

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

Date of meeting: **26 September 2022**

By: **Chair of the Transport Forum**

Title of report: **Transport Forum Update**

Purpose of report: **To summarise the Transport Forum meeting of 6 September 2022 and inform the Board of the Transport Forum’s recommendations.**

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***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 6 September 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 6 September 2022**

**The Disabled Passenger**

2.1 The forum was introduced to:

- Gordon McCullough from Research Institute for Disabled Consumer (RiDC)
- Victoria Garcia from Brighton and Hove Buses
- Catherine Folca from Transport Focus
- Graham Oulton, Guide Dog Volunteer

2.2 The Forum were presented with insight into the research that RiDC have conducted concerning accessibility of electric vehicle charging. It was highlighted that there is a real demand from disabled car users for electric vehicles, but that this cannot be fulfilled as a result of inaccessible charging infrastructure. The Forum were also informed that disabled people feel excluded from being able to be a part of the green agenda, not only as a result from their inability to use EVs, but also because of the barriers to public transport, which causes an increase in use of private car amongst disabled people.

2.3 Research was shared from Transport Focus on the challenges that disabled users face when using the roads, motorways and services on the Strategic Roads

Network. Transport Focus will be undertaking further work to explore the accessibility of websites that disabled road users have to use to plan their journeys.

2.4 Brighton and Hove Buses have made huge progress on accessibility and demonstrate best practice to others in the sector. They shared key learning, including the importance of having senior management involved in awareness of accessibility for all businesses, to ensure it shapes policy and budgets, and the importance of recognising the value of the Purple Pound.

2.5 The Forum were also offered a personal perspective of accessible transport, highlighting that a key component of being able to travel is being given the confidence from a provider that they will be able to fulfil their journey. It was agreed that accessibility must be considered and implemented more widely to ensure cross village/town/county travelling is seamless.

2.6 The Forum had the opportunity to ask the panel questions which generated a good discussion. The Forum considered that disabled representation on the Board would ensure that this issue is fully considered.

### SIP Consultation

2.7 The Forum received a presentation on the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the SIP consultation to date. This addressed emerging themes and current position of support.

2.8 The Forum were informed on the next steps of the SIP, and noted that there will be a full presentation to the Board on November 2022, which would subsequently be published on the TfSE website.

### Technical Work Programme Update

2.9 The Forum also received an update report on TfSE's technical work programme, including Freight and Logistics, decarbonisation and future mobility. An update on communications and stakeholder engagement activity was also provided.

## **3. Future Transport Forum Engagement**

3.1 The next meeting of the Transport Forum will be held on Tuesday 20 December 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.

3.2 It was noted that a future Transport Forum meeting should be held in person. The TfSE secretariat will look to arrange this meeting in the late spring of 2023.

## **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 consultation response on the SIP, and the opportunity to discuss accessibility in the transport sector.

4.3 It is recommended that the Board note and discuss the comments regarding disabled transport users and consider where representation can be included in our governance structures.

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

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