

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

Date of meeting: **23 January 2023**

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 support provided to technical projects, work towards the SIP launch and upcoming events.

2. Recent communications and engagement activity

2.1 We have been planning how we will launch the final SIP document and formally submit it to Government post March 2023 Board meeting. An overview of this will be provided as a verbal update at the Board meeting.

2.2 Presentations to cabinet and committee colleagues on the development of the SIP continued to the end of the year with presentations given to Councillors who haven't been closely involved, covering the development process and content of the SIP. The aim is to enable a smoother sign off procedure as the final plan is taken through Councils' democratic processes.

2.3 A communications and engagement plan supported by web content and a targeted newsletter has been developed as the host platform and main communications and engagement tool for the Bus Back Better project. As this is a joint project these assets have been shared with Transport East and England's Economic Heartland.

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 We continue to work with our neighbouring STB colleagues to explore opportunities to collaborate around stakeholder engagement opportunities and minimise the risk of stakeholder fatigue. We are currently exploring whether there might be the opportunity to work together further on freight and bus engagement activity, where interested parties and major operators tend to operate across multiple regions.

3.3 A face to face meeting of the Universities group will be held at Brighton University on 25th January at 11am. 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.

3.4 The next meeting of the private sector stakeholder group will be held on 31st January 2023 at the Burges Salmon offices in London.

3.5 An introductory meeting has been held with parish councillors who are keen to strengthen the relationship between the numerous town and parish councils in the region and TfSE. We are currently exploring how best this can be facilitated, most likely via a small number of representatives sitting on the transport forum, on behalf of the relevant area association for local councils.

4. Upcoming events and speaker slots

4.1 Previous events/speaker slots

- 2-3 November 2022, TfSE participated in panel discussions at Highways UK
- 24 November, Lucy Dixon-Thompson attended a roundtable hosted by Wera Hobhouse, the [Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Energy and Climate Change and Transport](#), about decarbonising public transport.

4.2 We are developing a continually evolving forward plan for events and speaker slots that would provide beneficial engagement for TfSE – so far confirmed are:

Future events/speaker slots

- 17 January 2023 – South Coast Development Conference (Sarah Valentine)
- February 2023 – Westminster Forum conference (date TBC)
- 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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