

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

Action Note

20 February 2008

Winston Churchill Room, SEEDA, Guildford

Present:

Peter Mann (Chair)	Oxfordshire County Council
Andy Mak	South East England Regional Assembly
James Renwick	South East England Regional Assembly
Iain Reeve	Surrey County Council
David Cooper	GOSE
Mike Ford	Highways Agency
Nicky Linihan-Mardon	Basingstoke & Deane Council
Mick Sutch	Kent County Council
Peter England	SEFS

1. Apologies

Martin Tugwell	South East England Regional Assembly
Fiona Thorp	South East England Regional Assembly
Detlef Golletz	SEEDA
Howard Holt	Dover Harbour Board

2. Matters Arising

2.1 None

3. Work Programme

3.1 Peter Mann opened the meeting and noted that the 2007 meetings had taken the form of workshops. However, there was a need for summary notes of meetings to be made to enable discussions to be picked up at later stages where necessary and it was agreed that actions notes would be circulated for future meetings.

3.2 Andy Mak circulated a draft work programme, highlighting future tasks for the Group:

- Providing guidance on elements related to the First Review of the South East Plan.
- Supporting the Assembly's responses to the 'Towards a Sustainable Transport System' consultation.
- Supporting the Assembly's input to National Planning Statements.

- Assisting with the preparation and interpretation of the transport section of the Annual Regional Monitoring Report.
- Advising the implementation of the mobility management packages, and the inter-urban bus and coach network, this to be shared with the Regional Transport Co-ordination Group (RTCG).
- Supporting the development of a fully fledged Regional Freight Strategy.
- Assisting the Assembly with responses to consultations on national policy, such as on ports and Airports.

2.3 The group agreed the programme, but expressed a need to give earlier and greater consideration as to how the Group could engage in the preparation of National Planning Statements, particularly as the Planning Bill 2008 does not present any formal consultation mechanism.

2.4 In terms of monitoring, the group also expressed a need for some consideration of how targets and indicators chosen as part of Local Area Agreements across the South East can be consistent on a regional / sub-regional basis. This would be picked up in due course.

ACTION: Assembly officers to consider how best to take forward the views of the group as representations to the potential drafting of National Planning Statements. The issue of LAA monitoring will be taken forward via the Regional Transport Co-ordination Group.

4. Towards a Sustainable Transport System and the New Approach to Transport Appraisal Refresh

4.1 David Cooper overviewed the timelines and principles for the Department's proposed changes to policy development and investment in transport. In particular the group were informed of a series of workshops that the Government Office will undertake prior to the Department's release of a Green Paper;

- 19 February – Thames Gateway
- 12 March – workshop with the Regional Transport Board
- 14 March (Provisional) - 'Rest of Region'
- 19 March (Provisional) - Area West of London
- MKSM – Pending
- PUSH – Pending

4.2 Andy Mak then presented a paper summarising the high-level issues that the Assembly Secretariat had identified with the NATA refresh document. The Group agreed with the points made, but added the following as further issues for consideration;

- The extent to which public acceptability to a proposal is considered in appraisal;
- Regional 'values' of time;
- Reassessment of oil prices used in appraisal;

- The extent to which 'wider' measures are taken account of in appraisal; both transport (i.e. smarter choices delivery, success of travel plans) and spatial planning (i.e. policy aspirations of Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) etc).
- The extent to which the appraisal process may duplicate the Sustainability Appraisal process undertaken as part of LDF – in particular where transport appraisal revisits spatial concepts already passed 'sound' by a planning inspector.
- How to best deal with the rural dimension of transport planning.
- That transport policy / appraisal can over-rely on 'modal shift' as the solution to decreasing the impact of travel, rather than addressing the need to travel in the first instance.
- Consistency in appraisal techniques. To ensure that schemes do not have to undertake fresh appraisal due to a change in appraisal technique.

4.3 In addition, the group welcomed the Department's 'mode neutral' approach to appraisal but warned that unless carefully interpreted, could conflict with the South East Plan objectives, which seek to 'rebalance' the transport system in favour of non-car modes.

ACTION: Assembly officers will incorporate as appropriate the issues raised

5. Bus and Coach Network

5.1 Richard Walker gave an update on the initial findings of the bus and coach network programme of work. The group expressed their support for the work, but offered the following observations;

- Concentrating on the delivery of 'viable routes', rather than a 'network, is more likely to demonstrate benefits.
- Whether the routes affected existing travel choice and accessibility, or could they create new 'travel to work' patterns?
- To what extent has the type of user been identified and assessed? –and how will this effect the proposed benefits of the service? (i.e. the extent to which the benefits would be modal shift from the car; or the extent to which the service would allow journeys to be made by lower economic groups)
- There is potential benefits from using pilot routes were there is already some funding available to undertake any necessary infrastructure improvements.

ACTION: The Assembly will consider the points made by the Group and report back at a later meeting in 2008. A further week was offered to Group members to feed in any further views. These views to be taken into account in taking forward the work to RTCG and the Regional Transport Board.

6. Towards a Regional Freight Strategy

6.1 Due to the in-depth discussion on other items, this paper was not discussed

ACTION: The item will be updated and brought forward again at the next meeting. The Assembly would welcome the comments of the group via e-mail in the interim.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 None

8. Date of next meeting

8.1 Pat Ayling will circulate the dates for the rest of the 2008 meetings via e-mail.

**South East England Regional Assembly
March 2008**

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