

## Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Body – July 2022 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:
  - **David Redgewell, South West Transport Network & Railfuture Severnside**

#### Question –

##### Questions 1

Is my most important question on bus and coach interchanges in the region  
Both in western gateway transport Board and South west transport Board .  
Update on bus and coach interchanges.

We have also ask the same public Transport question to the South west Transport Board because of  
the close working together on Public transport.

So I can ask my question on bus service improvements plan and co ordination across South west  
England.

##### Question 1

The progress on the Regional bus coach study .

What progress is National highway making of investment in the Trunk road and motorway Network  
for such routes

as The Falcon coach services.

Between Bristol Bond street, churchill, Brent knoll, Bridgwater, Taunton, Wellington, cullompton,  
Exeter, Newton About and Plymouth coach station.

And coach station and interchanges facilities on the motorways and Trunk Road Network in the  
South weste Transport Board area and Weston Gateway transport Board.

For National Express coaches, megabus and Flixbus.

Between London Victoria coach station and Bristol to south west England.

To centre such as Bridgwater, Taunton Wellington Tiverton bus and coach South molton, Barnstaple  
bus station Ilfracombe and Bideford and Westwood ho.

Cullompton, Exeter, Torquay paignton, Totnes Plymouth coach station,

Liskerd Bodmin, st Austell Newquay bus station, Newquay bus and coach Camborne bus and  
coachstation,Falmouth the moor and

Penzance. Bus and coach station .

M3 London Victoria to Southampton Ringwood, Bournemouth interchange, Poole coach station,  
Dorchester and Weymouth.

What input has the South west

Transport Board and western Gateway transport Board had into these interchanges facilities with  
the public transport operators and National highways.

#### ANSWER:

**Thank you for taking the time to submit a question to our July Board meeting. The Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Body is a strategic body tasked by the Department of Transport with developing regional transport strategies covering different transport modes and content,**

**working closely with the local authorities to prioritise transport schemes and related funding request to central bodies. As such we do not hold a separate funding pot to develop transport schemes, but guide and advise by collecting evidence and data, to help central Government decide where to make investments in the transport network.**

**We are currently at an early stage in developing a coach strategy for the region. This is something of a first for the country, as the DfT has only recently turned its attention to coach transport due, in part, to its wholly commercial nature. However, we believe there may be possibilities to develop a genuine coach-based network to cover those areas, regions, towns and villages that do not have good rail links, or fast bus networks, and to offer people an alternative to the use of the private car. I say 'genuine' as we want to distinguish the opportunities for coaches from places where bus service could be enhanced. As a Sub-National Transport Body we have no say over the development or management of interchanges. This would sit with the specific Local Authorities; whilst routes would sit with coach operators.**

**As you can imagine, our coach strategy is at a very early stage, and we do not yet know what this will look like. That is the purpose of gathering evidence and data to try and establish what is possible when it comes to coaches. Once we have developed the work we will publish the strategy on our website; we anticipate this being sometime in late autumn/winter this year.**

#### Question 2 .

What progress is being made on access for all schedules to station across South west England. Such schemes delayed at Torquay, Cheltenham spa and Weston super mare  
And support for new access for all bids at par Bodmin parkway ,castle cary ,Bridgwater, Nailsea and Backwell, Bedminster Parson street, Lawrence hill Stapleton road, Oidfiled park and Trowbridge, on First group Great western railway and Network rail western route .  
At present we can even get Disabled access riling at Avonmouth and Bristol Stapleton road.

Bournemouth central ,Dorchester South  
and yeovil junction. On First group MTR South western railway and Network rail Wessex routes. We have presently seen the worst of Network rail western route replace a Footbridge at Highbridge and Burnham on sea with a None disabled access Bridge without ramps and lifts.  
With a major Somerset rail head for buses and Taxis to Burnham, Brean and Berrow.  
Without discussion with disabled people or organisations or carrying out a diversity impact assessments.

What action is the Weston Gateway Transport Board and South west Transport Board taking to progress disabled access to Railway stations and interchanges in south west England with NETWORK Rail western and Wessex Routes First group Rail Great western railway and South western Railway  
Local Transport Authorities and the Department for Transport.

#### Questions 3 .

In view of the Great Britain railways bill going through parliament.  
What discussion are taking place with both the South west Transport Board and Western Gateway Transport Board to  
Take on Regional railway powers to improve Region Train services.  
Station improvements include for passengers with reduced mobility.

and intergration with buses, coaches and Ferry services in the Region.

Questions 4 ,

What discussion are taking place as part of the leveling bill on a better devolution deal in Somerset, Plymouth and Torbay and Cornwall to improve public transport Networks and especially bus and coach services like Cornwall.

Wiltshire Swindon, Dorset, Bournemouth Poole and Christchurch west of England mayoral combined transport Authority North Somerset council and Gloucestershire.

Questions 5

What progress is being made with both Western Gateway Transport Board and South west Transport Board.

To press for another round of bus services improvements plan money.

And more financial support for bus and coach services in the Greater South west Region.

Especially in council that did not get

Bus service improvements plan money

In the first group ie Wiltshire and Swindon, Gloucestershire, Dorset Torbay and Plymouth.

When the covid 19 bus service recovery grant local transport plan money runs out on 4 th October 2022 .

With bus service only carrying about better 65 % and 75 % of pre covid passengers

We still lack a market campaign with the public transport companies, Tourist Boards and the Department for transport to get passengers back on to our public transport Network.

Railway service are still not carrying passengers at pre covid level s.

Question 6 .

What progress is being made on Reopening the Bristol Temple meads to pill and Portishead.

As part of metro west .

Leasing rolling stock and paying subsidies for Train services.

Reopening the Henbury loop line.

Bristol Temple meads to Lawrence hill, Bristol Stapleton road, Ashley Down, Filton Abbey wood, Filton North and Henbury for cribbs causeway.

Leasing Rolling and subsidies.

Reopening stations at charfield stonehouse Bristol road .

Salford, Ashton Gate ,corsham

Improvements to Train service

Bristol Temple meads station Filton Abbey wood, Bristol parkway, Yate ,charfield, cam and Dursey stonehouse Bristol road, Gloucester central and Cheltenham spa.

Bristol Temple meads station, keynsham, saltford, oidfiled Park ,Bath spa Freshford,Avoncliff,

Bradford on Avon Trowbridge Westbury warminster or Frome.

Half hourly train service.

DAVID REDGEWELL SOUTH WEST TRANSPORT NETWORK AND RAILFUTURE SEVERNSIDE.