)       | (TRL Consultants) – for item 4       |

## **1. Apologies**

|                |                               |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Detlef Golletz | SEEDA                         |
| Mike Ebbs      | Dover District Council        |
| Louisa Bellee  | Freight Transport Association |
| Nigel Rose     | SEFS                          |
| Harry Rutter   | Public Health Observatory     |
| Mick Sutch     | Kent County Council           |
| Philip Kirk    | Oxford Bus Company            |

## **2. Notes of the last meeting**

- 2.1 The notes of the last meeting (28 June) were approved without any amendments.
- 2.2 However, as a matter of accuracy, members of the Group felt that their concerns on the Prioritisation Methodology had not been reflected sufficiently, both in the methodology itself and, more particularly, in the advice given to the Regional Transport Board in its determination of regional funding priorities and some areas of discussion had not been fully recorded in the notes. The Assembly undertook to ensure that the action notes better reflect the flavour of the debate.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **3.1 Role of TAG**

- 3.1.1 The Chair welcomed the new members of the Group and invited the Secretariat to clarify the role and remit of TAG.
- 3.1.2 MT confirmed that the main role of TAG is to inform the work of the Assembly by providing independent advice on policy and strategic issues related to transport; it was also clarified that its role is distinct to that of the Regional Transport Co-ordination Group, where members represent the interests of their Local Transport Authority / Delivery Agency. Where TAG's role is to advise on process issues and maintain a work plan, the role of the RTCG is to drive and monitor delivery and aid communication across the region.
- 3.1.3 Some members of the Group were not clear on how the advice of TAG is taken on board, particularly by the Regional Transport Board. The group would welcome further clarification on this procedural issue.

**Action: TAG to be informed of the outcome of the constitutional review of the RTB over the coming months.**

### 3.2 Freight Strategy

- 3.2.1 The Group was informed that the Assembly would commission the work on the Regional Freight Strategy very shortly. It is envisaged that the FTA would lead the work whose completion is scheduled by spring 2006.
- 3.2.2 TAG Freight sub-group will assist in the developing this work; it will include representatives of Port Authorities, Highways Agency and the Rail Industry, and will be led by Louisa Bellee (FTA, and member of TAG).

**Action: Secretariat to inform the Group of the progress on this work at its next meeting.**

### 3.3 Mobility Management Toolkit

- 3.3.1 AM gave a verbal update to the Group on progress to date. The Group was informed that the Assembly had a successful experience in the preparation of a "High Density Toolkit" and would regard that as a model to draw upon in the preparation of the Mobility Management Toolkit.
- 3.3.2 The Toolkit, which is meant to provide support to decision makers and practitioners, will include good practice examples and case studies. A draft of this work will be presented to the Group at its next meeting.

**Action: Secretariat to circulate the draft structure of the Toolkit to members of this Group.**

## 4. Evidence Document: Charging

- 4.1 AB reported that previous comments from the Group had informed the brief for the consultants to undertake some work on charging using the Assembly's Strategic Transport Model.
- 4.2 The Chair introduced Andrew Ash (from TRL Consultants) who gave a presentation on the ongoing work. It was clarified that there is still scope to review the assumptions and influence the work; therefore the Group was invited to contribute to the discussion.

The debate focused on the following points:

- The need to review the set of assumptions used for the base-case scenario – in particular there was a concern that the assumptions regarding a potential increase in capacity on public transport may be over optimistic;
  - The need to carry out more detailed analysis of first set of findings – in particular there was a need to pull out more clearly the over arching messages from the work and to relate this to an understanding of the policy issues in individual parts of the region;
  - The need to give further consideration to the potential adverse impact of having different charging systems operating in the same region;
  - Whilst the transport implications of introducing charging seemed broadly consistent with expectations it was less clear as to whether the potential economic implications were as clearly understood – the comment was made that introducing charging may have an impact on business, equally there is an impact at the moment arising from the level of congestion on the transport system;
  - There is a need to understand more clearly the implications of charging at a sub-regional level.
- 4.3 The Assembly undertook to discuss the issues raised by the Group at greater length with TRL in the preparation of the final report.

**Action: Secretariat to circulate a copy of the presentation to the Group.**

## **5. Regional Transport Priorities**

- 5.1 A copy of the paper on Transport Priorities prepared for the Regional Transport Board was circulated prior to the meeting. It contained details of the sensitivity tests applied to the methodology.
- 5.2 The Group was informed that the Regional Transport Board agreed a list of Priorities to 2010-11. An 8-page document on Transport Priorities will be prepared, which will feed into the Region's advice to ministers along with economic development and housing priorities.
- 5.3 It was noted that the paper would also look at two additional scenarios; the first will be considering the impact of a 10% increase in the Regional Funding Allocation while the second will consider the impact of a reduction of the same amount.

- 5.4 It was clarified that the Board did not take any decisions regarding the period beyond 2010/11, as it wants to consider the advice from the Sub-Regions, which will be submitted in December.
- 5.5 The Regional Transport Board will meet again in mid January to finalise the Region's advice to government, which will be submitted on 31 January.
- 5.6 Some members of the Group felt the Sensitivity Analysis was biased by the structure of the methodology; therefore the results of the tests should not necessarily be read as further evidence of the methodology's robustness. However it was accepted that the methodology was broadly fit for purpose whilst recognising that there was a need for continued refinement in light of further experience. It was recognised that now the RTB had determined the priorities to 2010/11, we had to move forward and improve the methodology for the future. It was acknowledged that the area in which some further refinement may be required lay in the policy compatibility dimension.

## **6 Transport Monitoring**

- 6.1 A paper for information was circulated to the Group prior to the meeting. AM gave a verbal update, and confirmed that this year's monitoring framework will be an extension of the work started in 2004. In particular, it was noted that the structure of the transport chapter of the Annual Monitoring Report would remain largely unchanged for the 2005 Report.
- 6.2 The Group was informed that in addition to the Monitoring Report, a set of indicators to monitor the South East Plan is being finalised with the help of the Monitoring Advisory Group. A Task and Finish sub-group of MAG has been assigned the task of recommending the transport indicators for inclusion in the final Plan that is submitted to Government. The Group will report back to both TAG and MAG.

## **7. Items for Information:**

- a. Crossrail Bill Petitioning;**
- b. Car Parking Standards Review – final report**
- c. Minutes of the Regional Transport Board and Regional Transport Co-ordination Group**

- 7.1 Papers containing details of the above items were circulated to the Group prior to the meeting. These Items were for Information only.
- 7.2 AB gave a verbal update to the Group and confirmed that
- The Petition against the Crossrail Bill has now been deposited and the Group will be informed of any progress;
  - The Car Parking Standards Review compiled by MVA Consultants will be published on the Assembly's website in early November.

**8. Future Work Programme.**

- 8.1 A paper containing a detailed work programme was circulated to the Group prior to this meeting.
- 8.2 It was noted that dates referring to November 2005 in the work programme should be reviewed and amended accordingly.

**9. Date of next meeting**

7 Feb 2006 14:00,  
Berkeley House, Cross Lanes, Guildford

**24 October 2005**

Contact: Giuseppe Tripodi, Assistant Regional Planner  
T: 01483-555238  
F: 01483-555250  
E: [giuseppetripodi@southeast-ra.gov.uk](mailto:giuseppetripodi@southeast-ra.gov.uk)  
W: [www.southeast-ra.gov.uk](http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk)