

## DRAFT MINUTES

### CONNECTED DORSET MEETING

16 SEPTEMBER 2021 14:00 – 16:00 pm

#### MS Teams Video Conference

##### Attendees:

- Andrew Ardley (AA), South Western Railways
- Cecilia Bufton (CB), Chair of Dorset LEP Board
- Cllr Ray Bryan (RB), Dorset Council
- Colin Morgan (CM), Swanage Railway
- David Squire (DS), Yellow Buses
- Greg Stone (GS), Highways England
- Jonathan Cowe (JC), Network Rail
- Julian McLaughlin (JM), BCP Council
- Lisa McCaffrey (LM), Highways England
- Paul Walker (PW), Go South Coast
- Phil Smith (PS), CPT
- Richard Barnes (RB), BCP Council
- Richard Pincroft (RP), BCP Council
- Simon Higgins (SH), Road Haulage Association
- Trevor Green (TG), Wyvern Cargo

##### Also present:

- Rosie Macnamara (RM), Dorset LEP

##### Apologies:

- Jim Stewart (JS), Poole Harbour Commissioners, Chair
- Ben Hampson, Highways England
- Andy Roberts, Highways England
- Ian McQuade (IMQ), Portland Port
- Kate Tunks (KT), Dorset Council
- Ewan Wilson (EW), BCP Council
- Andrew Wickham (AW), Go South Coast
- David Glinos, DfT

Item	Subject/ Title	Action owner
1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>  Apologies noted.	
2.	<b>Update on Route Strategies</b>  Greg Stone gave a presentation on Route Strategies Approach 2020-25, Preparing for RIS 3 (2025-30) and beyond and Designated Funds.	

	<p>Route Strategies are Highways England's vehicle for understanding the strategic road network and future investment priorities.</p> <p>The 5-year cycle starts with assessment of every route on the strategic road network, and evidence gathering from stakeholders. Review of the current evidence base started in 2020; external stakeholder engagement started in late Spring 2021.</p> <p><b><u>Under construction</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>M4 Junctions 3–12</b> – upgrading of the M4 to smart motorway between junction 3 (Uxbridge) and junction 12 (west of Reading), linking Reading and Heathrow.</li> <li>▪ <b>M27 Junctions 4–11</b> – upgrading the M27 to smart motorway between junction 4 (M3 interchange) and junction 11 (Fareham), linking with the smart motorway scheme on the M3.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Committed for RP2</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>M25 Junction 10</b> – improvement to the Wisley interchange to allow free-flowing movement, together with improvements to the neighbouring Painshill interchange on the A3 to improve safety and reduce congestion.</li> <li>▪ <b>A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down</b> – construction of a twin-bored tunnel as the road passes Stonehenge, coupled with a dual carriageway bypass for Winterborne Stoke to link the existing dual carriageway at Berwick Down.</li> <li>▪ <b>M3 Junction 9</b> – upgrade to the junction to allow free movement from the A34 to the M3.</li> <li>▪ <b>A303 Sparkford to Ilchester</b> – dualling of a single carriageway section of the A303, linking together the Sparkford and Ilchester bypasses.</li> <li>▪ <b>M27 Southampton Junction 8</b> – additional capacity at junction 8 through improvements to the Windhover roundabout.</li> <li>▪ <b>A31 Ringwood</b> – widening of the A31 at Ringwood to three lanes, providing more capacity for local traffic using the road to cross the Avon.</li> </ul> <p>RP added that the A31 works started on 9 September with overnight closures initially and narrow lanes.</p> <p>GS is open to suggestions.</p>	
3.	<p><b>National Coach Strategy</b></p> <p>Phil Smith gave a presentation on National Coach Strategy.</p> <p>Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aim for 15% increase in coach journeys.</li> <li>• Coach Friendly -Welcoming Coaches.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decarbonisation</li> <li>• PSVAR</li> <li>• Recruit more coach drivers</li> </ul> <p>The aim of the strategy is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Embed the coach as part of the solution to the challenges of congestion and improved air quality with decision makers and to achieve the 15% increase in coach passengers</li> <li>- Establish a national fund to retro fit coaches to achieve euro 6 standard.</li> <li>- Introduce sustainable improvements at destinations</li> <li>- Demonstrate that coaches bring spending power into a destination when they visit.</li> <li>- Reduce traffic congestion and therefore improve air quality.</li> </ul> <p>Decarbonisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attention now focused on clean air and progression to zero emission</li> <li>• Coaches can reduce private car journeys by as much as 50 times per each individual journey</li> <li>• Zero emission will be a challenge for coach operation</li> <li>• Aiming to achieve a national retro fit fund to get coaches to euro 6 engine rating</li> <li>• Working with tourist destinations to ensure recharging facilities are provided.</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b>Western Gateway STB activity</b></p> <p>Julian McLaughlin gave a presentation on Western Gateway STB activity.</p> <p>The strategy will be submitted in April 2023. There will be opportunities for giving views, more detail to come.</p> <p><b>Action: JM to update on stakeholder engagement opportunities.</b></p>	JM
5.	<p><b>Dorset Strategic Study</b></p> <p>Jonathan Cowe gave a presentation on the Dorset Strategic Study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Network Rail is responsible for the long-term planning of the rail network through to 2050</li> <li>- A Dorset Connectivity Working Group was established to ensure input from Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, Transport Focus and rail industry partners</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Study has taken account of the Western Gateway Rail Strategy which was prepared in 2019-20 and the aspirations for improved connectivity across Dorset</li> <li>- The timetable study element of the Dorset Connectivity work has examined the Western Gateway Rail Strategy's aspirations for hourly services on the Heart of Wessex line and improved frequencies for local services in and around the South East Dorset conurbation</li> <li>- The Dorset Connectivity and West of England line studies offer an opportunity to transform rail services in and around the Dorset area</li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b>BCP Bus Service Improvement Plan</b></p> <p>Richard Barnes (RB) gave a presentation on the BCP Bus Service Improvement Plan.</p> <p>The National Bus Strategy, published 15 March 2021, sets out the vision and opportunity to deliver better bus services for passengers across England.</p> <p>The enhanced Partnership needs to be published by April 2022.</p> <p>As part of the stakeholder engagement if you have views to share with the Council please send them to <a href="mailto:busstrategy@bcpcouncil.gov.uk">busstrategy@bcpcouncil.gov.uk</a>.</p>	All
7.	<p><b>Any other business (AOB):</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dft update: David Glinos sent his apologies and sent over an update for the Group, that JM summarised. This will be shared with the group with the minutes.</li> <li>2. Tregor Green asked for further clarifications from a comment that Cllr Ray Bryan put in the chat: "SGN are working on hydrogen pipework and in my talks with the truck manufacturers they are planning for hydrogen in 2030.</li> </ol> <p><b>Action: Simon Higgins (SH) to look into that and provide an update for next meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Update received from Simon Higgins on 17/09:</b></p> <p>With reference to yesterday's LEP meeting and the question regarding the current status of development of hydrogen vehicles, the following is a reply from our Technical Director:</p> <p><i>"Currently no factual evidence of this Simon although engines are being manufactured and trialed on test beds. There are trials that have happened around Europe especially on buses, nothing has been stated</i></p>	

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	<i>to us. Recent meetings held with manufacturers in the uk hydrogen was never raised, cng was along with electric as you would expect."</i>	
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