

**TfSE Transport Forum
18 March 2021
Minutes
2-3pm**

Item
<p>1. Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Geoff French (chair) welcomed the Transport Forum and apologies were noted. This meeting was held virtually and Geoff explained how it would be managed.</p>
<p>2. Minutes from Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.</p>
<p>3. Feedback from January Shadow Partnership Board Meeting</p> <p>Geoff gave a brief update on the January Shadow Partnership Board meeting. Geoff outlined that the Director for Future Road Investment Strategies at Highways England gave a presentation on delivering RIS2, whilst Mark Valleley and Steven Bishop (Steer) also presented the Covid-19 recovery scenarios report to the board. They outlined the key findings of the technical modelling and the impact analysis. Discussions will now take place to identify how this work can be taken forward.</p> <p>Updates were given on the area studies programme, the future mobility strategy, carbon emissions assessment work and the freight strategy. Sarah Valentine also gave an update on the MRN and LLM scheme programmes.</p> <p>Geoff confirmed the proposed timeline for the draft strategic investment plan (SIP) was discussed by the Board, with the aim of publishing this in January 2023. The Forum queried why this date had changed from what had previously been outlined and Rachel Ford confirmed it was to allow enough time for a full public consultation to take place.</p> <p>Geoff confirmed the Forum's further comments regarding rural mobility were agreed as recommended. The following board comments were relayed to the Forum;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Board discussed whether rural transport issues will be effectively assessed within the area studies programme or whether an additional study is required. ○ It was agreed that this is an important issue within the region and local transport authorities are best placed to consider local rural transport issues. The area studies will consider the connectivity between strategic corridors and will help local transport authorities with evidence for their own local transport planning role. TfSE is also part of a joint STB rural mobility group. This will ensure any outcomes from rural mobility studies taking part in other areas of the country can be reflected in the South East region where appropriate. ○ Rupert Clubb confirmed that once the area studies have been completed, TfSE will be in a better position to identify whether a separate rural mobility study needs to be undertaken and if agreed, then a request for funding can be presented to the DfT.

4. Feedback and comments on the mobility 2050 webinar

Geoff shared his thoughts on the Mobility 2050 webinar held earlier in the day. The Forum agreed it was interesting to hear about the progress on the future mobility strategy and enjoyed the insights from the panellists. It is important to use events like this to maintain the momentum in this area of transport. Solent Transport offered to give a presentation regarding mobility as a service (MaaS) if the Transport Forum would like to discuss this in more detail at a future meeting.

5. Updates

Lucy Dixon-Thompson updated the forum on the TfSE technical work programme. Lucy confirmed the carbon work has now been completed. The South East Economy and Land Use Model (SEELUM) has been successfully adapted to interface with the DfT's Emissions Factor Toolkit (EFT) and will enable the impact of future interventions on carbon emissions to be calculated as part of the area studies. Lucy outlined that although this is a carbon impact assessment tool, TfSE are also working with other STBs and Leeds University on a carbon calculator tool.

Other Joint STB group work includes data, decarbonisation and rural mobility. TfSE are keen to learn from others and apply that experience to our area, as appropriate. We await with interest, Transport East's emerging transport strategy as this will have a strong rural focus.

Lucy confirmed that work is almost finished on the future mobility strategy, and it will be ready in April 2021. With regards to the freight, logistics and gateways strategy, the contract was awarded in January to a consortium of WSP/ Steer/ Future City Logistics. The Freight Steering Group has met for the first time and the Freight Forum are meeting next week (24 March 2021). Lucy also confirmed the Covid-19 work is also now complete.

Lucy also updated the Forum on the area studies work programme. The award of DfT funding for 2021/22 means work on the remaining 2 studies will begin in the next few months. So far, over the 3 area studies, more than 140 organisations have been involved, bringing together a wide range of groups including transport operators, active travel campaigners, environmental groups, universities, local planning authorities, business groups and many more. TfSE do recognise the huge commitment from stakeholders to the process, not just at meetings but the detailed input outside of meetings, for which the team is grateful.

Lucy also outlined the TfSE submissions to the below recent consultations;

- Department for Transport – Future of Transport: Rural strategy – Call for Evidence
- Transport Select Committee – Zero emission vehicles and road pricing inquiry.
- Crossrail to Ebbsfleet Partnership – Consultation for fast public transport connecting Ebbsfleet, Dartford, Slade Green, Erith and Belvedere with Abbey Wood.
- Kent County Council – Vision zero – The road safety strategy for Kent.
- Constituent authority local transport plan consultation – Hampshire County Council.

Consultation responses in progress;

- Isle of Wight Council – Isle of Wight restoring your railway bid.

6. Forum comments for the Shadow Partnership Board

N/A

7. AOB

It was noted how encouraging it was for both TfSE and South East England Council's (SEEC) to be mentioned in the All Party Parliamentary Group for Devolution's recent report.

Geoff confirmed the next Transport Forum meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 22 June 2021.**