

Strategic Transport Forum

Friday 14th October 2016

At

Transport Systems Catapult, Milton Keynes

Present:	Cllr Heather Smith	Northamptonshire County Council (Chairman)
	Cllr Rodney Rose	Oxfordshire County Council
	Cllr Paul Irwin	Buckinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Nigel Young	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Cllr Paul Castleman	Luton Borough Council
	Mayor Dave Hodgson	Bedford Borough Council
	Graham Hughes	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Ahmed Iftikhar	Peterborough City Council
	Tom Blackburn-Maze	Milton Keynes Council
	Jim Sims	Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP
	Hilary Chipping	South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership
	Rupert Furness	Department for Transport
	Graham Botham	Network Rail
	Simon Amor	Highways England
	Adam Tuke	Civil Engineering Contractors Association
	Gary Nolan	Stagecoach UK
	Paul Walker	Oxford Bus Company
	David Quarmby	Rees Jeffreys Road Fund (for item 3)
	Tony Ciaburro	Executive Director, Northamptonshire County Council
	Martin Tugwell	Programme Director, Strategic Alliance

Minutes

		ACTION
1	<p>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</p> <p>Heather Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting. APOLOGIES: received in advance were noted:</p> <p>Cllr Mark Shaw Buckinghamshire County Council (Cllr Paul Irwin substituting)</p> <p>Cllr Liz Gifford Milton Keynes Council (Tom Blackburn-Maze substituting)</p> <p>Cllr James Jamieson Central Bedfordshire Council (Cllr Nigel Young substituting)</p> <p>Cllr Ian Bates Cambridgeshire County Council (Graham Hughes substituting)</p> <p>Cllr Steve Bowles Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (Jim Sims substituting)</p> <p>Ann Limb South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (Hilary Chipping substituting)</p> <p>Nick Jones Transport Systems Catapult</p> <p>Phil Southall Oxford Bus Company (Paul Walker substituting)</p> <p>Maq Alibhai Arriva – the Shires</p>	

2	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.</p>	
3.	<p>A MAJOR ROAD NETWORK FOR ENGLAND</p> <p>Heather Smith introduced David Quarmbly who had led the study on behalf of the Rees Jeffreys Road Fund. David explained that the study's final report had been published earlier that week: he welcomed the opportunity to present the study's findings to the Forum noting that the Strategic Alliance had been involved in the study through the Programme Director being a member of the study's Advisory Panel.</p> <p>David set out the rationale underpinning the study's recommendation that as to the benefit of identifying a 'Major Road Network' – which was approximately 80% bigger than Highways England's Strategic Road Network. He emphasised that the study team saw their report as setting out a toolkit (as opposed to a blueprint) that the relevant authorities could then take forward. He noted that all three of the emerging Sub-national Transport Bodies (including the Strategic Alliance) had been supportive of the study.</p> <p>David noted that the Government had set out its intent to establish a 'National Road Fund' by ring-fencing the funds raised through Vehicle Excise Duty (to be established in 2020): this might offer a mechanism by which investment in a Major Road Network might be managed.</p> <p>Points raised in the ensuing discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodney Rose queried whether the National Road Fund would represent 'new money' as opposed to recycling of current funding: he noted that the challenge facing the Heartland's major road network was significant given the likely growth across the region • Simon Amor noted the opportunity afforded by identifying a Major Road Network of increasing the level of collaboration between Highways England and local transport authorities • Heather Smith expressed her support for the concept of identifying a Major Road Network • Rupert Furness confirmed that the study team had worked closely with DfT and that the Department was now considering the report's recommendations. He commented that the proposal regarding use of the National Road Fund was an interesting one not something that the Government had considered to date. <p>There was consensus amongst Forum members that the study report served to emphasise the importance of considering the interaction between Highways England's network and that of the local transport authorities.</p> <p>The meeting AGREED to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Welcome the publication of 'A Major Road Network for England' b) Include the identification of a Major Road Network for England's Economic Heartland as an integral element of its future Transport Strategy 	<p>Noted Martin Tugwell</p>

	<p>c) Call on Government to include roads identified as part of the Major Road Network as being eligible for investment using ring-fenced funds from the Vehicle Excise Duty</p>	<p>Martin Tugwell</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>PLANNING FOR GROWTH – A POSITION STATEMENT</p> <p>Tony Ciaburro set the context within which the position statement had been produced, noting that taking the agenda forward would require resourcing.</p> <p>Hilary Chipping introduced the document to the meeting: in doing so she noted that it provided a starting point on which the Forum could develop the longer-term framework for the Heartland area.</p> <p>Points raised in the ensuing discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phil Southall welcomed the position statement. In doing so he noted the importance of considering both capital and revenue funding issues. He also flagged the importance of the 'last mile/first mile' for individual journeys. Whilst supporting the importance of East West Rail as a piece of enabling strategic infrastructure he • Paul Castleman welcomed the position statement; in doing so he identified the importance of improving strategic connectivity to/from Luton Airport: he also noted that the importance of taking into account the location of future developments • Nigel Young also welcomed the position statement: in doing so he suggested that subsequent work on the longer-term transport framework should consider the needs of the logistics sector • Jim Sims congratulated Hilary and the sub-group who had produced the document: he thought it represented a strong foundation on which to build. He emphasised the importance of ensuring strong linkages with the (emerging) Local Plans. • Martin Tugwell noted the opportunity to use the position statement as a foundation on which to develop the working relationship with Highways England as it develops its input into the next Road Investment Strategy. <p>The meeting noted that the Position Statement represented a moment in time and that there was a need to move forward with work to develop a longer-term framework.</p> <p>The meeting AGREED to:</p> <p>a) The document 'Planning for Growth' as its position statement on strategic transport issues</p> <p>b) Develop a programme of work that will enable the development of a detailed Transport Strategy to be prepared in consultation with stakeholders across the Heartland area.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Martin Tugwell</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet</p> <p>Martin Tugwell introduced the paper. Simon Amor provided additional context: he confirmed that whilst there had been an allocation within the first Road Investment Strategy to deliver an improvement to this section of the</p>	

	<p>A428 there remained a challenge to deliver the level of improvement that would be consistent with a future 'Expressway' designation.</p> <p>There was a clear consensus amongst Forum members in ensuring that where investment in the strategic transport network is planned this should be delivered to the appropriate standard.</p> <p>The meeting AGREED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support the need for investment to address the issues associated with the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet b) Support the need for investment made to be to a standard consistent within the longer-term ambition to realise an Expressway standard route between Oxford and Cambridge 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>WEST MIDLANDS AND CHILTERN ROUTE STUDY – CONSULTATION RESPONSE</p> <p>Martin Tugwell introduced the paper.</p> <p>The meeting welcomed the opportunity to consider the issues raised by the Route Study noting the implications for the rail network serving the Heartland area. It also noted the linkage with the work underway to deliver East West Rail – in particular the Western Section.</p> <p>The meeting AGREED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support the assessment which demonstrates the need to plan for growth on the rail network across the study area b) Support the proposal to improve connectivity from the Chiltern Route to Old Oak Common, in particular seeking to improve the connectivity along the Northampton – Milton Keynes – Bletchley – Aylesbury – Wycombe - Old Oak Common axis, to complement east-west connectivity c) Support the proposal to provide longer trains into London Marylebone on the Chiltern route d) Support the proposal to maximise the opportunities to interchange on to HS2 services at Old Oak Common e) Emphasise the importance of Network Rail working with England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance in the development of the Route Study and its subsequent implementation f) Stress the need for the development of the franchise specification for East-West rail services to be undertaken in collaboration with England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance g) Emphasise the need to use the arrival of HS2 to review the allocation of residual train paths on the West Coast Main Line as the opportunity to improve north-south connectivity to complement improved east-west connectivity 	<p>Noted</p> <p>All</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p>

7.	<p>NEW MODEL FOR DELIVERY</p> <p>Tony Ciaburro introduced the update on discussions with the 'delivery partners'.</p> <p>The meeting NOTED the progress made in the discussions with the 'delivery partners'.</p>	Noted
8.	<p>PROGRAMME DIRECTOR'S UPDATE</p> <p>Martin Tugwell provided a summary of the implications of changes following changes within Government in the summer.</p> <p>The meeting NOTED the contents of the report.</p>	Noted
9.	<p>WORK PROGRAMME</p> <p>Martin Tugwell introduced the paper which provided an overview of the potential work activities for the Forum moving forward. The meeting welcomed the list and supported this being used as the basis for developing a work programme.</p> <p>The meeting NOTED the contents of the report.</p>	Noted
9.	<p>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 20th January • Friday 24th March • Friday 9th June (to be confirmed) • Friday 15th September • Friday 15th December 	

Also in attendance:

Mark Kemp
Joan Hancox
Glenn Barcham
Keith Dove
Jim Tombe
Lee Sambrook
Aidan Shutter

Buckinghamshire County Council
Buckinghamshire County Council
Bedford Borough Council
Luton Borough Council
Central Bedfordshire Council
Department for Transport
England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance