

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND PARTNERSHIP BOARD  
STRATEGY BOARD**

Date: 30 March 2010

Subject: **Regional Transport Board**

Report of: Chairman of the Board

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the Strategy Board note this report.

**Purpose of Report:**

To update the Strategy Board on the work of the Regional Transport Board.

**Key Issues:**

The Regional Transport Board met on 12 March 2010 and is scheduled to meet again on 11 June. The Board will meet in advance of the June meeting; this will provide us with the opportunity to discuss the framework for the DaSTS Interim Report in further detail and to consider in further detail the response to potential future spending cuts.

**1. Context**

1.1 The work of the Regional Transport Board continues to be focussed around two key areas of work:

- Programme Management and Monitoring – working with Local Transport Authorities and the Highways Agency to ensure that the agreed programme of investment to 2013/14 is delivered to time and to budget;
- Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS) – being responsible for commissioning and overseeing the regional DaSTS work programme; ensuring that the linkages are made between the regional and national work programmes.

**2. Programme Management and Monitoring**

2.1 The discussion on the Programme Management and Monitoring Paper focused particularly on three schemes.

2.2 Central Milton Keynes Public Transport Improvements

2.2.1 After much debate the Board decided that since the deadline for funding in 2009/10 has passed, the offer to make funding for Central Milton Keynes Public Transport Improvements available from the regional programme is withdrawn.

### 2.3 A335 Tuns Lane – Slough

2.3.1 The Board noted that this scheme had not previously been included in the Regional Transport Programme and agreed that regional funding was not appropriate for this scheme put forward by Slough Borough Council.

### 2.4 A40 Abbey Way

2.4.1 As a result of some difficulties with this project the Board considered whether to withdraw funding. After a long discussion the Board agreed to the request from Buckinghamshire County Council to defer decision until the end of March. The Board agreed that in view of the time constraints on funding, the final decision on this scheme should be delegated to the Chairman.

2.4.2 The Chairman had been in contact with representatives of the three authorities, in advance of the papers being issued, in order to discuss the projects and alert them to the Board's recommendations.

### 2.5 Further items

2.5.1 In addition to these three items, with the Inspector's report of the Inquiry into the Compulsory Purchase Orders now available, the Board also agreed to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to reiterate that Bexhill-Hastings is a regional priority for investment urging him to confirm his support for the scheme as soon as possible.

2.5.2 The Board also agreed to the secretariat undertaking further works build upon the prioritisation approach so that the 2011-14 programme can be reviewed in case of future cuts in the regional programme.

## **3. Delivering a Sustainable Transport System**

3.1 The Board welcomed the DaSTS update and Portfolio Holders were given the opportunity to provide a perspective on progress to date on their individual studies.

3.2 All reports have been submitted and work will now take place to identify any potential gaps or weaknesses. Further work on each of the study areas is needed and officers will be in touch with the study areas shortly with detailed feedback.

3.3 The Board were reminded that there is no guarantee that all studies will proceed to Phase 2 and it is suggested that the most appropriate way to take forward some studies may be through Local Transport Plans.

3.4 Members thanked officers for their work and emphasised the importance of making sure that the studies from this region are well presented to ensure that they stand the very best chance of success.

3.5 Finalised reports need to be submitted to the secretariat by the 21 May 2010. The South East's Interim Report will then be presented to the next

Regional Transport Board on 11 June 2010. A workshop for Transport Board Members is to be organised in May so that further discussion can be had on the framework for the report.

**4. East West Rail**

- 4.1 The Board received an update on progress to date. There has been good progress on the business case and the secretariat will be reviewing the funding options with a view to including East West Rail in the DaSTS Interim Report to be presented to the Board in June.

**5. Transport Plan for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games**

- 5.1 The Board discussed the second edition of the draft for consultation of the Olympic Transport Plan and members expressed their disappointment that the role of the South East will play in facilitating the games is not fully acknowledged. The Board agreed a response that fully highlights members concerns and welcomed the offer of a presentation by the Olympic Delivery Authority at the next Board meeting in June 2010.

**6.1 Other matters of note**

The Board was advised that the Department for Transport announced plans for a programme called the Urban Challenge Fund. A discussion document outlining the proposals has been released and it is proposed that funding for this programme would be top-sliced from the Department's Budget following the next Comprehensive Spending Review. The Regional Transport Board will be submitting a response to the document later this year.

**Cllr David Robertson**  
**Chairman, Regional Transport Board**  
16 March 2010