

Hertfordshire Local Transport Body Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday 13 October 2016

10am, Committee Room A, County Hall, Hertford

Those Attending:

Attendee	Organisation
Cllr Derrick Ashley (DAChair)	Hertfordshire County Council (Chair)
Cllr Mandy Perkins (MP)	Hertfordshire Infrastructure Planning Partnership / WHBC
Tina Barnard (TB)	Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
Adam Wood (AW)	Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
Cllr Terry Douris (TD)	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr David Andrews (DA)	Hertfordshire County Council
Trevor Mason (TM)	Hertfordshire County Council
Matthew Bowles (MB)	Hertfordshire County Council
Jon Tiley (JT)	Hertfordshire County Council
Richard Boutal (RB)	Hertfordshire County Council
Stephen Hall (SH)	Highways England
Eric Cooper (EC)	Highways England
Ashley Stower (AS)	Network Rail
Tina Gigg (TG)	Hertfordshire County Council (<i>Minute Secretary</i>)

Minutes:

Serial	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence	
1.1	<p>Apologies for Absence were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rupert Thacker (HCC) • Tom Shipp (HCC) • Tom Hennessey (HCC) • James Povey (HCC) <p>Round the table introductions were done for the benefit of Tina Barnard the new representative from the Hertfordshire LEP.</p>	
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
2.1	The minutes of the 15 July 2016 Hertfordshire Local Transport Body (Herts LTB) meeting were agreed.	
3.	Declaration of Conflicts of Interest	
3.1	No conflicts of interest were declared.	

Serial	Agenda Item	Actions
4.	Strategic Rail	
4.1	<p>TM and AS updated on the following:</p> <p><u>Network Rail Projects</u></p> <p>East West Rail Phase 2 – work is being undertaken to identify a preferred route. The central section from Bedford to Cambridge will now go via Sandy.</p> <p>East Coast Route Study – Trevor Mason is now on the working group, consultation on the draft study is expected Spring 2017.</p> <p>Stevenage 5th Platform – the Thameslink 2018 timetable is based on this 5th platform being delivered. Alternative solutions will be required between Stevenage and Hertford as the platform has been put back to a 2019-24 timeframe. Cllr Derrick Ashley said that this was unacceptable and that he will campaign strongly for an interim solution. Trevor Mason replied that a meeting had been set up with GTR, and they will need to supply a statement on solutions apart from the proposed bus replacement service.</p> <p>MP asked if this delay would affect the Stevenage regeneration project? AW replied that the station is the catalyst for the regeneration but it is a flexible programme. If the platform can be built in time it could be incorporated into the development. Cllr Ashley again confirmed that he would lobby hard. AS said that he would feed this back at his end.</p> <p>Crossrail 2 – AS informed that Chris Curtis will be the lead officer from Network Rail. The next round of consultation is due to begin on 27 October.</p> <p>West Midlands & Chilterns Route Study – The consultation for the study has closed and should be published before Christmas. This study only impacts on Rickmansworth and Chorleywood in Hertfordshire, but the proposed longer trains could be detrimental to Rickmansworth.</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>AS</p>
4.2	<p><u>Franchises</u></p> <p>West Coast – DfT are currently considering consultation responses from the consultation earlier this year.</p> <p>East Anglia – Abellio have been awarded the franchise to start on Sunday 16 October, with upgrades to the timetable and extra services to Hertford East. Cheshunt and Broxbourne stations will also receive a major upgrade, but this needs clarifying.</p> <p>West Midlands – HCC will be meeting with the franchise bidders to discuss concerns before the final bids are submitted by 29 November.</p>	

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4.3	<p><u>Train Operating Companies</u></p> <p>Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) – Their Timetable 2018 consultation started in September. The County Council’s consultation response will be going to Environment Planning & Transport Cabinet Panel on 2 November, please send Trevor Mason any local issues. Cllr Ashley suggested that HCC ask the District/Borough Councils for comments particularly on connectivity issues, as there will be negative impacts at some stations.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>TM</p>
4.4	<p><u>HCC Projects</u></p> <p>Rail Strategy - The County Council’s Rail Strategy has been published, this is an interim version which will be revised once the Transport Vision work has been finalised and a new LTP4 has been published. This revision will include an audit of all stations.</p> <p>Hitchin Station – A Hitchin Station Access Project is going ahead.</p>	
4.5	<p><u>Local Authority Rail Groups</u></p> <p>East Coast Mainline Authorities event – on 29 November at the House of Commons, local MPs are encouraged to attend.</p>	
4.6	<p><u>Other Projects</u></p> <p>West Anglia Mainline – a working group has been set up to pick up quick wins from the Taskforce outputs. Local Authorities are invited and Cambridgeshire will represent Hertfordshire. This has been driven by Stansted Airports desire to have a 30 minute service.</p>	
4.7	<p>Actions from last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With regards to the sound levels of Welwyn North Train Station announcements, GTR have emailed HCC to say that they are trialing improvements. - Network Rail Property have proven hard to get hold of, but AS did manage to speak to someone and was informed that they cannot formally consult with anyone yet. 	
4.8	<p>MP raised the issue that District/Boroughs are all reviewing their Local Plans and had they considered the fact that morning peak hour trains are already full going into London. Cllr Ashley suggested the County Council GTR Timetable consultation response should mention capacity issues, and have they considered the content of the Local Plans? TM replied that these comments could also be fed into the East Coast Route Study as well.</p> <p>The East Coast Route Study working group is asking for local narratives on local issues, HCC are putting something together, and the Herts LEP will also submit a narrative. Consultation on this study is due in April 2017, Network Rail and East Coast Mainline have said that they will come and talk at the A1 Consortium.</p> <p>Cllr Ashley requested that AS look into the access issues to Hitchin Station from the southern side, and report back to Rupert Thacker (HCC).</p>	<p>TM</p> <p>AS</p>

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5.	Strategy Update	
5.1	<p data-bbox="331 304 651 338"><u>LTP4 Consultation Draft</u></p> <p data-bbox="331 371 1249 472">The Transport Vision 2050 public consultation is now live, on the proposed content for LTP4, 6 new policy options and some new major projects. MB highlighted that this is not a draft LTP4.</p> <p data-bbox="331 506 1249 573">The new Transport Vision means a slight change in direction from LTP3, and so 6 new policy options are proposed to enable delivery of:</p> <ul data-bbox="379 573 1166 775" style="list-style-type: none"> - A new transport user hierarchy - Delivering a step change in cycling in larger urban areas - Shared mobility (i.e. car clubs) - Enhanced public transport connectivity between towns - A priority traffic management network - Growth and Transport Plans <p data-bbox="331 808 799 842">5 new major projects are proposed:</p> <ul data-bbox="379 842 1074 1010" style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable travel towns - Hertford Bypass & Sustainable Travel Town - Access improvements to East Hemel Hempstead - Herts Bus Rapid Transit Scheme - A414 corridor junction capacity upgrades. <p data-bbox="331 1043 1201 1106">TB asked about timescales for the major projects, MB will send TB more information around this.</p>	<p data-bbox="1321 1043 1369 1077">MB</p>

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5.2	<p><u>Highways England Update</u></p> <p>EC updated on the following projects:</p> <p>A1(M) junc 6-8 – the smart motorway is key. Consultation is expected June 2017 for detailed design, with works expected to start in 2018, and a 12-24 month construction period.</p> <p>Strategic Studies – there are 6 nationally, in Herts there is the A1(M) M25 to Peterborough Interim Report, the next stage is to identify improvements, with the study due to be complete by the end of 2016. Further information on these studies is expected in the Autumn Statement.</p> <p>Route Strategies – these are being refreshed by March 2017, and challenges and interventions identified will be presented to government.</p> <p>The Highways England Regional Road Safety Co-ordinator has been working with Deana Frost at HCC. TD informed that Herts Police had recently been targeting mobile phone use in cars.</p> <p>The Highways Agency have been working with Sue Jackson (HCC Transport Planning & Data Team) on transport models so that the 2 organisations are in synergy.</p> <p>'Transport Focus' (an independent government body) in their October newsletter, want to get more views on the experience of road users and customer feedback. More information can be found on their website (http://www.transportfocus.org.uk/research-publications/publications/road-user-needs-and-experiences-summary-report/).</p> <p>Smart Motorway Running M25 Jnc 23-27 – SH updated that this project had improved traffic flows, but it is still controversial with regards to design standards and the numbers of refuge areas. 3 years of data is required to make proper conclusions, so far there is only 18 months' worth.</p> <p>The A1(M) will be the first 2 lane motorway to be converted to Smart Motorway. DA raised the issue of there being no room for refuges on the A1(M) from the Clock junction. EC replied that Highways England will need to work closely with HCC so that these sorts of issues can be raised and considered.</p> <p>A10, Junc 25 of M25 – public consultation is expected over the winter with works starting in 2020.</p>	
5.3	<p><u>London, Stansted, Cambridge Corridor (LSCC)</u></p> <p>A 'Growth Commission Study' has been launched on the wider potential of the corridor, with the recommendation that transport in the corridor needs a significant uplift. The outcome of this study will be used in conjunction with the London Plan to identify the corridor as a focus for future funding.</p>	

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6.	Local Plans Update	
6.1	<p>For information purposes only, the Planometer is a paper that shows what stage each District/Borough is at with their Local Plan.</p> <p>The Government deadline is next Spring for Local Plans to be submitted. There will then be a full picture of the growth proposals to 2031. It was suggested that a shorter version of the document be presented at future LTB meetings. MP suggested that it be presented at the next HIPP meeting.</p>	<p>TG</p> <p>JT</p>
7.	Government Funding	
7.1	<p>AW informed that the GD3 bid had been submitted to Government, and he thanked Cllr Ashley for his support letter. The schemes have now been given a priority order within the bid, and a decision will be made in the Autumn Statement.</p> <p>The bid is seeking £87 million, with the largest project being the Stevenage First Station Redevelopment. The A414 growth corridor is the most far reaching project but will require revenue funding.</p> <p>There may be an announcement before 23 November, but Herts has the best leverage of all 39 LEPs, and has strong scheme outputs and outcomes.</p> <p>There may be a GD4, but it probably won't be called that, and would be a replacement for EU funding as a result of Brexit.</p>	
8.	Major Projects Update	

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8.1	<p><u>A120, Little Hadham Bypass</u></p> <p>The planning application had been delayed due to a rare bat colony being identified during consultation. The County Council has developed a mitigation strategy that it believes will protect this colony. An addendum to the planning application will be presented to Development Control Committee in late 2016. Draft CPOs will be published following the completion of the planning consultation. Positive discussions are ongoing with directly affected landowners with land acquisition through negotiation remaining the County Councils preferred option.</p> <p>David Andrews commented on the fact that the County Council doesn't know who owns some of the land required. RB replied that the land in question is a small area, and has been identified as being required as part of the revised mitigation plans. Established unknown owner procedures are being followed which will not delay the project programme.</p> <p>Part of the mitigation for the bat issue sees the replacement of a proposed overbridge with an underpass at the eastern end, which is a more effective facility to enable bats to cross the new road. The underpass will be of sufficient size to provide access for the local landowner. Concerns from some residents regarding visual impact of the overbridge are therefore also addressed EC offered to supply information on the bat bridges that they used at Thetford.</p>	EC
8.2	<p><u>A602 Improvements</u></p> <p>Three sections make up the overall project. Section A received planning consent in September, Section C is due to go to Development Control Committee next week for planning consent. Should planning permission be granted, then sections A and C will have effectively reached Gateway 4. RB will circulate an evidence note to LTB after the DC Committee that Gateway 4 requirements have been met.</p> <p>At the January meeting, the LTB members will be asked to formally confirm Gateway 4 is passed for Sections A&C before procurement processes are commenced. Procurement via the established EHF2 framework is programmed for Feb/March 2017.</p>	RB
8.3	<p><u>Metropolitan Line Extension</u></p> <p>LU are currently finalising the procurement strategy to award construction contract(s), which is subject to TfL approval processes. It is understood that works are unlikely to start before Spring 2017. The County Council are expecting to receive a further programme update later this month. LU are still aiming for delivery into service of the Metropolitan Line Extension in late 2020.</p>	
9.	Any Other Business	
9.1	None.	

Serial	Agenda Item	Actions
10.	Date of Next Meeting	
	Date	Time
Thursday 19 January 2017	14:00 to 16:00	Committee Room B, HCC County Hall, Hertford

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