

TfSE Transport Forum

28 February 2023

Minutes

1:30-4:30pm

Item
1. Welcome and Apologies
<p>1.1 Geoff French (GF) (chair) welcomed the Transport Forum. This meeting was held virtually and Geoff explained how it would be managed.</p> <p>1.2 Geoff expressed his condolences as Ernest Amoako, Planning Policy Manager at Woking Borough Council, who attended the forum as an officer support for Cllr Colin Kemp has sadly passed away.</p>
2. Minutes from Previous Meeting
<p>2.1 The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed subject to the amendment of Cllr Sarah Barker's organisation to - Kent Association of Local Councils.</p>
3. Transport Related Social Exclusion
<p>3.1 Sarah Valentine (SV) introduced this item and explained the relevance of this work to TfSE. SV introduced Tom Jarvis (TJ), Senior Evidence and Analysis Officer at Transport for the North (TfN) who presented this item.</p> <p>3.2 TJ explained the work TfN have undertaken to set out the causes, consequences, and extent of transport-related social exclusion (TRSE) in the North of England and the subsequent creation of a data tool that measures the risk of TRSE across England. This tool combines accessibility analysis with a range of socioeconomic and demographic indicators to provide a systematic comparison of the risk of TRSE. (Applying layers to mapping software to show the level of vulnerability of an area and also their access to transport). It then becomes clear where the high levels of risk are (and where potential improvements could be made) and if there are any patterns.</p> <p>3.3 One very clear pattern that has emerged is the high TRSE risk in many coastal communities. The tool has highlighted how there are common challenges across England, the risk to coastal communities being one of them.</p> <p>3.4 In response to a question regarding how accessibility is defined in this tool, TJ explained there are approximately 50 indicators, for example key locations accessible to those residents (schools, GP surgeries etc) and journey times. The full detail can be found in TfN's report on their website (Transport-related social exclusion in the North of England - Transport for the North).</p>

3.5 TJ confirmed the tool will be used when TfN produce their next iteration of their Transport Strategy as evidence to support the major social considerations and what solutions would be suitable for certain areas.

3.6 In response to a question regarding the agglomeration of economic policy for TfN, TJ confirmed he was not best placed to respond, but if contacted separately, he can pass the question to a colleague who will be able to answer in more detail.

3.7 The Forum found the work undertaken and the tool that has been developed really interesting and understood how this could be utilised by TfSE in the course of future work.

Slides will be circulated with the minutes.

4. Improving the Underlying Data for Active Travel Route Planning

4.1 Dr Simon Blainey (SB), Associate Professor at Southampton University's Transportation Research Group presented to the Forum on the work he is involved in to improve the underlying data for active travel route planning.

4.2 SB explained the intention of this work is to fill the gap between the ambition for walking and cycling to be a first choice of travel mode for shorter journeys and be better integrated with public transport for longer journeys and that no comprehensive map data is available to give people the best route for their active travel journeys.

4.3 SB outlined the variety of different data sets used to expand the possible route options to not only identify quicker active travel routes but also routes that are suitable for those users.

4.4 The team also looked at accessibility of routes, so identifying pavement widths in the data to ensure appropriate routes were mapped out for a user needing at least an average width of paving (wheelchair users for example).

4.5 The intention is for this piece of work to continue (dependent upon securing further funding) with the development of an automated methodology, provision of a working demonstrator and then development of methods for enhancing this with other parameters e.g. pavement surface types, street lighting etc.

4.6 In response to questions regarding the data availability and maintenance, SB confirmed there is no intention at this stage for them to maintain a database as many of the data sets fall under Ordnance Survey who do regularly keep their data sets up to date as do the other providers they have used. All make it clear when the data was last updated too. Most of the data sets used are available nationwide and the idea is that once this system is automated, the ONS can incorporate it into their datasets.

4.7 SB confirmed that timescales for developing a national dataset rests with Ordnance Survey and is also subject to further funding.

4.8 Forum members were interested to learn about this piece of work as this could be a brilliant tool in the future to help people make conscious active travel choices.

Slides will be circulated with the minutes.

5. Monitoring & Evaluation Framework & 'State of Region' Base Report

5.1 SV outlined the reasons why TfSE need to have a monitoring and evaluation framework and what was set out with regards to monitoring and evaluation in the transport strategy and strategic investment plan.

5.2 SV outlined the considerations that need to be taken into account for any monitoring and evaluation framework TfSE create.

5.3 SV explained why a state of the region report will be a helpful tool to track the region's progress towards the aspirations and objectives of the transport strategy. SV also outlined that further consideration will be given on how to monitor the SIP delivery as it would need to take a different format.

5.4 The Forum advised SV to be careful with targets and how they are phrased as they can mean actions taking place for the sake of the target rather than what is actually required or have unintended consequences. For example, instead of km of cycleways installed, a target could be the number of people using the cycleway.

5.5 The Forum expressed their willingness to assist in the creation of the monitoring and evaluation framework and SV confirmed she will provide further information on how the Forum can be involved in the work at the next meeting in June.

5.6 In response to a question regarding how other STBs report on their progress and whether there is a requirement for standard reporting to the DfT, SV confirmed that although there is no standard, TfSE have been speaking with colleagues at TfN to understand what they report on and how they do it. In addition, the development of the common analytical framework across the STBs presents opportunities for standards and consistency, however, it is important to note that each STB's transport strategy is different so this needs to be taken into consideration.

5.7 SV confirmed that although consultants are helping TfSE to set up this first iteration of the monitoring and evaluation framework and the state of the region report, the intention is to bring this work 'in house' as we are boosting our capability and skills in this work area.

Slides will be circulated with the minutes.

6. Technical Programme Update

6.1 Mark Valleley (MV) gave a brief update on all strands of the current technical work programme.

6.2 TfSE is leading a joint project with Transport East and England's Economic Heartland, to identify and deliver the support needed to assist local transport authorities (LTAs) with the delivery of their Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs). Delivery of the support packages is due to be completed by the end of April 2023.

6.3 TfSE, Transport East (TE) and England's Economic Heartland (EEH) are also working collaboratively to develop a decarbonisation assessment tool. Local transport authorities will be able to use this to assess the carbon reduction potential of the proposals to be included in their local transport plans.

6.4 With regards to the electric vehicle charging workstream, the final draft of the electric vehicle charging infrastructure strategy will be presented to the Partnership Board for review and approval at the meeting on the 13 March 2023.

6.5 In response to a question from the Forum, MV confirmed the final version of the strategic investment plan will be taken to the Partnership Board meeting on 13 March 2023 and if agreed, will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport for consideration.

6.6 SV confirmed that although the original intention was to also submit the SIP delivery plan alongside the main SIP document, it has become clear more work is required to ensure this is a useful and robust document. Work is underway to develop this plan with numerous delivery partners. It will involve a prioritisation process which needs further consideration as we have a place based approach to schemes, but the Government fund schemes modally. It is important to balance how TfSE can make the case for change but also prioritise in a way schemes can succeed with securing funding.

6.7 Members confirmed they are looking forward to seeing the final version of the SIP when it is published and working with TfSE on the next phase of this work. SV confirmed that she will update the Forum at the next meeting in June as to how they can and will be involved in the process.

7. Future Technical Work Programme

7.1 MV outlined the work to develop a brief for the regional active travel strategy. The brief will outline the need for a robust baseline understanding of active travel across the region, identification of a strategic network of active travel corridors and hubs, and recommendations for delivery. The strategy will add value, identify clear roles and responsibilities, provide a single voice for the south east region, make most efficient use of resources, and complement the work being undertaken by the constituent local transport authorities and the Department of Transport (DfT). A key part of this work will be engagement with local authorities within the region to understand the opportunities and challenges they face when planning and delivering active travel schemes.

7.2 MV confirmed that with regards to future mobility, WSP will be preparing specifications for the following future mobility-related technical work and studies identified as priority work areas in the future mobility strategy:

- Shared knowledge hub;
- Mode propensity tool;
- Future propulsion strategy.

7.3 MV explained the ongoing work in the freight workstream including the specifications to be drawn up for further technical studies that will take forward the implementation of the freight strategy including:

- A property market review to provide greater insight into the impact of current trends on logistics land and property provision and to provide some forecasting of likely future demand in the TfSE area;
- A study on the future role of coastal shipping and inland waterways for freight transport;
- Develop an initiative to address public sector “freight blindness” and ensure a greater level of awareness of the needs of the freight sector amongst public sector bodies; and
- Production of a freight consolidation guide to provide clear, evidence-based guidance on the benefits of consolidation, including lessons learned from previous experience.

7.4 MV confirmed TfSE is looking at the potential for partnering with England’s Economic Heartland and Transport East on elements of this study work.

7.5 MV also explained that work to refresh the Transport Strategy that was published in 2020 will commence in the next financial year. Work will commence to identify what a transport strategy refresh would encompass, the timeline and level of resource required.

7.6 In response to a question regarding whether the electric vehicle and freight strategies have looked at electric charging for road haulage, MV confirmed the electric vehicle infrastructure strategy has a specific element on fleet vehicles. Work is ongoing to engage with fleet providers and also to understand the impact on the public charging network. It also does feature in the freight workstream as suitable locations will be identified for electric or hydrogen fuelling stations and hubs, alongside the work considering driver welfare provisions.

7.7 Forum members also commented that when warehousing provision is being identified, as much as possible should be rail connected. In addition, freight providers are having issues with pavement ‘clutter’ (e.g. electric charge points and micro-mobility items) when making kerbside deliveries. Also freight electric vehicles tend to plan their routes to go back to their depots to charge their vehicles. MV confirmed these are all key considerations and the team are liaising with network operators in the TfSE geography alongside energy companies as there are many variables that have to be taken into consideration.

7.8 In response to a question regarding the possibility of funding to assist local authorities to develop their local cycling and walking improvement plans, MV

confirmed TfSE do not have funding to allocate to local authorities. The work on the regional active travel strategy will be to complement the work already taking place, but at a regional scale.

8 Summary of Forum Comments for the Partnership Board

8.1 The Forum advised SV to be careful with targets and how they are phrased when developing the monitoring and evaluation framework to ensure they are reasonable and achieve the desired outcomes.

8.2 The Forum expressed their willingness to assist in the creation of the monitoring and evaluation framework and they will be provided with further information on how they can be involved in the work at the next meeting in June.

8.3 Forum members confirmed they are looking forward to seeing the final version of the SIP when it is published and working with TfSE on the next phase of this work. The Forum will be updated at the next meeting in June as to how they can and will be involved in the process.

9 AOB

9.1 In response to a comment that the Forum were given lots of information but rarely consulted or involved in the development of TfSE's work, Jasmin Barnicoat (JB) confirmed the Partnership Board's sub committee (Audit and Governance Cttee) is leading a review of the Transport Forum and its workings. With the evolution of TfSE, it is only right to review TfSE's stakeholder meetings and how they are best utilised. JB reassured the Forum that they will be involved in the review process with a workshop on this subject taking place in the next meeting.

9.2 In response to a question, Rupert Clubb (RC) confirmed TfSE have submitted a response to the All Party Parliamentary Group for the South East's recent call for evidence – transport infrastructure inquiry 2023 and he will be giving evidence to their meeting on the 08 March 2023.

10 Next meeting

10.1 Tuesday 06 June 2023 – 13:30-16:30

Attendees		
Name	Organisation	Sector representation
Paul Benham	Highways England	Government & agencies
Stephen Bennett	Transport Planning Society	Transport planning
Simon Blainey	Southampton University	Speaker
Roger Blake	Railfuture	Rail user groups
Roddy Crockett	Sustrans	Active travel
Phil Dominey	South West Rail	Train operating companies
Peter Duggan	DfT	Government & agencies
Kathryn Ellison	Network Rail	Government & agencies
Catherine Folca	Transport Focus	Transport users

Cllr Robert Franklin	TfSE Town and Parish Councils Group	Town and Parish Councils
Geoff French	Chair	N/A
Hannah Godfrey	Gatwick Airport	Airports
Conrad Haigh	Solent Transport	Solent Transport
James Hammond	Hampshire District & Borough Councils - officer	District & Borough Councils
Dave Harris	Medway Council	Chief planners
Alex Hellier	Network Rail	Government & agencies
Richard Higgins	Gatwick Airport	Airports
David Johnson	CPRE	Protected landscapes
Richard Lavender	Chambers of Commerce	Business group representatives
Kelly Sharp	East Sussex District & Borough Councils - officer	District & Borough Councils
Philip Smart	Rail Freight Group	Rail freight operators
Graham Smith	Hampshire District & Borough Councils - officer	District & Borough Councils
Malcolm Smith	South Downs Network	Protected landscapes
Phil Smith	Confederation of Passenger Transport	Bus & coach operators
Tim Sparrow	Southeast Communities Rail Partnerships	Rail user groups
Jerry Ward	John Lewis Partnership	Road freight operators
Sarah Wood	Cycle UK	Cycling user groups
Rupert Clubb		
Emily Bailey		
Jasmin Barnicoat		
Craig Derrick		
Lucy Dixon-Thompson		
Hollie Farley		
Chloe Field-Carter		
Rachel Ford		
Alan Jones		
Katie Lamb		
Elan Morgan		
Kate Over		
Tia Shelley		
Sarah Valentine		
Mark Valleley		
Benn White		