

HotSW Joint Committee

Meeting date – 12 July 2019

PENINSULA TRANSPORT BOARD UPDATE

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1. Contact Details: Summary

- 1.1. This report updates the Committee on outcomes from the recent meeting of the Peninsula Transport Board.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. **This report is for information and to note.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Peninsula Transport Board had its third meeting on 3rd July 2019. For the benefit of new members of the Committee, Peninsula Transport is a shadow Sub-National Transport Body (STB) of the five transport authorities of Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay. It was formally established on 5 November 2018 and its key functions are to engage with Government on strategic transport investment priorities and develop a transport strategy for the area.
- 3.2 Large Local Major and Major Road Network submissions
 - 3.2.1 Joint Committee members present at the last meeting will recall that a key purpose of the July Peninsula Transport Board meeting was to approve the submission to the Department for Transport (DfT) of road scheme submissions under the Large Local Major (LLM) and Major Road Network (MRN) Funds. This was in response to the MRN Investment Guidance published by DfT in December 2018 which invited STBs across the country to identify their top priority MRN schemes and LLM schemes covering the period 2020-2025 and prepare a Regional Evidence Base (REB) in support of these submissions by July 2019. This is a competitive process by which Government funding for significant road schemes will be allocated during the 2020-25 period. Successful MRN scheme bids will receive £50m and LLM scheme bids £20m from Government towards construction costs.

3.2.2 Since the last Board meeting much work had been done on the detail of the shortlisted schemes to provide for prioritization of them at this meeting. This including ensuring that the information required by the DoT was in place in support of the submissions.

3.2.3 The Board has now approved a prioritized list of MRN schemes and a list of LLM schemes for submission to the DoT during July.

The prioritized list of MRN schemes is as follows:

- A382 Drumbridges to Newton Abbott
- Plymouth Major Road Network Phase 1 Scheme
- A39 Atlantic Highway
- A39/A361 North Devon Link Road
- A361 Glastonbury Bypass
- A379 Corridor Improvements

All member authorities have confirmed that they are able to secure the required minimum 15% match funding for the MRN schemes to be submitted.

3.2.4 The three LLM schemes agreed for submission (these are not required to be prioritised) are:

M5 Junction 28 Improvement, Cullompton;
A39 Walton Ashcott Bypass, nr Glastonbury; and
A38 Manadon Interchange Improvement Scheme, Plymouth.

3.2.5 The Regional Evidence Base (REB) will outline the long-term strategic approach to the investment needs of the South West Peninsula Transport area to make the best use of funding available from the National Roads Fund. It will be important to pull out some of the distinctive transportation challenges facing the Peninsula, which is impacting on its ability to boost productivity and remain competitive with other parts of the country. The aim must be to deliver the best possible outcome for residents, business and visitors in the region.

3.2.6 The Board approved the principles to be applied to the Regional Evidence Base submission and the document itself will be approved by the supporting officers under delegated authority following consultation with the Board members during July to enable a timing submission to the DfT.

3.3 Economic Connectivity Study

3.3.1 The Board reviewed progress with the development of an Economic Connectivity Study being prepared in response to a recommendation from the DoT that these should be conducted by Sub-National Transport Bodies.

3.3.2 This report will be the initial stage in the development of a transport strategy for the South West Peninsula which is a key function of the Board. It will also help the Board to make future cases for sub-regional investment. The report will help understanding of how major trends in technology, climate policy and transport behaviour may play out within the Peninsula, as well as

exploring more locally specific factors such as tourism, resilience of key arterial routes, high quality environments, and changes to local demography.

3.4 Bristol Airport

- 3.4.1 The Board was presented with detail of Bristol Airport's growth plans against a picture of strong demand in the region to grow the airport through to 2050. It is already the largest single site employer in North Somerset, with a further increase in jobs and GVA (gross value added) forecasted.
- 3.4.2 A masterplan for the airport has been the subject of recent public consultations and a planning application submitted to North Somerset Council in 2018 will enable growth towards 12 million passengers a year.
- 3.4.3 Surface access to regional airports is a challenge and three packages for improvements for the airport have been identified including a highway scheme on the A371 / A368 / A38 which is being included in the Western Gateway SSTB Major Road Network submission. The Peninsula Board indicated its support for the submission of this scheme.

3.5 Peninsula Rail Task Force (PRTF)

- 3.5.1 The Board received an update from Cllr Andrea Davis, Chair of the Peninsula Rail Task Force (and a Peninsula Transport Board member) confirming that she had met with the rail minister, Andrew Jones, to outline the PRTF's key asks including; requesting commitment from the Government to funding Parsons Tunnel to Teignmouth, the 'travelling office', ie, the requirement for reliable 4/5G connectivity, the diversionary route- Wimple Loop and upgrading The Waterloo route. She also raised the issue of the Bristol, Taunton, Exeter route with regard to the increased usage and opportunities for improvement.

Cllr Davis also advised that she has attended the South West All-Party Parliamentary Group to raise the issues outlined above.

6. Equalities Implications

- 6.1 N/A

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 N/A

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 N/A

9. Business Risk

9.1 N/A

10. Other Implications: Health and Well-being; Health and Safety; Sustainability; Community Safety; Privacy

10.1 N/A

11. Background papers

11.1 See link below to the full agenda and papers for the Peninsula Board meeting.

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=459&MId=3725&Ver=4>