MINUTES

EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM
Meeting held at 10:00 on Friday 25\textsuperscript{th} June 2010
Park Inn Palace Hotel, Southend-on-Sea, Essex

Present:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Mark Flewitt (chair)</td>
<td>Southend Borough Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Stuart Pile</td>
<td>Hertfordshire County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Tony Goldson</td>
<td>Suffolk County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Roy Pegram</td>
<td>Cambridgeshire County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Tom Nicols</td>
<td>Central Bedfordshire Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Ann Steward</td>
<td>Norfolk County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Lewis</td>
<td>Southend Borough Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Meddle</td>
<td>Southend Borough Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Chamberlin</td>
<td>Southend Borough Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davinia Farthing</td>
<td>Southend Borough Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Grimm</td>
<td>Suffolk County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keith Dove</td>
<td>Luton Borough Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mehmood Khan</td>
<td>Luton Borough Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Bird</td>
<td>Essex County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alastair Southgate</td>
<td>Essex County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Humby</td>
<td>Hertfordshire County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Smith</td>
<td>Hertfordshire County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Cook</td>
<td>Central Bedfordshire Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenn Barcham</td>
<td>Bedford Borough Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Smith</td>
<td>Cambridgeshire County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graham Hughes</td>
<td>Cambridgeshire County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Jackson</td>
<td>Norfolk County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mat Kiely</td>
<td>Thurrock Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Speed</td>
<td>Peterborough City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Kirkdale</td>
<td>Highways Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrian Cannard</td>
<td>EELGA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon Meecham</td>
<td>EELGA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dale Coss</td>
<td>EELGA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Salter</td>
<td>EEDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Shaw</td>
<td>EEDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haydn Davies</td>
<td>Go-East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Freathy</td>
<td>Go-East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiona Rose</td>
<td>Network Rail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Cook</td>
<td>Network Rail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Denby</td>
<td>NXEA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cllr Mark Flewitt introduced himself as the new chair of the RTF and welcomed everyone.

1 Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies were received from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Guy McGregor</td>
<td>Suffolk County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Peter Hiller</td>
<td>Peterborough City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Norman Hume</td>
<td>Essex County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Charles Royden</td>
<td>Bedford Borough Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Yash Gupta</td>
<td>Thurrock Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Dave Taylor</td>
<td>Luton Borough Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Minutes of RTF meeting on 5th March 2010 and matters arising

2.1 The minutes and action log for the 5th March RTF meeting were presented by Cllr Mark Flewitt.

2.2 The minutes and actions were agreed by all.

3 EELGA Presentation – Coalition Transport Priorities and the East of England Local Government Association

3.1 Simon Meecham gave a presentation.

3.2 The key bills from the Queen’s speech which relate to transport:

- Airport Economic Regulation Bill – which will seek to promote competitiveness between airports;
- Decentralism and Localism Bill – which will devolve powers on housing and planning to local authorities and communities, this bill also includes a review of local government finance; and
- Public Bodies Bill – which will abolish a range of non governmental bodies and reduce the powers of quangos.

3.3 The new government is committed to devolve powers to localities. As part of this process it wishes to remove powers at the regional level. This includes abolishing Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS). RSS’s provide the direction for Local Development Frameworks and Local Transport Plans (and incorporate the regional transport strategy). The RSS including the RTS is still adopted and remains statutory. The reviewed RSS (RTS) paper is a good piece of evidence base and can be used by Local Authorities. The RTS paper will not be going out to consultation.

3.4 Adrian Cannard stated that the government grant for statutory work will be withdrawn at the end of June, however there can be an extension to ease the transmission. The support LGA team are at risk of redundancies and may end from September. EELGA will not be able to give RTF any more specialist transport advice or write papers etc. The RTF will have to be funded and supported by Local Authorities. There maybe a small Secretariat of the LGA, Adrian Cannard hopes leaders on 2nd July will agree a slimmed down LGA.

3.5 Tim Freathy stated that Phillip Hammond (Secretary of State for Transport) does recognise that regional/collective thinking over boundaries for transport is important. The RTS evidence base for the East of England is a valuable piece of work, which should be
made available for all to use.

3.6 Mike Jackson stated that a bottom up approach could be best, depending on the scheme or subject being discussed then a different collaboration of people within the region could meet. The RTF is more of a forum for sharing best practice. The RTF should allow Local Authorities to bring in any papers /schemes that they wish to discuss. The RTF still has an important role to play. Cllr Mark Flewitt likes the idea of sub-localism.

3.7 Cllr Tom Nicols felt worried that because of Central Bedfordshire’s geographical position there are worries about further development. Cllr Mark Flewitt understood what Cllr Nicols was feeling and that Central Bedfordshire has a geographical difference, however we need to give it more time and see what other decisions are made by central government.

3.8 Cllr Stuart Pile stated that there is opportunity for the RTF to have a voice for the economic powerhouse of the whole country, the East of England. There are not just roads but airports and train lines which cross boundaries so believes we need the region, but we shall have to be smart enough to move with the times. We need some sort of Regional Forum which meets quarterly, otherwise we shall end up like 10 years ago.

3.9 Jonathan Denby added that key rail schemes would benefit from cross border/regional views. It is important for collaboration and RTF should be the lobbying voice for the East Region.

3.10 Cllr Mark Flewitt asked all whether there is commitment from all to continue the RTF in some format? Cllr Ann Steward supported this and stated that there is a need to come together in some format. It was agreed by the forum that RTF would continue.

3.11 Cllr Roy Pegram voiced that the only concern is ‘What would RTF want to achieve and what objectives?’ We need a strategy. Cllr Mark Flewitt responded that it is early days yet but we want to achieve a future, funds and schemes.

3.12 Mike Jackson stated that the RTF should invite STSG to develop the future role of the RTF as a piece of work and report back to RTF.

3.13 Cllr Stuart Pile felt concern about localism. If local people do not want a scheme to go ahead then the government will not fund it.

3.14 Tim Freathy told all that if we have views then we need to write to Ministers/Senior Officials. Over the summer period decisions will be made.

ACTION

1. The governments programme for transport was noted;
2. The role of the RTF in relation to the Association was discussed;
3. The STSG are to write a strategy on the RTF’s future role; and
4. A letter from RTF to Ministers/Senior Officials will be written, which summarises the RTF’s views of the future role of the RTF.

4 Delivering a Sustainable Transport System – Update on Regional Study Programme

4.1 Chris Shaw presented the DaSTS paper. There are seven DaSTS studies which include 5 based on geographical areas and 2 regional studies. The DfT’s submitted study deadline of the end of May 2010 was achieved. DfT have not got back to us yet. The East of England Regional paper is to be with DfT by Friday 2nd July.
4.2 Good progress on the studies has been made and the recommendation is that all studies should be taken forward to Phase 2. Phase 2 can complement work completed in the past.

4.3 Mike Jackson voiced his reservations about recommending all the studies should proceed. Even if funding is available, the new government will want to make changes. Norfolk has reservations about the KCDC study. There should be a ‘bottom up’ approach that takes account of the outcome of extensive studies already undertaken in various KCDCs. Localities should be left to carry out their own studies.

4.4 Peter Grimm said that there are two Local Authorities that sit on the Steering Group, Paul Mathieson for Southend BC and Peter Grimm for Suffolk CC. Mike Jackson’s above comment was raised at the Steering Group. It was decided that we should look at where we are going and not look back. The resilience study should be taken forward which affects our growing ports, but also the traffic model should be taken forward. The other studies are midway, and could be used for individual LTP3’s for other studies.

4.5 Paul Mathieson added that he supports Peter Grimm on the Steering Group. The resilience study and the modelling study should be taken forward. Individual Authorities should consider the studies that relate to them.

4.6 Glenn Barcham had a query about Phase 2 match funding. Mike Salter replied that if the studies go to Phase 2 then the DaSTS guidance states that the RTF were to make a contribution. At that stage RTF has agreed to fund this, however this may now have changed.

4.7 Tim Freathy stated that for Phase 2 it is clear there is no money available on a high scale.

4.8 Mike Salter said that the Secretary of State for Transport, Phillip Hammond will bring out a new appraisal framework tool for assessing schemes. The studies need to be compliant with this new framework.

4.9 Cllr Mark Flewitt actioned a letter to be written to the Secretary of State which recommends the DaSTS resilience study and the analysis programme for transport modelling to be taken forward. The remaining studies will be subject to more detailed discussions with DfT.

**ACTION**

5. The progress made on delivering DaSTS in the East of England was noted;

6. The requirement from DfT that by the end of June 2010 all English regions are required to submit regional reports summarising progress to date and setting out proposals for next steps was noted;

7. The RTF endorses the proposed key messages for the East of England regional report: significant member and stakeholder involvement; develop transport options for application in key growing centres; the DaSTS work should build on and complement past studies; and

8. Mike Salter/Chris Shaw to circulate wording which recommends the DaSTS resilience study and the analysis programme for transport modelling to be taken forward. The remaining studies will be subject to more detailed discussions with DfT.
5 RFA2 Programme

5.1 Haydn Davies presented the RFA2 Programme paper. There is to be a hold on any further work. There is a 27% decrease in funding for the current financial year. The Budget review announced a decrease in departmental budgets, of which non protected government sections will suffer a decrease of 25%.

5.2 Cllr Tom Nicols stated that there is a risk in postponing the A5-M1 scheme. Central Bedfordshire Council are willing to pay the cost of the public inquiry which is currently stalled and would have come out of the RFA block allocation funding, also any risk/cost is on them. Cllr Tom Nicols reiterated that this scheme was a priority scheme. Paul Cook voiced that if this scheme is delayed, costs will increase by £50million and this will stop the scheme. Cllr Mark Flewitt agreed that a letter of approval would be sent out from the RTF.

5.3 Some schemes did get approval, these were the A130/A13 Sadlers Farm scheme and the Luton-Dunstable Busway scheme.

5.4 Cllr Stuart Pile stated that Hertfordshire County Council has lost the PFI for street lighting. The council cannot fund this, so street lights will be turned off and removed. All to be aware that this could affect other Local Authorities.

ACTION

9. The changes to the RFA programme were noted; and

10. RTF to write a letter to government showing support for A5-M1 link road to not be delayed and go to public inquiry which will be fully financed by Central Bedfordshire Council.

N.B. Subsequent to the RTF meeting, DfT announced that they cannot consider continuing with the Inquiry until after the review of schemes is carried out. Since this supersedes Central Bedfordshire’s offer, Action 10 is no longer necessary.

6 Network Rail Consultation on Funds Released by TEN-T Grant:

   Rail Priorities
   Rail Franchise Response

6.1 Dale Coss gave an update on some areas of the submitted paper. The idea for the paper was to get an up-to-date picture of rail priorities in the EoE in order to be able to plan better going forward – this paper is the starting point. All LA’s were asked to input their priorities to the paper and a final draft was sent to STSG members for their final comments.

6.2 Since the paper was written there have been some changes/updates to the following sections:

   • Section A – Rail Franchises:
     • The competitions for the Greater Anglia and Essex Thameside franchises are to be cancelled.
     • The Greater Anglia franchise will be re-advertised by the end of the year.
     • The Essex Thameside franchise will be advertised in Autumn 2011.
     • It is also expected that there will be some changes to the timescales of the Intercity East Coast franchise – but these changes have not been specified as yet.
     • Rail services will continue to run as normal on all affected franchises.
• The consultations on the 3 East of England franchises closed on 19 April and as agreed at the last RTF, East of England responses to the 3 consultations were agreed and sent – copies of which were in the papers.

• Sections B & C:

  • Lists of passenger services, station schemes and freight projects that Local Authorities and others provided. They are in no particular order. RTF members are asked to task STSG with the prioritisation of these lists.

• Section D – TEN-T Programme Update:

  • The Secretary of State has approved the Nuneaton North chord scheme and, as a result, there may be cost savings on this scheme.
  • Members are asked to support the double tracked Ipswich Chord scheme.
  • The Association hosted an East of England TEN-T event on 21 May which explained the TEN-T programme for 2010 and discussed the proposed schemes applying under this call.
  • RTF members are asked to support the region’s TEN-T applications.
  • The European Commission has announced a new consultation on the future of the TEN-T network. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 15th September 2010. A paper outlining a Regional response will be discussed at the next RTF.

• TEN-T Updates on East of England potential bids from DfT 25 June 2010:

  1. Southend Airport proposal does not match the call as the airport is not currently on the TEN-T map. This may change going forward.
  2. Luton BC Airport proposal did not satisfy criteria on multi modal access – however there are on-going discussions about this between DfT and the European TEN-T team.
  3. Luton BC M1 – Junction 10A does not satisfy criteria as this call does not cover roads and the costs are apparently not eligible.
  4. Hutchisson Ports proposal is strong and DfT are confident that a strong bid will be put forward as the scheme fits the TEN-T criteria very well.

6.3 Tim Cook gave a presentation on the strategic freight network, the development of the Felixstowe to Nuneaton route and the TEN-T funding grant.

6.4 Last year the region supported the TEN-T funding. The DfT believe that this should be resubmitted to ask for European TEN-T funding and Network Rail ask for the RTF’s support. Network Rail would encourage RTF to lobby for the Felixstowe to Nuneaton scheme. Cllr Mark Flewitt stated that all these schemes will positively impact on the economy.

6.5 Jonathan Denby informed all that 3 franchises in the region are being let and what comes out of the franchises will affect all services and timetables. He urged Members to contribute to the franchises when DfT consults. It was urged that the RTF should focus on the key priorities over the next few months, which are the East Coast mainline, Felixstowe to Nuneaton line, West Anglian line and the Great Eastern line.

6.6 At present a state backed company runs the East Coast mainline.

6.7 Adrian Cannard felt disappointed that the TEN-T bids that had been worked on had not got past the first hurdle. All felt disappointed that many of the East of England regions schemes did not get approval. Peter Grimm stated that any excess funding for the
Nuneaton scheme should be recycled into another project associated with Felixstowe to Nuneaton.

6.8 Cllr Mark Flewitt asked whether all agreed to the key priorities. The key priorities were agreed. To give priority to the following schemes which are east of the East Coast mainline: Felixstowe to Nuneaton line, West Anglian line and the Great Eastern line.

6.9 Cllr Mark Flewitt agreed that a supporting letter would be written for the Nuneaton Chord and for the money to be recycled back in.

**ACTION**

11. The RTF are to continue to contribute to the specification of the next East Coast franchise;

12. The RTF will continue to write to relevant organisations, politicians and other influential stakeholders to shape the investment plans and improvements in the Greater Anglia and Essex Thameside franchises, as well as Network Rail’s Control Period 5 (2014 – 2019);

13. The RTF support the rail routes and service enhancements outlined in this document;

14. RTF to back the full provision of the double tracked Ipswich Chord (Bacon Factory Curve) and write to Network Rail and Minister detailing support, also to include the recycling of money, the letter will include the agreed scheme priorities;

15. RTF to support the region’s TEN-T applications;

16. RTF confirmed to prioritise the rail schemes to the east of the East Coast mainline: Felixstowe to Nuneaton line; West Anglian line; and the Great Eastern line.

17. The European Commission has announced a new consultation on the future of the TEN-T network. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 15th September 2010. A paper outlining a Regional response will be discussed at the next RTF.

7 Any Other Business

7.1 Cllr Mark Flewitt wanted all to speak about LTP3. Norfolk County Council have paused on their LTP3. The DfT could delay the current deadline of April 2011.

7.2 Paul Cook stated that it was a bad time for strategies and there could be problems with the delay, which are:

- Statutory document.
- Worst time for national and local policy vacuum.
- New Authorities don’t yet have LTP’s.

7.3 The RTF recognised the problem of carrying on with the existing deadline. Cllr Mark Flewitt stated that individual Authorities should be able to proceed when they are ready. We should back the guidance from government. RTF Officers are to write a letter on LTP3 to warn the government of the problems of delaying the deadline. Rob Smith said that ADEPT (formerly CSS) management committee had discussed the matter of LTP3 deadlines and resolved to write to DfT seeking clarification on when/if a new national transport policy would be published and if this would/should result in a deferral of the timescale for LTP3 production.

**ACTION**

18. RTF officers to write a letter regarding LTP3. Rob Smith shall share his letter with all.