MINUTES

EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM
Meeting held at 10:00 on Friday 12th October 2012
Southend Borough Council

Present:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Tony Cox (chair)</td>
<td>Southend Borough Council</td>
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<td>Councillor Guy McGregor</td>
<td>Suffolk County Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Mathieson</td>
<td>Southend Borough Council</td>
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<td>Maria Chamberlin</td>
<td>Southend Borough Council</td>
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<td>Davinia Farthing</td>
<td>Southend Borough Council</td>
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<td>Peter Grimm</td>
<td>Suffolk County Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Wragg</td>
<td>Northamptonshire County Council</td>
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<td>Tony Goldson</td>
<td>Suffolk County Council</td>
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<td>Keith Dove</td>
<td>Luton Borough Council</td>
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<td>David Cumming</td>
<td>Norfolk County Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alastair Southgate</td>
<td>Essex County Council</td>
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<td>Rob Smith</td>
<td>Hertfordshire County Council</td>
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<td>Graham Hughes</td>
<td>Cambridgeshire County Council</td>
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<td>Dearbhla Lawson</td>
<td>Cambridgeshire County Council</td>
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<td>David Freestone</td>
<td>Thurrock Council</td>
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<td>Lee Sambrook</td>
<td>DfT</td>
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<td>Bob Collins</td>
<td>DfT</td>
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<td>Alan Kirkdale</td>
<td>Highways Agency</td>
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<td>Peter Landshoff</td>
<td>East of England Transport Information</td>
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<td>Jonathan Millins</td>
<td>East of England Brussels Office</td>
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<td>Greg Hartshorn</td>
<td>Atkins</td>
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<td>Rob Bayley</td>
<td>Atkins</td>
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<td>Keith Bevis</td>
<td>EValu8 Transport Innovations Ltd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russell Fenner</td>
<td>EValu8 Transport Innovations Ltd</td>
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1 Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies were received from the following:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Councillor Andy Smith</td>
<td>Thurrock Council</td>
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<td>Councillor Charles Royden</td>
<td>Bedford Borough Council</td>
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<td>Councillor Dave Taylor</td>
<td>Luton Borough Council</td>
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<td>Councillor Derrick Louis</td>
<td>Essex County Council</td>
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<td>Councillor Graham Plant</td>
<td>Norfolk County Council</td>
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<td>Councillor Ian Bates</td>
<td>Cambridgeshire County Council</td>
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<td>Councillor Peter Hiller</td>
<td>Peterborough City Council</td>
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<td>Councillor Tom Nicols</td>
<td>Central Bedfordshire Council</td>
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<td>Councillor Stuart Pile</td>
<td>Hertfordshire County Council</td>
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<td>Councillor Channer</td>
<td>Essex County Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenn Barcham</td>
<td>Bedford Borough Council</td>
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1.2 Councillor Tony Cox welcomed everyone. Councillor Cox said it is a disgrace that only two Councillors are in attendance. All Officers should speak with their Portfolio Holders and highlight the value of RTF. At the next RTF meeting a photo call shall be arranged for Portfolio Holders.

2 Minutes of RTF meeting on 22nd June 2012 and matters arising

2.1 Minutes and actions were agreed.

ACTION

1. Arrange photo of Portfolio Holders for next RTF.

3 Local Major Transport Schemes/Role of Local Transport Bodies

3.1 Gregg Hartshorn gave a presentation regarding governance, scheme prioritisation and planning scheme delivery. All presentations are found on the RTF website:


3.2 Cllr Guy McGregor said the New Anglia LEP have formed a transport sub set. The Transport Group includes LEP members along with Portfolio Holders from Norfolk and Suffolk. Cllr Guy McGregor welcomes the delegation of funding as this takes away uncertainty. However there remains some uncertainty if the funds only last for 4 years. Does the money need to be spent each year or can it be saved for the 4th year?

3.3 Bob Collins said that Ministers do not intend the funds to be only a one off. There is flexibility over the 4 years for spending, however it would be a mistake to save it up and then spend it in the next spending review period. The money is there to create economic growth. The performance and delivery of this funding review will have a great impact on the long term process and future spending reviews. Other contributions from other sources can be added in order to fund schemes.

3.4 Cllr Guy McGregor welcomes funding from other sources, but it may be difficult. Bob Collins said there is a responsibility for LTBs to deliver value for money to deliver value for money. DfT will be liaising with The Treasury who will be checking that schemes do offer value for money which is why assurance frameworks are required.

3.5 Peter Grimm said that some areas have regionally important roads which will need more funds. Bob Collins replied that this will not change the amount given as it is distributed by population forecasts. Peter Grimm said that the way money is allocated it will not be used on large schemes. Bob Collins recognised that there is an issue regarding funding for large schemes.

3.6 Peter Grimm said that businesses want the large schemes but we need to try to deliver schemes with economic benefit in a shorter timeframe. Bob Collins said there needs to be a balance between quality, value for money and deliverability.

3.7 Dearbhla Lawson said that the Greater Cambridge & Peterborough LEP includes 5 overlapping Districts. Is there anything in the assurance framework regarding cross boundaries? Bob Collins replied that communication across boundaries is being left to
LEPs and LTBs.

3.8 Cllr Tony Cox said the RTF would be the ideal forum for dealing with cross boundary issues if Members attended. Members should attend to look at cross LEP agreements. Paul Mathieson said that the benefit of RTF is that it has flexibility to include networking and learning. Peter Grimm said there is a Northamptonshire report which shows that cross boundary issues and networking is taken seriously.

ACTION

2. Authorities provided an overview on Local Major Transport Schemes and the role of Local Transport Bodies in their areas.

4 A14 Corridor Issues – Update

4a) A14 Ellington to Milton and Associated Funding Issues

4.1 Graham Hughes presented the paper and stated that after the A14 improvement scheme was withdrawn in October 2010 on affordability grounds, the Government undertook to study, with partners, the multi-modal needs of the whole A14 corridor. The Chancellor set out the Government’s high-level commitment to “increasing capacity and improving performance on the A14”. The Government confirmed that the scope for relieving congestion by improving other modes including freight facilities and public transport would be explored. The Secretary of State concluded that there had been enough progress on this project to make a positive policy statement on the 18th July, crucially, this statement puts the A14 improvement scheme into the DfT’s committed major roads programme. The key elements announced were:

- A new bypass to replace the existing road around Huntingdon.
- Upgrades along A14 as far east as Milton
- Two new roads would be built in parallel to, with one each side of, the current A14 immediately north of Cambridge for local use
- The existing A14 carriageway will be upgraded through the removal of accesses and junctions, and improvements to junctions at the northern and southern ends.
- Tolling in part to fund improvements, but more work required.
- Rail freight Improvements
- Supporting Public Transport Improvements

4.2 The local authorities have been tasked by DfT to speak with local Districts to join a consortium. If there is no money locally then there will be no scheme. Scheme construction could begin in 2018.

4.3 Cllr Guy McGregor said there is a fear of tolling HGVs, this could have serious disadvantages for Felixstowe. Felixstowe has a S106 agreement for upgrades to the railway next year.

4.4 Cllr Tony Cox said some companies are willing to pay to get there deliveries there on time.

4.5 Peter Grimm said there needs to be a balance of tolling costs in terms of business interaction as businesses tend to avoid paying any extra. Suffolk County Council is supportive of the A14 scheme and are involved in the steering group and worked with Professor Landshoff.

4.6 Graham Hughes said that for HGVs time is money for companies. The understanding from DfT is that tolling will go ahead. The 18th July policy announcement for schemes includes tolls. If the A14 scheme goes ahead then there will be a great level of local financial
regeneration. Lee Sambrook said schemes have to be affordable that’s why tolls are included.

4.7 David Cumming asked for the timescales of the project. Alan Kirkdale said a programme is in the process of being devised.

ACTION

3. The outcome of the Study was noted - the policy commitment of the Government to the improvement of the A14 and the efforts being undertaken to raise part of the funding from local sources.

4b) East of England Transport Information Project

4.8 Professor Peter Landshoff gave a presentation on the East of England Transport Information project. The project will provide better information to freight operators and better management of the road system. Initially the A14 will be targeted.

4.9 The statement of intent has been signed by Cambridgeshire, Essex, Northamptonshire, Suffolk, Highways Agency and DfT.

4.10 Paul Mathieson asked what the timescale is. Professor Landshoff said the application has gone into DfT. The funds have to be spent by the end of this financial year.

4.11 Peter Grimm said it will help all travellers not just the trunk road journey. Alan Kirkdale said the HA has been putting up variable message signs (VMS) on the A14.

4.12 Paul Mathieson said Southend have installed 8 VMS which are being linked with Essex County Council. There is a lot of interest in ITS in Europe, which receives funding for this.

4.13 Dearbhla Lawson said Cambridgeshire are drafting a bid with Northamptonshire and other partners. DfT and TEN-T / Jonathan Milins are being spoken to. Lee Sambrook advised there would be a TEN-T A14 meeting on 12th November which DfT would be hosting with authorities concerned on the bidding process.

ACTION

4. The outcome of the Study was noted - the policy commitment of the Government to the improvement of the A14 and the efforts being undertaken to raise part of the funding from local sources.

4c) A14 Consortium

4.14 Chris Wragg gave an update on the A14 Consortium. The A14 Consortium which commenced in July 2012 is a cross border alliance of all strategic Local Authorities together with other key stakeholders. The aim of the group is to discuss new and emerging issues associated with the A14 and its future development.
4.15 The main discussion items at the meeting in September included:-

- Collaboration and communication on the future major projects on the A14 in Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Leicestershire (junction 19 and junction 7-9) and maintenance works on the network which have a wider impact on Cambridge and Suffolk as well as access to the ports.

- Collaborating on a project proposal for Safe, Secure and informed TEN-T road networks which supports a bid for EU funding.

4.16 A Call is expected from TEN-T this Autumn. Dearbhla Lawson said that with the TENT-T call the issue is that it will only fund 20% of the projects.

4.17 Lee Sambrook said there is a meeting on 26th October to discuss the amount available. 29th November is the TENT-T information day, which will provide information on how to submit to Brussels.

4d) Related TEN-T Bids

4.18 Jonathan Millins said the call is expected at the beginning of November and will be around £1bn across Europe. For a study up to 50% of match funding is given whereas for infrastructure 20% is funded. Make sure the proposal is for the works as well as ticking all the guidelines. If a LA has an idea for a call the LA needs to meet with DfT.

ACTION

5. If a local authority has an idea for a TEN-T call the LA needs to meet with DfT.

4e) Felixstowe to Nuneaton (including Ipswich Chord)

4.19 Peter Grimm advised that work continues to improve the cross country route to meet future demand for the Port of Felixstowe. Gauging works have already been completed. Capacity works are planned to absorb most of the freight growth from the proposed port.

ACTION

6. A Northamptonshire Officer and Portfolio Holder to be invited when required to future RTF meetings.

5 Highways Agency Update

5a) A12 Route Based Strategy

5.1 Alan Kirkdale advised on the A12 route based strategy. By the end of March 2013 the HA will look at three routes, each route will have a route based strategy. The three routes are A1 west of Newcastle; A12 from M25 to the A14 and A120 from the A12 to Harwich; and M62 Leeds to Manchester. The HA will be engaging with LAs and LEPs, the East of England is one of the first to pull together the routes.

5.2 Peter Grimm said Suffolk welcome this. There has been a lot of work on the A12 and it is hoped Suffolk and Essex County Council and local stakeholders are involved. Alastair Southgate also welcomed it as it will hopefully boost the economy.
5b) A11 Fiveways to Thetford

5.3 Alan Kirkdale advised that enabling works started on site on 7 June 2012. This has included temporary fencing, reptile fencing, archaeology and site clearance. During November site clearance will be undertaken in preparation for the main start of works in early 2013. The site clearance will require some overnight closures of the A11. A Start of Works exhibition at Elveden village hall will be held between Thursday 22 November and Saturday 24 November.

5.4 Peter Grimm said there is good collaboration in the Traffic Clinic with the HA. Peter Grimm said there may be an opportunity for RTF to visit the site in spring 2014. The meeting can be held in Centre Parcs village.

5.5 Paul Mathieson said with the development of LTB governance arrangement the HA will have to discuss schemes with the Transport LEP including the SELEP which would include Dover, Suffolk, Kent etc. Alan Kirkdale said it is a challenge especially with the size of the SELEP.

ACTION
7. The Highways Agency update report was noted.

6 TENT-T

6a) TEN-T & CEF update

6.1 Jonathan Millins advised European Commission Members agreed the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) which is the Commission’s proposal for a €50 billion budget for transport (€30bn), energy (€9.1bn) and ICT (€9.1bn) infrastructure.

6.2 DfT did not sign up to financial commitments where Great Britain could bid for a pot of £20bn. MEPs have opposed additional funding for roads as they would like this funding to decrease.

ACTION
8. The TEN-T & CEF report was noted.

6b) Urban Mobility consultation response

6.3 Jonathan Millins said The European Commission published its urban mobility consultation on 17 September 2012 and is seeking views from all stakeholders on how best to contribute to achieving high-quality and sustainable urban transport and mobility for all users in the 27 EU Member States. Consultation responses are due by 17th December 2012. The consultation is found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/urban/consultations/2012-12-10-urban-dimension_en.htm

6.4 2.1 The consultation is broken down into four broad themes: the development of local strategies; access restrictions and urban pricing; EU financial support for urban mobility projects; and urban freight logistics. RTF members are invited to give their views on all, or any, of the key questions.

ACTION
9. Consultation responses for the Urban Mobility consultation are due by 17th December 2012.
7 EValu8 Update (formal funding agreement)

7.1 Russell Fenner presented a breakdown of the costs for the £10,000 that RTF have been asked to provide. There are 196 posts on the ground and more are to be put in by March 2013. Keith Bevis said Evalu8 will work closely with TFL so drivers can have one smart card to use the posts. The posts need to be made more visible and put on the Source East website. A background register is being formed so Satnavs will show the post locations.

7.2 Dearbhla Lawson asked about the long term prospect of electric vehicles. Keith Bevis said that a sponsor for the electricity has now been secured up to March 2013. In the long term drivers will have to pay for the electricity they use.

7.3 Paul Mathieson said that local authorities need employees skilled up regarding electric vehicles. Southend are interested in pool electric vehicles.

7.4 Cllr Tony Cox said there needs to be better marketing of the electric vehicle posts. Keith Bevis said government and OLEV paid for installations, but there were no funds for marketing and the use of EVs.

7.5 Rob Smith said there is £20,000 in the RTF pot. All agreed that £5,000 would be given to Evalu8 for the first conference and marketing of the posts. The remaining £5,000 fund will be given depending on the performance.

ACTION

10. RTF agreed that EValu8 would receive £5,000 to host a conference on electric vehicles and to market EVs. Another £5,000 would be given depending on how successful the conference and marketing had been.

8 National Planning Policy Framework

8.1 Peter Grimm read out paragraph 32 from the NPPF – ‘Development should only be prevented or refused on transport grounds where the residual cumulative impacts of development are severe’. There is no definition of a ‘severe impact’. The previous guidance used to say ‘nil detriment’. Perhaps RTF should write to the Department to ask what this means. Lee Sambrook said the DfT policy guidance hasn’t been consulted on.

8.2 Alan Kirkdale said when the NPPF was published there were a series of documents withdrawn. For trunk roads the document wasn’t withdrawn and still states ‘nil detriment’.

8.3 Dearbhla Lawson said the NPPF states that LAs should integrate planning to highlight mitigation early. Developments should follow the local plan.

8.4 Cllr Guy McGregor said with the NPPF there are struggles with developments and how to manage the network, if there is an increase in congestion this doesn’t help the economy.

8.5 Paul Mathieson said the question will come out in a judicial review or case law. It was agreed that the NPPF would be covered at the next STSG meeting. Lee Sambrook said that Maureen Pullen from the DfT may be able to attend to discuss the framework.

ACTION

11. To include an item on the NPPF at the next STSG meeting on 7th December. Maureen Pullen from DfT will be invited to attend.
9  Reports for Information

9.1 There were a number of reports for information including:

   a) Budget Statement - Rob Smith (Hertfordshire CC)
   b) Rail and Aviation Update – Southend Borough Council
   c) East of England Freight Quality Partnership - David Bell (Chair of EEFQP)
   d) Luton Guided Busway update - Keith Dove (Luton Borough Council)
   e) GEML Vision Technical study - Essex/Atkins

ACTION

12. The reports for information were noted.

13. All acknowledged the findings of the GEML study and endorsed the need for Network Rail and the Department for Transport to act upon its recommendations.

14. All supported continued engagement with the rail industry by the GEML Vision Group in lobbying the rail industry to act on the findings of the work.

15. All supported the need for continued technical development of the proposals to maintain momentum from HLOS and Franchising.

10  A.O.B

10.1 Alan Kirkdale said the HA has given £20m to resolve pinch points on the network. In the East of England the LEPs provided 31 schemes and the HA added another four. Out of these 11 schemes were put forward into the national pot. There has been an announcement that 6 schemes have got funding including: A14, A1, A120, A1(M), A47, A47/A1.

10.2 Lee Sambrook said that the competition to run trains on the west coast mainline has been cancelled. There are two independent reviews currently ongoing; the Laidlaw review into ‘Lessons Learnt’ which would report at the end of November and the Brown review into the wider franchise programme and this would report at the end of December. Work on other ‘line’ franchises has been paused while we await the outcome of the Reviews. Franchises paused include Great Western, Thameslink and Essex Thameside. Services on the West Cost Mainline would not be affected while the Reviews concluded their work and there would be continuity of service.

10.3 Cllr Guy McGregor said the Greater Anglia franchise has no funding for rolling stock investment. As a consequence of delaying the franchise this will mean that any further investment will be delayed. There are also concerns with DDA compliance. We were told there was to be more collaboration and involvement in franchising but there hasn’t as yet been any communication from DfT.