

meeting **JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT**

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from: **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

Report

TRANSPORT UPDATE

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on key transport issues for the Greater Nottingham Local Transport Plan area.

Delivering a Sustainable Transport System

2. At the end of June East Midlands Regional Development Agency (emda) and East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) submitted a Stage 1 response to the Department for Transport's Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS) process.
3. Through this process the Regions have been invited to undertake work to influence Government decisions on transport investment from 2014 onwards based on a series of published goals and challenges for transport networks.
4. This work builds on previous Regional Funding Advice and Regional Transport Strategies. In addition, the goals and challenges are a starting point for local strategic planning. The end product of the DaSTS process will be a White Paper in 2012 that will set out a programme with priorities for funding in each year from 2014-19, along with less detailed proposals for 2019-24.
5. The four stages of the DaSTS process are:
 - **Stage 1** – Agreeing strategic priorities and work programme, with submissions due by the end of June 2009;
 - **Stage 2** – Generating options, which is expected to take place between August 2009 and December 2010;
 - **Stage 3** – Sifting and packaging of options, expected to be completed by December 2011;
 - **Stage 4** – Deciding on the overall programme, 2012
6. As part of the process it is proposed to undertake a series of regional studies. For the East Midlands the following studies have been proposed:
 - Regional behavioural change study
 - Regional freight study

- Land use and transport computer model development and application
- Three Cities Connectivity and growth
- Northamptonshire Towns Growth and connectivity study
- Eastern sub-area growth points study

Local Transport Plan 3

7. All local transport authorities are required to produce and review their Local Transport Plans (LTP). This must contain relevant transport policies for the area, referred to as the strategy, and a plan for delivery of the policies contained in the strategy, known as the implementation plan. The current Local Transport Plan covering Greater Nottingham, prepared jointly by the two authorities, will expire at the end of March 2011.
8. In December 2008 the Department for Transport published draft guidance on the next round of LTPs. This proposed an increased level of flexibility for local authorities in the preparation of LTPs and invited comments from local authorities and others. Final guidance for LTP3s is expected during July taking account of the views of respondents.
9. Once the final guidance is published officers from the authorities will need to commence the preparations for LTP3. The immediate first steps will be to determine:
 - The geographic coverage,
 - The format,
 - Timescale,
 - Joint working arrangements, and
 - Consultation approach.

A453 Widening Scheme

10. Details of the A453 major road widening scheme to cut congestion, improve safety and help boost the East Midlands economy were published by the Highways Agency on 29 January. An Environmental Statement and draft orders for the scheme were also published.
11. The formal consultation period on the published proposals ended on 30 April. Both authorities submitted responses in support of the Highways Agency proposals.
12. The Highways Agency have announced that a Public Inquiry is now to be held before an independent Inspector in November.
13. Following the inquiry, the Secretary of State for Transport and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will consider the Inspector's report, together with any objections and representations made, before making their decision on the future of the scheme. If the scheme proceeds, the Highways Agency will make statutory Orders and purchase the land required for the scheme.

14. Main works could start on site in winter 2010/11 and subject to completion of statutory processes the widened road could open in 2012.

NET Phase 2

15. The NET Phase Two Outline Business Plan is being reviewed by Government and the project is to go before the HM Treasury Project Review Group (PRG) in July. It is expected that Conditional Approval will be given if PRG agrees the project is deliverable.

Sustainable Travel City

16. In May the DfT announced a programme of up to £29 million of revenue funding to be made available over the next 3 years to be invested in at least one of England's largest cities to encourage greener travel choices.
17. This announcement follows the success of the three Sustainable Travel Towns, Darlington, Peterborough and Worcester, who were awarded around £10m by the DfT over 5 years between 2004-2009 in order to implement "demonstration" sustainable travel programmes. A full evaluation of the Sustainable Travel Towns programme is underway and will be published later in 2009 but initial results have shown that car use has fallen by up to 9%, walking has increased by up to 14%, and cycling increased at least 12%.
18. The opportunity to become England's first Sustainable Travel City will be a chance to test if these benefits can be achieved on a much larger scale. The aim of the Sustainable Travel City will be to ease congestion, reduce carbon dioxide emissions and increase levels of physical activity in the local area. By achieving this, the City will provide a model for others to follow.
19. The Sustainable Travel City programme will also include support to share learning and best practise with all local authorities to enable them to make the most of these measures in delivering their local objectives on congestion, climate change and health. In return for the funding, the successful city /cities will be expected to provide a significant financial contribution and to build up an evidence base that proves sustainable travel measures are a viable and attractive option for the future.
20. The DfT has provided bidding guidance and the deadline for applications is 17th July. Since the objective of the programme is to demonstrate the potential of sustainable travel initiatives in a large scale urban environment any bid is expected to cover the whole principal urban area.
21. Discussions are underway with the County Council on a conurbation wide bid with input from key partner agencies. This is based around incentivising sustainable travel around the following four general themes:

- Home movers theme (to include sustainable travel packs for house movers, residential travel plan and sustainable street design support for new developments)
- Early Intervention theme (including Year 6 journey planning advice programme, expansion of smartcard travel scheme, expansion of school cycle training programme and branding of school bus services)
- Access to employment and training theme (to include further development of Big Wheel business club, targeted smartcard travel incentives, establish a City car club, Link bus service enhancements, mobile travel advice centre, travel advice and support for job seekers, flexible working hub and promoting the uptake of cleaner vehicle technologies).
- Active travel theme (to include a safer streets programme, supporting cycling in further education colleges, expanded adult cycle training programme, sustainable travel community events, walking and cycling for leisure package and further respect for transport initiatives)

RECOMMENDATION

22. It is RECOMMENDED that Members of the Committee note the contents of the report.

Background Papers

Delivering a Sustainable Transport System, East Midlands Stage 1 submission, emda/EMRA, June 2009.

Consultation on Local Transport Plan 3 Guidance, Department for Transport, December 2008

A453 M1 to Nottingham widening published scheme and draft orders, Highways Agency, January 2009

Sustainable Travel City bidding guidance, Department for Transport, May 2009

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