

Emailed to:RIS3consultation@orr.gov.uk

21 January 2022

To whom it may concern,

Transport for the South East (TfSE) response to Office of Rail and Road (ORR) consultation on their role and approach to Road Investment Strategy 3

I am writing to you in my role as Chair of [Transport for the South East](#) (TfSE) in response to your consultation on your role and approach to your assessment of the government's and National Highways' plans for the development of Road Investment Strategy 3.

This response was considered agreed by the TfSE Board at their meeting on 24 January 2022.

TfSE is a sub-national transport body (STB) representing sixteen local transport authorities in the South East of England. These are Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, Hampshire, Kent, Medway, Surrey, West Sussex, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton, and the six Berkshire unitary authorities. These authorities are represented on the Partnership Board, which is TfSE's decision-making body, along with representatives from the region's five Local Enterprise Partnerships, district and borough authorities, protected landscapes, Highways England, Network Rail and Transport for London.

TfSE provides a mechanism for its constituent authorities to speak with one voice about the transport investment needed to support sustainable economic growth across its geography.

In 2020 TfSE published a thirty-year transport strategy for the South East that sets out an ambitious 2050 vision for the area. We are currently undertaking a programme of area studies to identify multimodal packages of interventions that will be needed to deliver the transport strategy. These packages are likely to include a number of highway improvement schemes on the Strategic Road Network that would need to be delivered through future Road Investment Strategies. The outputs from the area studies will be brought together in a draft Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) that we are planning to publish for consultation in June 2022.

We are familiar with the important role that ORR plays in monitoring the costs, efficiency and performance of National Highways in accordance with the 2015



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Highways England Licence. Your attendance at the bi-monthly joint STB meetings has provided a mechanism for keeping all the STBs up to date with the progress of your work.

Overall, your proposed approach to executing the duties of your role, as set out in your December 2021 consultation document is both coherent and comprehensive. We do not have any specific comments on the way in which you propose to 'check and challenge' the cost, efficiency and deliverability of the emerging roads investment plan.

A key aspect of your consideration about whether National Highways have met the requirements of their licence is to determine the extent to which they have exercised their duties in a manner that is 'open and transparent', 'positive and responsive', and 'collaborative'. You set out in paragraph 3.61 of your consultation document how you propose to assess this specifically in relation to the development of the route strategies. Your approach will involve monitoring the extent and quality of the stakeholder engagement process, attending a sample of stakeholder events and look for evidence of how National Highways has taken account of stakeholder's views. It is our view that you should undertake a stakeholder survey to establish their views on the way in which National Highways has engaged with them both on the route strategies and more generally throughout the RIS process. It would also provide you with the opportunity to ask them to identify ways in which this engagement activity could be improved.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on the ongoing development of the third Road Investment Strategy.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Keith Glazier

Chair

Transport for the South East



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