

Report to: **Partnership Board –Transport for the South East**

Date of meeting: **24 January 2022**

By: **Lead Officer, Transport for the South East**

Title of report: **Update on the Major Road Network and Large Local Major priority schemes 2020-2025**

Purpose of report: **To provide an update on the Major Road Network and Large Local Major scheme programmes.**

RECOMMENDATION:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to note that two TfSE priority Major Road Network schemes that were at Strategic Outline Business Case stage have been granted approval to proceed to their next stage of their development and that both have received confirmation of development funding from DfT towards the costs of developing their Outline Business Cases.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report provides an update on the development of the Major Road Network (MRN) and Large Local Major (LLM) scheme programmes.

2. Background

2.1 At a meeting on 14 June 2019, the Partnership Board agreed the list of priority MRN schemes and a group of “emerging priority” LLM schemes that should be submitted to the DfT. Following further work in relation to the LLM schemes, the Partnership Board then agreed the list of priority LLM schemes that should be submitted to the DfT at their meeting on 19 September 2019.

2.2 Since the submission of the MRN and LLM priority schemes in 2019, the DfT have been assessing the business case information for the schemes that have been submitted across the country. Two of the TfSE pre-Strategic Outline Business Case (pre-SOBC) stage LLM schemes and one MRN scheme have subsequently been approved to proceed to Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) development.

2.3 A further two of the TfSE priority MRN schemes, Redbridge Causeway and A284 Lyminster Bypass, have both gained “programme entry” approval at Outline Business Case (OBC) stage, with Ministers confirming their commitment to providing up to £25.192m of investment towards transport schemes within the south east.

3. Major Road Network and Large Local Major Schemes Update

3.1 Good progress continues to be made with the development of schemes in the TfSE area. Significant work has been ongoing between the DfT, TfSE and the scheme promoters in the constituent authorities to progress the MRN and LLM scheme

business cases, and to respond to the queries and clarifications received from DfT. The timescales for this work are led by the individual scheme programmes and the development work being undertaken by the promoting authorities.

3.2 Since the last Partnership Board meeting in October 2021, there have been two further announcements relating to the TfSE priority MRN schemes.

3.3 On 27 October 2021, DfT announced that the A259 Bognor Regis to Littlehampton scheme in West Sussex had been approved to progress to the next stage of development. It was also announced that to help the scheme progress to the next stage, the Department would make a contribution of £849,000 towards the costs of developing an OBC.

3.4 On 7th December 2021, DfT announced that the A28 Birchington, Acol and Westgate-on-Sea Relief Road scheme in Kent had been approved to progress to the next stage of development. It was also announced that to help the scheme progress to the next stage, the Department would make a contribution of £750,000 towards the costs of developing an OBC.

3.5 Both announcements, and particularly the confirmation of the DfT providing £1.599m of development funding towards transport schemes within the South East, are to be welcomed and provide demonstrable benefits of the power of TfSE speaking to Government with one voice not only on the transport priorities for the TfSE area, but also regarding the challenges faced by our constituent authorities in bringing schemes forward.

3.6 The promoting authorities for the other MRN and LLM priority schemes should be encouraged by these announcements, and it is important that they continue to work closely with DfT officials in developing their business cases and schemes, and ensure that the DfT are kept up to date with scheme programmes and expected timescales for delivery. This will assist DfT officials in managing the wider MRN and LLM programmes and provide them with the evidence that will be needed to bid for the required funding in advance of future spending reviews.

3.7 The current status of each of the TfSE priority schemes is shown in the tables in Appendices 1 and 2.

4. Conclusions

4.1 Members of the Partnership Board are recommended to note that good progress continues to be made with the development of the TfSE priority MRN and LLM schemes. Two of the TfSE priority MRN schemes, A259 Bognor Regis to Littlehampton and A28 Birchington, Acol and Westgate-on-Sea Relief Road, have both gained approval to progress to their next stage of development, with the DfT confirming their commitment to providing £1,599m of funding towards developing their Outline Business Cases.

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Appendix 1

TfSE MRN Scheme Tracker

Scheme Status	Priority	Scheme Name	Authority	Development Stage	Comments
Top Ten Priority Schemes ranked in priority order	1	Northam Rail Bridge Replacement and Enhancement	Southampton CC	SOBC	SOBC submitted on 23/06/21 Ongoing liaison with DfT
	2	A284 Lyminster Bypass	West Sussex CC	Programme Entry	Programme entry confirmed (07/06/2021) up to £11.792m funding awarded WSCC progressing scheme through statutory processes
	3	Redbridge Causeway	Hampshire CC	Programme Entry	Programme entry confirmed (01/02/2021) up to £13.4m funding awarded HCC developing FBC through new "fast track" process
	4	A249 at M2 Junction 5	Kent CC	SOBC	Main scheme to be constructed by National Highways KCC updating the SOBC for their part of the scheme
	5	A22 Corridor Package	East Sussex CC	OBC	Business case information being assessed by DfT Ongoing liaison with DfT
	6	A320 North Corridor	Surrey CC	SOBC	Business case information assessed by DfT and rated amber/red Ongoing liaison with DfT
	7	A259 (King's Road) Seafront Highway Structures ('Arches') Renewal Programme	Brighton and Hove CC	OBC	Business case information being assessed Ongoing liaison with DfT
	8	A28 Birchington, Acol and Westgate-on-Sea Relief Road	Kent CC	OBC	Approved (7/12/21) to proceed to OBC development £750,000 development funding awarded
	9	A259 Bognor Regis to Littlehampton Enhancement	West Sussex CC	OBC	Approved (01/11/21) to proceed to OBC development £849,000 development funding awarded
	10	A259 South Coast Road Corridor	East Sussex CC	Pre-SOBC	Business case information assessed by DfT and rated amber Ongoing liaison with DfT
Pipeline schemes (listed by local authority)		A259 (King's Road) Seafront Highway Structures ('Arches') Renewal Programme (continued)	Brighton and Hove CC	Pre-SOBC	For consideration in MRN2
		A2270/A2101 Corridor Movement and Access Package including Cophall Roundabout	East Sussex CC	Pre-SOBC	
		A22 Corridor Phase 2	East Sussex CC	Pre-SOBC	
		A299 Thanet Way Major Structural Renewal	Kent CC	Pre-SOBC	
		A228 Colts Hill Strategic Link	Kent CC	Pre-SOBC	
		A24/A243 Knoll Roundabout and M25 J9A	Surrey CC	Pre-SOBC	
		A259 Chichester to Bognor Regis Enhancement	West Sussex CC	Pre-SOBC	
		A24 Corridor Horsham to Worthing	West Sussex CC	Pre-SOBC	

Appendix 2

TfSE LLM Scheme Tracker

Scheme Status	Priority	Scheme	Authority	Scheme Development Stage	Comments
Priority Scheme considered more appropriate to be delivered through RIS2		M2/A2 Brenley Corner Upgrade	Kent CC	pre-SOBC	Announced in RIS2 on 11/3/20 as a pipeline scheme for RIS3. Development work to be undertaken 2020-25 for potential delivery beyond 2025
TfSE LLM Priority schemes ranked in priority order	1	West Quay Road Realignment	Southampton CC	SOBC	Approved (3/10/19) to proceed to SOBC development
	2	New Thames Crossing East of Reading	TVLEP (Wokingham BC)	SOBC	SOBC business case information assessed by DfT and rated amber Ongoing liaison with DfT
	3	A326 Capacity Enhancement	Hampshire CC	SOBC	Approved (11/03/20) to proceed to SOBC development
	4	City Centre Road	Portsmouth CC	pre-SOBC	Business case information assessed by DfT and rated amber/red Ongoing liaison with DfT
	5	A229 Blue Bell Hill Junction Upgrades	Kent CC	pre-SOBC	Business case information assessed by DfT and rated amber/green Ongoing liaison with DfT
	6	A31 Farnham Corridor (Formerly known as A31 Hickleys Corner Underpass, Farnham)	Surrey CC	SOBC	SOBC submitted to DfT (18/11/21)
Pipeline Schemes		A325 Wrecclesham Relief Road	Surrey CC	pre-SOBC	For consideration in LLM2
		A24 Corridor Improvements Horsham to Capel	Surrey CC/ W Sussex CC	pre-SOBC	
		A22 N Corridor (Tandridge)	Surrey CC	pre-SOBC	