

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

Date of meeting: **14 November 2022**

By: **Lead Officer, Transport for the South East**

Title of report: **Communications and Stakeholder Engagement update**

Purpose of report: **To update the board on communications and stakeholder engagement activity**

RECOMMENDATION:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to note the engagement and communication activity that has been undertaken since the last board meeting.

1. Introduction

1.1 This paper provides an update on recent communications and engagement activity including the promotion of the draft strategic investment plan consultation, ongoing stakeholder engagement outside of the consultation and upcoming events.

2. Recent communications and engagement activity

The strategic investment plan

2.1 Following the close of the draft strategic investment plan consultation which ran from 20 June to 12 September we have worked with engagement consultants ECF, the TfSE technical team and Steer to understand and analyse the consultation responses and develop the consultation report. This has involved analysing and summarising key stakeholder responses, preparing responses to change requests, and verifying these in the updated SIP document.

2.2 Presentations to cabinet and committee colleagues continue and will be complete by the end of Dec '22. The aim of these sessions is to inform those Councillors of the SIP process and content, aiming to enable a smoother sign off procedure as the final plan is taken through Councils' democratic processes.

3. Ongoing stakeholder engagement

3.1 Engagement work is ongoing in relation to our additional work streams, with stakeholder meetings held for the bus back better, electric vehicle charging

infrastructure and freight and logistics projects. We are working with the lead consultants for each project to develop and support further engagement opportunities as the projects progress.

3.2 The Universities roundtable took place on 4th October and included an update on the SIP consultation and on work to develop an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy. Plans are being developed for a face to face meeting hosted at Brighton University in December at which presentations and discussions will cover active travel and Centres of Excellence. As always, board members are welcomed and encouraged to attend this interesting forum if they would like to.

3.3 The next meeting of the private sector stakeholder group is likely to be in early 2023.

3.4 The communications & stakeholder engagement group have continued to liaise virtually since the end of the SIP consultation and will next meet in November to discuss the outcomes of the SIP consultation and next steps as we work towards the launch of the final SIP in March 2023. A proposal for this launch will be presented at the next board meeting,

3.5 Work is ongoing to ensure that our stakeholder groups are operating in the most efficient manner, with the risk of stakeholder fatigue being closely monitored. Our most recent mapping exercise shows that:

- We currently manage 20 active stakeholder groups, covering everything from task and finish technical steering groups to the partnership board.
- Over the last 2 years, 14 task and finish stakeholder groups (relating primarily to the area studies work) have been initiated and closed.
- C. 400 individuals are involved in one or more of our current groups, representing c. 200 organisations or institutions.
- We have over 3,400 individuals and 1,200 organisations registered on our stakeholder database.

4. Upcoming events and speaker slots

4.1 Previous events/speaker slots

- 6 October, Rupert Clubb presented at tCI Connect, hosted by The Consultation Institute
- 11 October, Lucy Dixon Thompson presented at the Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement for Infrastructure conference

4.2 Future events/speaker slots

- 2-3 November 2022 – TfSE will participate in panels discussions at Highways UK
- 8 December 2022 – Cllr Keith Glazier speaking at Westminster Forum conference (virtual)
- 13 October 2022 – Rupert Clubb speaking at Business Service Association roundtable
- 5 June 2023 – STB conference

5. Conclusion and recommendations

5.1 In conclusion, we will continue to keep our communications and engagement activities under review using virtual or physical meetings as appropriate at the time.

5.2 The Partnership Board are recommended to note and agree the engagement and communication activity that has been undertaken since the last Partnership Board meeting.

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