

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

Date of meeting: **13 June 2022**

By: **Chair of the Transport Forum**

Title of report: **Transport Forum Update**

Purpose of report: **To summarise the Transport Forum meeting of 10 May 2022 and inform the Board of the Transport Forum’s recommendations.**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to:

- (1) Note the recent meeting of the Transport Forum; and**
 - (2) Note and consider the comments from the Forum.**
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1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Partnership Board on the most recent meeting of the Transport Forum.

1.2 The meeting took place virtually on Tuesday 10 May 2022 and was attended by more than 35 members of the Forum. The Forum welcomed three new members which demonstrates the continued interest in engaging with the work of TfSE.

2. Feedback from the Transport Forum Meeting on 10 May 2022

Area studies emerging outputs and SIP Development

2.1 The forum was provided with an update on the area studies that are nearing conclusion. This included presenting the suite of documents that feed into the SIP to demonstrate the large amount of technical works that have been undertaken to ensure a robust evidence based programme.

2.2 The forum was presented a short recap on those areas of the SIP that they have already been shown, followed by the benefits and costs, funding and finance and delivery (governance) of the SIP. As part of the recap, the forum’s attention was drawn to the SIP’s key priorities, which highlights the key transport interventions, as well as the desired outcomes.

2.3 RF reminded the Board that the consultation will launch on 20 June 2022 and the draft SIP will be published onto the TfSE website and encouraged members to respond.

SIP Communications and Engagement

2.4 Earlier this year, TfSE commissioned ECF to work alongside Steer and TfSE to deliver a digital first consultation and gather feedback on the draft SIP and ISA from stakeholders in the region.

2.5 TfSE and ECF jointly outlined the programme of engagement that accompanies the SIP, including the proposed consultation approach that commences on 20 June 2022.

2.6 This included outlining the project objectives to the forum, which are to run a 'digital first' public consultation that is open to all, launch and promote the accessible digital engagement and online survey, as well producing a consultation report include an in-depth analysis of all feedback gathered.

2.7 The consultation has been put together to raise awareness of the TfSE aims and generate support for the investment needed in the transport network to improve lives, and as this will effect TfSE's population, we want people to have a say in decisions that affect their lives. It was concluded that this consultation will also be an opportunity to acknowledge the role of technical respondents in helping to shape the SIP.

Active Travel

2.8 Roddy Crockett, partnership manager at Sustran's, provided the forum with a presentation on Active Travel, focussing on the benefits that Active Travel can provide.

2.9 An important part of promoting active travel, should be to focus on the areas in which we live. The approach to designing urban spaces should have social connection at its heart; delivering 20-minute neighbourhoods; focusing on health, clean air, and green space; celebrating a place's history and character; and where everyone can move around healthily in a low carbon way.

2.10 The Forum noted that the creation of Active Travel by the government, will have three functions: to be a funding body, to be an inspectorate and to be a statutory consultee for larger developments. It will monitor and evaluate councils and hold those to account who are not actively providing it. It was noted that TfSE could play a role in the Area Network Plans that are currently being developed.

2.11 The presentation concluded by making the case for active travel, in that it has been accepted and verified that it makes economic, social, environmental, and cultural sense. It needs to be a people first approach and not a modal one, and that there is a need to keep developing a regional walking and cycling network.

Finance Update

2.12 The Forum received a short updated on recent funding announcements including the DfT grant allocation. It was noted that this was positive news, as it allows us to take forward an ambitious technical programme over the next 12 months.

2.13 It was noted to the forum that as of the 9 May 2022 Board meeting, the business plan was agreed and will be published on the TfSE website.

Additional DfT workstreams

2.14 The Forum was provided with an update on the additional priority workstreams as set out by the DfT.

2.15 Last October 2021, the DfT asked us to submit proposals alongside all other STB's, to assist them with their four priority work streams. These consist of decarbonisation; bus back better; electric vehicle charging infrastructure strategy; and local capacity and capability.

2.16 The Forum noted that we were successful on all four submissions and provided the board with information on what the status was of each workstream.

2.17 On bus back better, we were jointly awarded £300,000 with Transport East and England's Economic Heartlands, for which we are currently out for tender.

2.18 We are also working in collaboration on decarbonisation with the same aforementioned two STB's, for which we were awarded £100,000 (£300,000 in total). This work is looking to develop a toolkit that will enable local authorities to understand the carbon reduction impacts on local interventions.

2.19 We submitted a bid for £200,000 on the local capability and capacity strand which we are working on solely, and welcomed an additional £100,000 to contribute towards completion of the works. This means that we have a total of £300,000 to contribute to local authorities capability needs. Stage 1 of the work has been completed in collaboration with Arup, and we will provide our proposed funding mechanism to the DfT on 10 June.

2.20 In addition, we issued a request for quotation to appoint a consultant to aid us in our electric vehicle charging infrastructure strategy. This was published on the 19 May 2022 and a verbal update will be provided to the board on 13 June.

Updates

2.21 The Forum was provided with an update for the forum on several of the technical works that are being undertaken at TfSE.

Freight, Logistics and International Gateways

2.22 It was noted that the freight, logistics and international gateways strategy has been published on the TfSE website. It was further noted that the 11 and 12 May 2022 would be the formal launch of this strategy at the annual ITT Hub event. Subsequently, we will be contacting all relevant stakeholders to invite them to join our freight forum, where there will be over 40 specific actions points.

Decarbonisation

2.23 There is a lot of technical work on carbon budgeting and pathways to decarbonisation. The study identified a number of pathways that might be taken to achieve net zero carbon transport network in the South East. The results of this work will be presented in full at the September Board meeting.

Future mobility action plan

2.24 There will be a self-contained package of further work to begin the implementation of the future mobility strategy, and that the actions within this strategy have been agreed with WSP. WSP will soon set up workshops with local authorities to present the mobility strategy, and to identify its responsibilities and actions. As this work progresses, further workshops will be held with the Transport Forum, to help guide the implementation of the proposed action plan.

3. Future Transport Forum Engagement

3.1 The next meeting of the Transport Forum will be held on Tuesday 6 September 2022. Part of this meeting will be used to discuss the progress of the DfT's additional priority workstreams and an update on the future mobility technical work.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that the Board note another successful virtual meeting of the Transport Forum and the important communication link this provides TfSE with its key stakeholders.

4.2 The Forum members welcomed the opportunity to see in some detail, the development of the SIP and its proposed consultation approach, as well as having the opportunity to see active travel presented by Roddy Crockett from Sustran's.

4.3 It is recommended that the Board note and consider the comments raised by Forum members.

GEOFF FRENCH

**Chair of the Transport Forum
Transport for the South East**

Contact Officer: Emily Bailey

Tel. No. 07840649245

Email: emily.bailey@eastsussex.gov.uk