

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: **Communications and Stakeholder Engagement update**

Purpose of report: **To update the board on communications and stakeholder engagement activity**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to:

- (1) Note the engagement and communication activity that has been undertaken since October 2021; and**
 - (2) Note and agree the communications and engagement plan for the SIP development process, attached as Appendix 1.**
-

1. Introduction

1.1 Communications and engagement activity has continued to be virtual with a continued focus on preparing partners and stakeholders to participate in the development of the strategic investment plan (SIP) and the forthcoming consultation process. We have continued to build relationships with current and new stakeholders.

1.2 Interest in Transport for the South East remains strong, with over 2,800 individuals from 950 organisations registered on our database and receiving regular communication from us.

1.3 This paper provides an update on recent activity, as well as updating Partnership Board members on the communications and engagement that is planned for the next few months.

2. Recent communications and engagement activity

Supporting the development of the strategic investment plan

2.1 Since the last Partnership Board meeting in October 2021, numerous stakeholder meetings have taken place to share and discuss the emerging outputs from the area studies and the freight, logistics and international gateways strategy and considerable steps have been taken to prepare for consultation on the draft SIP in Summer 2022.

2.2 Two rounds of engagement sessions have now been held with all board members and their senior officers, these sessions have been chaired by Cllr Glazier, TfSE Board Chair and supported by the technical team and a representative from Steer. Emerging outputs have been shared and feedback sought on the packages of interventions that will feed into the SIP with a further collective discussion hosted in January allowing board members to provide feedback.

2.3 A joint stakeholder forum has been scheduled for 3 March to address the combined outcomes of the whole area study work programme, this replaces the originally proposed 'third and final stakeholder' forums for each area study. We are very grateful for the continued commitment of our key partners and stakeholders.

2.4 A draft of the freight, logistics and international gateways strategy (with the board for consideration today) was shared with stakeholders from a diverse range of organisations at the end of November and comments were received. We hope to continue to facilitate a freight group or forum for the region post strategy publication.

2.5 We have issued a request for quotation for an engagement specialist to support the development and implementation of the SIP consultation and will soon be appointing a provider.

2.6 We have further developed our stakeholder engagement and communication plan for the SIP work programme and a summary of this is included as Appendix 1.

3. Broadening our engagement

3.1 We continue to facilitate discussions amongst a wide group of stakeholders who would not otherwise engage with one another. Our ability to bring people together from a variety of sectors and enable them to speak with one voice on a topic or agenda is positively received.

3.2 The universities' stakeholder group met in November 2021 and discussion was focussed around the transport decarbonisation plan and what local authorities are doing to address the variety of decarbonisation commitments. The next meeting will focus on the impact of Covid-19 on university staff and students travel behaviour. As always, board members are welcomed and encouraged to attend this interesting forum if they would like to; the next meeting is on 2 March 2022.

3.3 The private sector stakeholder group met in November 2021. Our private sector partners continue to be actively engaged with and supportive of the work of TfSE. This is especially important as we move towards the publication of the SIP.

3.4 The communications & stakeholder engagement group met in October 2021 to update partners on the status of our technical programme and plans as we move towards development of the SIP. A briefing note was shared with those who were unable to attend. The group were extremely supportive of sharing information about the

work of TfSE and we are beginning to collate details of internal and external newsletter so that we can supply key updates for sharing with staff, members and residents. The next meeting is 31 January 2022.

3.5 As we move forward with the development of the SIP and work towards the public consultation we are keen to involve board members more in our communications activity. We will be considering how best to do this and welcome input from the board and their communications representatives.

3.6 The regional transport decarbonisation forum has met three times, with the fourth meeting scheduled for March 2022. There is a lot of interest in this group and membership continues to grow.

3.7 Our Connections newsletter was issued in October 2021 including updates on the appointment of Steer and KPMG as consultants on the SIP, the A259 corridor between Bognor Regis and Littlehampton in West Sussex being approved to move on to strategic outline business case development and the submission of our spending review for 2021. A further update is scheduled for the end of January 2022.

3.8 A series of virtual briefing sessions will be held with district and borough authorities in February 2022 to update them on the emerging outputs from the area studies and the SIP development process. These will be open to council leaders, chief executives and relevant portfolio holders.

3.9 TfSE officers have presented at several events and seminars including:

- Highways UK event
- RTPi: Decarbonising the transport network in the South East
- Last Mile Conference

4. Political engagement

4.1 An electronic briefing was issued to all MPs in November 2021 and a reception at the House of Commons has now been scheduled for 1 February 2022. This will be followed by virtual regional engagement sessions that will take place in the same month. Board members are invited and encouraged to join these sessions, where MPs will be updated about the SIP development process.

5. Upcoming Events

5.1 **'Delivering economic growth in the context of decarbonisation' (Jan 2022):** This event was postponed from November 2021 and is being organised in partnership with the Transport Planning Society (TPS). The target audience is transport planners from across the TfSE region, but registration is open to attendees nationally.

5.2 **ITT Hub (11-12 May 2022):** Following on from the inaugural conference and exhibition in July 2021, TfSE will be taking part in the second ITT Hub scheduled for

May 2022. The event will be held at Farnborough International Conference Centre and will aim to attract over 5,000 delegates over the two days. The event will offer an opportunity for TfSE to promote the freight strategy and work on the SIP with private sector representatives.

5.3 Joint STB conference & exhibition (26 May 2022): A national joint STB event is being planned at The Vox in Birmingham. This will be a multimodal conference focusing on long-term and strategic issues and attracting high-level speakers and delegates. The event has the support of the DfT and TfSE will work closely with the other STBs via the joint communication and engagement groups to plan the content. Board members will be invited to attend.

6. Conclusion and recommendations

6.1 We will continue to keep our communications and engagement activities under review using virtual or physical meetings as appropriate at the time.

6.2 The Partnership Board are recommended to note and agree the engagement and communication activity that has been undertaken since October 2021.

6.3 The Partnership Board are recommended to note and agree the updated communications and engagement plan for the SIP development process, attached as Appendix 1.

RUPERT CLUBB

Lead Officer

Transport for the South East

Contact Officers: Hollie Farley / Jasmin Barnicoat

Tel. No. 07701 394917 / 07749 436080

Email: hollie.farley@eastsussex.gov.uk / jasmin.barnicoat@eastsussex.gov.uk

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN

Communications and stakeholder engagement plan summary

Our approach to communications and stakeholder engagement activities to support the SIP process is summarised below.

Stage	Stage A Pre-engagement (process & governance)	Stage B Pre-engagement (content)	Stage C Public consultation	Stage D Analysis and review	Stage E Publication of SIP
Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New board engagement (July) • D&B engagement (July) • Chair's first round of engagement sessions with board members (Sep-Oct) • SOG / TSWG (summer) • Brief area study forums and Transport Forum (summer) • Joint LEP engagement (autumn) • Other board members (NR, HE, TfL, protected landscapes) (autumn) • MP electronic briefing (Nov) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair's second round of engagement sessions with board members (Nov-Jan) • Board roundtables (Jan & March) • MP reception (Feb) • MP virtual briefing(s) (Feb) • D&B virtual briefings (Feb) • Potential 1:1 briefings with key stakeholders (TBC) • ISA engagement with environmental groups (TBC) • DfT, LUHC & Treasury • Newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital consultation platform • Integrated launch comms • Launch event • Regional events x4 • Targeted media engagement in major cities/conurbations • Stakeholder newsletter • Social media promotion (paid for?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Next steps' comms to respondents and stakeholders • Media activity re: close of consultation • Targeted engagement activity on consultation feedback • Board workshop pre-sign-off meeting (spring 2023) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated stakeholder and comms launch campaign – media, social media, Westminster, regional events etc
Outputs and outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed governance schedule for constituent authorities • Newsletter update on SIP and areas studies • Secure support from CAs for approach • Board report approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key stakeholders briefed on emerging content • Any 'red flags' flagged and addressed • TfSE future role defined and supported • Board approval of draft SIP for consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible, digital-first consultation completed • Minimal responses received outside consultation platform • Well attended, locally-led roadshow events • Positive media coverage • Positive/constructive engagement with consultation process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders are clear on 'next steps' and how we will act on consultation responses • Stakeholder engagement re: any high profile issues • Constituent authorities approve final SIP via internal governance processes • Board approve final SIP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board approve final SIP