

## Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Body - July 2021 Board Meeting

### Agenda Item 3 - Public Participation

Statements from members of the public in line with the Board's Public Participation Scheme, statements/questions and responses are provided below.

- A question was received from:
  - **Paul C Noke – Teddington & Alstone A46 Advisory Group (TAAG)**

#### Question –

"In response to a recent email sent to the Chair of The A46 Partnerships Group on the subject of the proposed Ashchurch A46 bypass, we received a reply highlighting two key activities that will inform the next RIS process (2025-30): namely, the current strategy refresh being carried out by Midlands Connect and the development of future route strategies (including for the A46) by Highways England. With these in mind, why are Western Gateway and Gloucestershire County Council pushing ahead with a new bypass proposal for the A46 at Ashchurch before either piece of analysis has been completed?"

#### Answer –

The M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch) Large Local Major scheme was recognised as a regional priority by the Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Body of part of its July 2019 Major Road Network / Large Local Major funding submission to the Department for Transport (DfT).

The DfT subsequently approved the pre-Strategic Outline Business Case.

The regional priority status of the scheme is maintained as it is identified as a short-term strategic road priority within the Western Gateway's Strategic Transport Plan (2020-2025) in January 2021.

Given the priority status of the scheme within the Western Gateway area work will continue to be led by Gloucestershire County Council, as scheme promoter, as it progresses through the DfT business case process. Should the studies identified within the question also recognise the scheme it will further enhance both its importance on a multi-regional level and need to resolve the issues the scheme is intending to address. It is therefore essential for the scheme to continue progressing through the DfT funding process.

- A question was received from:
  - **David Redgewell – South West Transport Network and Railfuture Severnside**

#### Question –

"Please can you advise me about a Railfuture Severnside and south west transport network questions for this zoom meeting and public access arrangements.

We have found no Phone number for western gateway transport board

We have a question and statement on Devolution of Great Britain railways to the Region and the regional coordination

Of train service interchanges fares integrated travel tickets. stations and contracts local to Regional transport boards

In the south west of England this could be joint with south west Transport board.

On bus back better there is also for western gateway transport board and south west transport board to work on cross regional bus and Coach links

The Falcon coach services from Bristol Bond street to Bristol Bristol Airport Churchill., Brent knoll ,Bridgwater Taunton ,Wellington,Taunton, Cullompton Exeter, Newton abbot and Plymouth operated by coach station by stagecoach south west

The D1 Bath spa bus and coach

station to Bradford on Avon, Trowbridge Westbury Warminster and Salisbury

And x7 Salisbury to Southampton by Salisbury Reds

The x3 from Salisbury city centre to Poole.

X53 51 Weymouth Dorchester Bridport Lyme and Axminster station.

Operated by First Wessex

Or The Bristol Bus station lay outside to Clifton down station Cribbs Causeway bus station to Chepstow for Newport Monmouthshire T7 Trans Cymru for Transport for Wales.

As all Local Transport Authority including the west of England Mayoral Combined Authority have to provide a Bus Improvements Plan as a by the end of October 2021

With new bus and coach service plans by April 2021 .

For bus services priority measures bus lanes bus and coach station and interchanges.

With £27.3 million pound a week for bus operators grant.

226 million pounds between September and April 2022.

The region transport Board need to look at Region connection with Railway services and National Express Coaches service and megabus Berrys Coaches and FlixBus.

Can you please advise us of the write person to send this question statement to

David Redgewell south west transport network and Railfuture Severnside"

#### **Answer –**

Thank you for your email of 21 July 2021.

We assume you want to pose these questions at the public forum for the Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body (STB) Board meeting on 21 July 2021?

If so, we can confirm that you have correctly sent them to the Western Gateway STB email address [WesternGatewaySTB@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:WesternGatewaySTB@westofengland-ca.gov.uk). For future meetings please use this address to submit statements or questions. The Procedure for Public Participation and Interim Guidance for Public Engagement in Virtual Meetings can both be downloaded on our website:

<https://westerngatewaystb.org.uk/about/board-meetings-and-minutes/>

In response to your email the Western Gateway STB welcomes the Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail and its proposals to create a new national body Great British Railways. This brings with it the opportunity for new partnerships with local and regional governments including STBs. The Rail Update report going to the Western Gateway Board on 21 July 2021 includes a recommendation for officers to explore options for the STB to take a greater role in the area's rail network.

As part of its 2021/22 programme the Western Gateway STB is committed to undertake a Bus and Coach Strategy. With all of the Local Transport Authorities within the Western Gateway area

undertaking their Bus Service Improvement Plans we are considering refocusing this area of work on producing a Coach Strategy.

Some of the other issues you have raised are a matter for the individual Transport and Highway Authorities in their own right and are beyond the remit of the STB's mandate.