

**TfSE Transport Forum**

**04 Sept 2023**

**(draft) Minutes**

**2:00-3:00pm**

| Item   |
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| <b>1. Welcome and Apologies</b>  |
| 1.1 Geoff French (GF) (chair) welcomed the Transport Forum. This meeting was held virtually and Geoff explained how it would be managed.   |
| <b>2. Minutes from Previous Meeting</b>  |
| 2.1 The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.   |
| <b>3. Regional Active Travel Strategy</b>  |
| 3.1 Mark Valleley (MV) introduced the item and provided some background to the purpose behind commissioning the Regional Active Travel Strategy. MV introduced Grace Solsby (GS), Project Manager and Tiffany Lynch (TL), Local Strategy Integration & Stakeholder Lead, both from City Science (the consultants undertaking this piece of work).  |
| 3.2 GS explained the purpose of the strategy including the identification of a prioritised strategic active travel network and action plan.  |
| 3.3 GS also outlined how and who they will engage with to develop the strategy. GS confirmed that stakeholder engagement is key and although there is a steering group of local transport authorities, national and strategic partners, there will be wider opportunities to input into this work.   |
| 3.4 The timescales, programme and stages of work were outlined. Next steps include developing the evidence base and returning to the Transport Forum in April 2024.  |
| 3.5 The Forum queried when and how some groups would be engaged with the process:  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Becky Reynolds (BR): Cycling UK, Sustrans and Active Travel England (ATE) (Grant Gahagan). <i>LDT confirmed Sustrans and ATE have been invited to join the steering group. Transport Action Network (TAN) have also been invited onto the Steering Group to represent the cycling groups and other interest groups. Cycling UK will be engaged in subsequent phases of the project, which will be looking more at specific schemes.</i></li> <li>- Cllr Sarah Barker (CllrSB): Parish and Town Councils and county access forums. <i>LDT confirmed they are likely to be engaged in subsequent phases of the project and in the meantime can continue to engage via their local authority representative on the steering group.</i></li> <li>- Roddy Crockett (RC): Parish Councils might know more about rights of way and land ownership etc. <i>GS confirmed looking strategically so might not be necessary at the moment.</i></li> </ul> |

- Jerry Ward (JW): Freight operators via Logistics UK freight council meetings. *LDT thanked him for this suggestion.*
- Alex Baldwin-Smith (ABS) Transport for London. *TL confirmed cross boundary engagement will take place and they will be in touch with ABS at that point in the project.*

3.6 LDT reiterated that this is an engagement rich project and the consultants will ensure voices are heard. However, this is only the first phase of the project and there is a need to work with the core stakeholders to identify strategic gaps. However, as the strategy progresses to the next phases and looks at infrastructure development etc, then wider engagement will take place with other groups.

3.7 Stephen Bennett (SB) offered assistance from the Transport Planning Society (if required) with the demand assessment methodology to be developed due to the challenge it poses to ensure it looks at future demand to capture all the potential.

3.8 Phil Dominey (PD) confirmed that South West Rail have written station travel plans for all stations and are working with local authorities to implement the recommendations. These plans show current travel patterns and thoughts on how to make enhancements. If useful to this study, City Science to contact PD for the information.

*(Presentation to be circulated with Minutes of this meeting.)*

#### **4. State of the Region Report**

4.1 Sarah Valentine (SV) confirmed the report is due to be published imminently and is able to give an update on this work now.

4.2 SV explained that the SIP and Transport Strategy are the frameworks which have inputs and outputs (for example the delivery action plan). The outcomes and impacts of these need to be monitored and success measured. The state of the region report is a useful way to do this.

4.3 SV highlighted some of the key information (data and graphs) contained within the report on economy, society and environment. These will be monitored bi-annually going forward to help understand the impact of TfSE's work in the region.

#### **5. Technical Programme Updates**

5.1 MV gave updates on the technical work programme as follows:

5.2 *Transport Strategy*, in light of significant policy and societal changes, TfSE are undertaking a refresh of the transport strategy.

5.3 *Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy*, moving into implementation of the action plan, further work to be done on possible impact of electrification of vehicle fleets on publicly-available charging networks.

5.4 *Decarbonisation*, development with other STBs of a tool to assist local authorities in the completion of the Quantifiable Carbon Assessment (QCA) that will form part of the new Local Transport Plan (LTP) guidance (publication hoped for in September). Local Transport Authorities will be testing the tool in October.

5.5 *Future mobility*, looking to develop a mode propensity tool to support the development of a future mobility strategy, identifying which types of interventions might be more targeted and have better uptake in the south east. In addition, TfSE are identifying ways we can better assist with the development of pilot projects in the TfSE area.

5.6 *Bus Back Better*, work has now completed and all deliverables will be transferred to the Government's bus centre of excellence.

5.7 *Freight and Logistics Strategy*, TfSE are responding to the Government's call for evidence seeking views on the interaction between freight and logistics and the planning system in England. In addition, the work to reinvigorate the Freight Strategy Forum and further technical work will begin imminently.

5.8 In response to a question from Becky Reynolds (BR) regarding whether board members are aware of the Transport Select Committee's recent report to Government where they advise them to prioritise strategic road maintenance over enhancements, it was confirmed that yes, they are aware of this.

5.9 BR also wished to comment that in the notes alongside some of the active travel schemes in the tables in the Delivery Action Plan (DAP) showing current/next stage of development/delivery and progress planned for next three years, the following wording is used '*Will be delivered in small chunks, phased, as schemes are prioritised and funded. Some schemes are under construction, some are at earlier stages*'. BR would prefer for these schemes to be delivered in a bigger way. BR was also unsure how stakeholders could have influenced the DAP. GF confirmed that the delivery action plan contains the schemes in the SIP, where stakeholders were consulted. Also, the schemes are dependent on funding (mainly from Government) so in many cases, the full scheme is unable to be delivered all at once.

## 6. Summary of Forum Comments for the Partnership Board

6.1 The main comments received from the Forum were aimed at ensuring the Regional Active Travel Strategy is planning to engage with relevant and interested organisations.

## 7. AOB

7.1 GF reminded the Forum of the date of TfSE's annual conference being held at the American Express Stadium in Brighton and invited them to attend.

## 8. Next meeting

8.1 Thursday 19 October 2023 14:00-15:00 (MS Teams)

| <b>Attendees</b>        |   |                               |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>             | <b>Organisation</b>                       | <b>Sector representation</b>  |
| Matthew Arnold          | Stagecoach Bus                            | Bus operators                 |
| Alexander Baldwin-Smith | Transport for London                      | Transport for London          |
| Paul Benham             | Highways England                          | Highways England              |
| Stephen Bennett         | Transport Planning Society                | Transport Planning            |
| Becky Reynolds          | Cycling UK's Cycle Advocacy Network (CAN) | Cycling user groups           |
| James Craig             | Network Rail                              | Network Rail                  |
| Phil Dominey            | South West Railway                        | Train operating companies     |
| Cllr Sarah Barker       | TfSE Town and Parish Councils Group       | Town and Parish Councils      |
| Ed Wills                | Brighton & Hove Buses and Metrobus        | Bus operators                 |
| Roger Blake             | Railfuture                                | Rail user groups              |
| Roddy Crockett          | Sustrans                                  | Active travel                 |
| Geoff French            | Chair                                     | N/A                           |
| Hannah Godfrey          | Gatwick Airport                           | Airports                      |
| James Hammond           | Folkestone & Hythe District Council       | District and Borough Councils |
| Dave Harris             | Medway Council                            | Chief Planners                |
| Megan Roseblade         | Rail Delivery Group                       | Train operating companies     |
| Alex Hellier            | Network Rail                              | Network Rail                  |
| Anneka Hendrick         | CBI                                       | Business groups               |
| Richard Lavender        | Kent Invicta Chambers                     | Business groups               |
| Jerry Ward              | John Lewis Partnership                    | Road freight operators        |
| Cllr Andy Whight        | Worthing Borough Council                  | District and Borough Councils |
| Sue Simmonite           | Port Of Southampton                       | Ports                         |
| Rupert Clubb            | Transport for the South East              |                               |
| Emily Bailey            |   |                               |
| Jasmin Barnicoat        |   |                               |
| Craig Derrick           |   |                               |
| Lucy Dixon-Thompson     |   |                               |
| Duncan Barks            |   |                               |
| Lewis Milligan          |   |                               |
| Elan Morgan             |   |                               |
| Sarah Valentine         |   |                               |
| Mark Valleley           |   |                               |
| <b>Guests</b>           |   |                               |
| Tiffany Lynch           | City Science                              |                               |
| Grace Solsby            |   |                               |