

**TRANSPORT FOR TEES VALLEY**

**Meeting held at the City Learning Centre, Normanby Road, South Bank  
at 2.00pm on Tuesday 22 April 2008**

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ATTENDEES

Councillor Bob Cook	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC)	Chair
Councillor Mary Lanigan	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC)	
Simon Houldsworth (SH)	Darlington Borough Council (DBC)	
Alastair Smith (AS)	Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC)	
Brian Glover (BG)	Middlesbrough Council (MC)	
Simon Dale (SDa)	RCBC	
Mike Robinson (MR)	SBC	
Barrie Mason (BM)	North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC)	
Simon Dove (SDo)	One NorthEast (ONE)	
Malcolm Bowes (MB)	North East Assembly (NEA)	
Nigel Cay (NC)	Network Rail (NR)	
Martyn Pellew (MP)	PD Ports	
Liz Esnouf (LE)	Arriva North East	
Robin Knight (RK)	Stagecoach North East	
Nigel Astell (NA)	Tees Valley Regeneration (TVR)	
John Lowther (JL)	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit (JSU)	
Jonathan Spruce (JS)	JSU	

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PRESENTERS

Simon Coulthard (SC)	NR
Nigel Wilson (NW)	Faber Maunsell (FM)

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APOLOGIES

Councillor David Lyonette	DBC
Councillor Peter Jackson	HBC
Councillor Ron Lowes	MC
Councillor David Budd	MC
Dave Stubbs	HBC
Ian Parker	MC
Adrian White	Durham County Council (DCC)
Tom Warburton	ONE
Penny Marshall	Government Office North East (GONE)
Andrew Johnson	GONE
Vanessa Gilbert	Highways Agency (HA)
Richard Whitehouse	Durham Tees Valley Airport (DTVA)

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**1 APOLOGIES**

- 1.1 As noted previously (including substitutes).

**2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

- 2.1 None declared.

**3 NOTES OF THE MEETING ON 16 OCTOBER 2007**

- 3.1 The minutes were agreed as a true record.
- 3.2 **JS** advised the Board that, due to further delays with the validation of the traffic model, the outputs from the A66/A19/A174 Area Action Plan study would now not be available until mid-March.

**4 MATTERS ARISING**

- 4.1 Item 3.2 – **JS** apologised to the Board for the continuing delay to the project, and stated that the main outputs were now expected in late May following a decision to undertake the modelling work in-house after difficulties with the appointed consultants.
- 4.2 Item 9.3 – **JS** asked the Board to note the final submission for the 2008 National Transport Awards and thanked those Board Members who had commented on the draft submission. **JS** indicated that the JSU should be informed as to whether the Board has been shortlisted by the end of April.

**5 TEES VALLEY BUS NETWORK IMPROVEMENTS**

- 5.1 **JS** presented the report for information and passed on significant thanks to all of the Local Authority Officers and bus operator staff who had been involved in pulling together such a comprehensive major scheme business case submission.
- 5.2 However, **JS** also indicated that much of the hard work on the project is to be undertaken over the coming months when the Authorities and the bus operators work up more detailed proposals for each corridor and come to an agreement as to which corridors can deliver the level of benefits required for a quality partnership agreement to be signed. This work is being led by the Chief Engineers' Group.
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- 5.3 **RK** endorsed JS's thanks and complimented the partnership on coming together in a mature way to agree the proposals to date, but re-iterated that a lot of work needs to be done in a relatively short space of time to develop a robust set of infrastructure improvements that could be matched by bus operator investment.
- 5.4 **LE** further endorsed RK's comments regarding the detailed design work to follow and highlighted that an early meeting with RCBC had also brought up the need to ensure adequate enforcement of any measures delivered on the ground.
- 5.5 **Councillor Lanigan** replied that RCBC was committed to this project and ensuring that the anticipated benefits were delivered through adequate enforcement. **SDa** confirmed that discussions between the parties on this issue were ongoing.
- 5.6 **BG** highlighted that there were opportunities available to Local Authorities through their Decriminalised Parking Enforcement regimes to enhance enforcement, such as tow away actions, but that these had not yet been used in practice.
- 5.7 **MR** felt that this was a time for all members of the partnership to be strong in order that a set of deliverable schemes could be developed with real benefits.
- 5.8 **Councillor Cook** stated that there was a need to "sell" the proposals to the public much better and would like to see a communications strategy as part of the next stage of the work.
- 5.9 Resolved that the report be noted.

**6 TEES VALLEY METRO GRIP2 REPORT**

- 6.1 **NA** introduced the short report prepared to update Members on the progress of the work being managed by TVR. Of key importance was the recent completion of the GRIP2 study by Network Rail.
- 6.2 **NA** also underlined two important pieces of work in the near future – first, the aim to present the scheme to the Interim Regional Transport Board to try to achieve approval within the Regional Funding Allocation; and, second, the preparation of a revised major scheme business case for the Department for Transport following this. **NA** sought the Board's endorsement to pursue the former in the Summer.
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- 6.3 **SC** then gave a presentation on the key findings of the GRIP2 study, and outlined the current and future workstreams being followed as part of the GRIP3 study.
- 6.4 **BG** asked if any work was being undertaken to look at the different public perception between heavy rail and tram-train and what impact this may have on patronage. **SC** replied that some work was planned as part of the NR/DfT trial of tram-trains which will take place on the Penistone Line between 2010 and 2012.
- 6.5 **MP** raised a number of outstanding issues with the business community, particularly how Metro in the future could serve more remote development sites. **MP** also stressed that the GRIP3 work needs to take account of the recent announcements regarding Teesport and the anticipated levels of freight traffic that these would generate.
- 6.6 **MR** stated that public engagement on the Metro project needs to happen soon, particularly if new station locations are being fixed. The Tees Valley Directors of Regeneration will be considering this in more detail at their next meeting.
- 6.7 **MB** cautioned that any submission to the IRTB regarding RFA approval would need to dovetail with the wider review of the RFA planned for later in 2008.
- 6.8 **NC** asked about the tram-train trial outcomes, and **SC** confirmed that the outcomes of the trial are a pre-requisite for any decision on whether tram-trains would be widely operational on the UK network.
- 6.9 **AS** asked about opportunities for additional trials in the Tees Valley, especially given the Tall Ships event in 2010. **SC** replied that this was unlikely.
- 6.10 **Councillor Cook** asked about power sources for the tram-train vehicle. **SC** replied that they could be electric, diesel-powered, or a hybrid of the two – the trial vehicles will be diesel-powered.
- 6.11 **LE** asked about possible conflicts between the Metro project and the Bus Network Improvements. **JS** replied that the outcomes of the GRIP3 work in July would feed into the next iteration of the bus network design work so that any conflicts, or possible opportunities, could be addressed and accounted for in the quality partnership agreement.
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6.12 **Councillor Cook** asked about timing of the Hartlepool to Nunthorpe link (Metro Line B). **SC** replied that no decision on this had been taken through GRIP2, as this work was simply tasked with ensuring that the engineering work put forward gave sufficient capacity for Line B in the future.

6.13 Resolved that the report be noted and that progress of the work be endorsed.

## 7 INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

7.1 **NW** gave a short presentation on the findings of the Tees Valley Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) Strategy study, and outlined the key actions to take the project forward in line with the other transport improvements proposed.

7.2 **MR** endorsed the key message of the wide ranging and positive impacts of ITS, and indicated that there were a number of “early wins” that could be, and were being, pursued.

7.3 **BG** stressed the point made in the presentation that the Bus Network Improvements major scheme bid includes a significant sum of money for ITS-related improvements that would actually benefit all users.

7.4 **NC** stated that when informing others of this work, it would be better to concentrate on the key outputs and benefits as discussed subsequent to the presentation, rather than much of the technical information presented.

7.5 **SDo** suggested that some case studies would be useful to help others understand the clear benefits of ITS beyond the field of transport.

7.6 The Board thanked **NW** for the presentation.

## 8 TEES VALLEY UNLIMITED WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09

8.1 **JL** presented a paper outlining the anticipated future work programme for the Board, and the other elements of Tees Valley Unlimited.

8.2 **JL** pointed out in particular the Housing Growth Point Action Plan at the July meeting, and how nomination as a housing growth point (expected in May) would give access to the Community Infrastructure Fund, to deliver transport improvements up to 2011.

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8.3 **JL** also provided the Board with a short update on progress with the Multi-Area Agreement (MAA), particularly the forthcoming negotiating session with Government planned for 24 April.

8.4 Resolved that the report be noted and the work programme be reviewed at an appropriate time later in the year.

**JSU**

**9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

9.1 **JS** alerted the Board to a recent announcement by National Express to re-time the 2000 hours weekday departure from London King's Cross as part of the May 2008 timetable change. This would mean that this service would now not connect with the 2242 service at Darlington, meaning that the last train leaving London King's Cross with a connection to Middlesbrough would be at 1900. The Board asked **JS** to write to National Express on their behalf stating concern at the proposals and how this may undermine the significant work being undertaken to improved local, regional and national connectivity via the rail network in the Tees Valley.

**JS**

9.2 **JS** expressed thanks on behalf of the Board to Councillor Cook who will be handing over the role of Chair following this meeting.

**10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)**

- 10.1
- Tuesday 22 July 2008
  - Tuesday 21 October 2008
  - Tuesday 20 January 2009
  - Tuesday 28 April 2009

Meetings to commence at 2pm, venues to be confirmed.

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