



# STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FORUM

## February 2021: Update on Actions

Action	Update	Status
<b>From 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020</b>		
<p>The Forum:</p> <p>a) Noted presentations provided by Avanti West Coast Partnership and East Midlands Railway setting out their current franchise priorities</p> <p>b) Considered and reinforced the region's priorities for the West Coast Main Line and Midland Main Line</p>	Ongoing	<p>Since the previous meeting, EEH Business Unit has formalised ongoing working arrangements between EEH and East Midlands Railway.</p> <p>EEH Business Unit has been liaising with Network Rail, DfT and Bedford Borough Council over improvements to Bedford Midland Station.</p> <p>A further paper about priorities for connectivity on the West Coast Mainline and Midland Mainline will be presented to the Strategic Transport Forum in May 2021.</p>
<b>From 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b>		
<p>The Forum:</p> <p>a) Noted the overall response to the Transport Strategy and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal consultations.</p> <p>b) Considered the implications of the key themes from the consultation for the final version of the Transport Strategy.</p>	Agenda Item	<p>The final draft of the Transport Strategy supported by the ISA and Post Adoption Statement is presented to the Forum for approval during the meeting.</p>
<p>The Forum:</p> <p>a) Considered the implications for investment now, and in the future of the Transport Strategy in acting more decisively in the pursuit of Net Zero carbon.</p> <p>b) Supported the proposed changes to the policy and narrative in the Transport Strategy set out in para 3.1.</p> <p>c) Supported the development of Decarbonisation Roadmap by the end of 2021.</p> <p>d) Supported the identification of a regional carbon budget for transport; and the need to commit to de-couple economic growth and traffic/carbon growth.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Principle 1 of the transport strategy has been revised to reflect the Forum's ambition for EEH to be bold and clear in our aspirations for decarbonisation in the Heartland.</p> <p>A decarbonisation road map for the Heartland will be developed over the calendar year.</p>

Action	Update	Status
<p>The Forum:</p> <p>a) Considered the implications of the consultation responses for the final version of the Transport Strategy.</p> <p>b) Considered and commented on the draft introductory section for the final version of the Transport Strategy.</p>	Agenda Item	The final draft of the Transport Strategy, supported by the ISA and Post Adoption Statement, is presented to the Forum for approval during the meeting.
<p>The Forum:</p> <p>a) Considered feedback from the consultation on options for creating a statutory body for England's Economic Heartland.</p> <p>b) Noted the commitment from DfT to Sub National Transport Bodies as its preferred regional structure for strategic transport decision making.</p> <p>c) Agreed to the development of a Concordat between the Secretary of State for Transport and the Strategic Transport Forum to formalise the relationship going forward.</p>	Agenda Item	<p>Following advice from DfT, Forum Members are asked to agree to an 'Operating Framework' that sets out how DfT and EEH will work together to ensure delivery of the EEH Transport Strategy.</p> <p>Members are invited to approve the Operating Framework during the meeting.</p>
<p>The Forum:</p> <p>a) Noted Highways England's commencement of work for the next Roads Investment (RIS3) period through Route Strategies.</p> <p>b) Acknowledged the ambition of Highways England to work collaboratively with STBs and provide a framework for achieving that within the Heartland region.</p> <p>c) Supported the priorities for Route Strategies as set out in paragraphs 4.3 to 4.5 of this paper.</p>	Ongoing	Since the previous meeting, EEH Business Unit has been working with Highways England to improve engagement and working practices between Highways England, the STB, and partners in the EEH region. An update is provided in the Business Unit Update and a full report will be presented to the Forum in May 2021.
<p>The Forum:</p> <p>a) Agreed the proposed approach to preparing and agreeing consultation responses going forward.</p> <p>b) Agreed, subject to any amendments the proposed consultation responses and letters of support set out in Annexes 1-4.</p> <p>c) Agreed to delegate responsibility to the Chair to endorse the proposed response to Oxfordshire Growth Board's consultation on its Strategic Vision.</p>	Agenda Item	<p>Approved consultation responses were submitted, and a copy of the response shared on EEH's website.</p> <p>Four further responses have been submitted to consultations in the interim period. In line with protocol agreed by the Strategic Transport Forum, these were reviewed and signed by the Chair. Agenda Item 8 sets out the consultation responses that have been submitted.</p>