

Regional Evidence Base

Part 4

Strategic Transport Plan



17.0 Developing our Strategic Transport Plan

Introduction

- 17.1 A key function of the Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body is the development of a Strategic Transport Plan. The plan will outline the strategic transport investment priorities in for the 15 strategic travel corridors identified in the Western Gateway area. The focus of the plan is simple enable sustainable economic growth, improve strategic connectivity and enhance low carbon travel choices.
- 17.2 The multi-modal Strategic Transport Plan is intended to compliment local transport plans to enable the delivery of shared objectives. By considering these connections at a Sub-national level, it enables the full journey to be considered instead of sections of the journey linked to local authority administrative boundaries. It enables a long-term plan to be produced that identifies the transport issues within a corridor or area and identifies a sequenced list of investment priorities. Depending on the corridor and the location of the issue, the investment priorities may include a variety of initiatives including: highway capacity schemes; passenger transport schemes; urban traffic management schemes; green travel infrastructure or integrated ticketing solutions. Once completed these corridor studies will form part of a Strategic Transport Plan.
- 17.3 The Strategic Transport Plan would provide the focal point for investment discussions with the Department for Transport, transport infrastructure providers (Highways England / Network Rail) and transport operators (Train and Bus operating companies) enabling more effective and meaningful engagement.
- 17.4 The aim of the plan is *to enable sustainable economic growth by identifying a long-term investment programme designed to deliver a well-connected, reliable and resilient strategic transport system; that closes productivity gaps and makes the Gateway area more competitive, while respecting its world class natural and built environments.*
- 17.5 It remains a priority to seek funding from the Department for Transport to further enhance the REB. If successful, funding would be allocated to enable the production of the multi-modal strategic corridor studies. At the time of writing this document it is not clear if any additional funding will become available. In-lieu of this, it is important to consider that only limited local authority funding will be used to extend the REB and produce the Strategic Transport Plan. As a result the plan may be limited in scope.

Timescales for the production of Strategic Transport Plan

- 17.6 At the time of writing this document it remains the aim of the Western Gateway STB to have an adopted high-level Strategic Transport Plan by spring 2021. The scale of information contained within the plan will be reflective of the funding available both locally and nationally from the Department for Transport. A funding request to enable the development of the Strategic Plan has been made for consideration during the 2019 Spending Review and it is hoped the Western Gateway STB will be given the opportunity to talk through its funding proposal.

- 17.7 To enable the STB to produce a robust strategy document it will require its own dedicated team of officers. This would enable greater and more meaningful discussions at a local, Sub-national and national context. The transport strategy will also require a robust evidence base which fully understood the issues of growth outlined within this document and the necessary sequencing of transport priorities required for each of the strategic corridors. Subject to the scale of funding available the role of the STB could also include funding to support with developing business cases for those schemes prioritised.
- 17.8 With the possibility of additional national funding being awarded to populate the REB this would enable the production and adoption of a more robust Strategic Transport Plan by spring 2024 and inform future funding asks for 2025-2030.
- 17.9 **Figure 14.1** outlines the stages identified to inform production of both the -level Strategic Transport Plan by spring 2021 and the more robust Strategic Transport Plan by spring 2024.

For more information on the Western Gateway please visit our website –

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/western-gateway

Or email –

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Figure 14.1 – Indicative timetable for the production of the Strategic Transport Plans

Item	Description	2019/ 20	2020/ 21	2021/ 22	2022/ 23	2023/ 24
Transport and Business Forum	Held twice a year to understand views of local stakeholders					
Strategic Corridor - Economic Connectivity Study	Economic modelling to understand the scale of productivity gains by investing in strategic corridors					
Highways - Prioritisation of MRN LLM schemes	Appraise scheme priorities					
Highways - Identification of SRN priorities	Identification of SRN priorities in the context of the 15 strategic corridors					
Rail - Development of Area Wide Rail Strategy	High-level understanding of rail issues and identification of options at a Sub-national level - cross STB working is essential					
Multi-modal - Review of access arrangements to Ports & Air Ports	Understanding of existing travel plans developed by airports and ports					
Highways - Development of Area Wide approach to the installation electric vehicle infrastructure	Review of existing strategies within region and review of national best practice, with the aim of developing a Sub-national approach to the installation of EV infrastructure					
Passenger Transport - Review of urban bus corridors and park and ride schemes to manage strategic travel	Identification of existing schemes, local policy, passenger demand, operating costs- and suitability within other strategic corridors					
Strategic corridor study - Identification of growth impacts on strategic travel	Sub-national transport (road and rail) modelling to understand impacts of planned growth under four scenarios - base year and 2030 + 2035 + 2040					
Strategic corridor study - Review national connectivity issues (Road and Rail)	Review of neighbouring STB strategies to understand how investments outside area may impact demand for travel within WG					
Strategic corridor study - Review of freight (Road and Rail) issues	Research into freight issues and options to enhance strategic connectivity					
Strategic corridor study - High-level rail scheme assessment	Funding to build upon area wide rail model to test contribute towards next stage of prioritising schemes - outputs will inform package options					
Production of High-level Transport Strategy	High-level strategy document identifying impacts of growth at a Sub-national level and options for improved connectivity					
Passenger Transport - Review area wide passenger transport ticketing options	Review of existing work undertaken nationally - discussions with Local Authorities and Transport operators to understand value and cost of implementing such a scheme					
Research - Understanding the impacts of disruptive travel technologies on strategic travel	Research project into new technologies and how disruptive travel technologies might impact the travel demands at a strategic level					
Strategic corridor study - Identification of Road and Rail scheme options - all corridors	Making the best use of existing evidence & modelling outputs identify scheme options at critical pinch points for the prioritised corridors					
Technology - Review of smart city technology to identify role for managing strategic travel movements and travel information	Review of national best practice to understand suitability within the strategic corridors context					
Strategic corridor study - Identification of Road and Rail scheme packages - all corridors	Making the best use of existing evidence & modelling outputs to identify preferred scheme packages for the prioritised corridors					
Strategic corridor study - Identification of low carbon solutions - all corridors	Review of potential impact of walking and cycling schemes on reducing strategic travel demand within corridors					
Strategic corridor study - Identification of technological solutions - all corridors	Review of potential impact of technology on reducing strategic travel demand within corridors					
Strategic corridor study - Sequencing of preferred scheme packages - multi-time horizons	Identify sequencing of improvements for corridors					
Production of Robust Transport Strategy	Detailed strategy identifying impacts of growth at a Sub-national level and the sequencing of preferred scheme packages for improved connectivity					