

## Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body

### Board Meeting

#### Paper D

Date **10 July 2024**

Title of report: **Technical Programme update**

Purpose of report: **To provide a progress update on the ongoing work to deliver the technical work programme of the Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Body.**

#### Recommendations:

The members of the Board are recommended to:

- I. To note the progress of the programme update report.

#### Introduction

- 1.1 This report contains an update on each project progress by the Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Body's (STB).

#### Work Programme

- 1.2 To date the STB Programme Management Team have delivered.

Delivered by	Project	Status
2019/20	Story of Place - Regional Evidence Base	Completed
	Economic Connectivity Study	Completed
	Major Road Network and Large Local Major scheme submission	Completed
	Sub-National Rail Strategy – Phase 1	Completed
2020/21	Port Access Study	Completed
	Sub-national Rail Strategy – Phase 2	Completed
	Strategic Transport Plan (2020-2025)	Completed
	Strategic Modelling Review Study	Completed
2021/22	Strategic Model	Completed
	Freight Strategy	Completed
	Rural Mobility Strategy	Completed

Delivered by	Project	Status
	Strategic Rail Phase 1	Completed
2022/23 to 2024/25	Strategic Transport Plan Phase 1 Baseline Report	Completed
	Carbon Audit	Completed
	Coach Strategy	Completed
	Strategic Transport Plan Phase 2 Technical Assessment	Completed
	Alternative Fuels for Freight Phase 1	Completed
	Rural Making the case for investment	Completed
	Strategic Transport Plan Phase 3	Completed
	Strategic Investment Plan	Green – project on track
	Strategic Cycle Routes	Amber - First final report complete, additional work being undertaken.
	Alternative Fuels for Freight Phase 2	Green – Project on track
	Strategic Rail Phase 2	Green – Project on track
	Rural Phase 2	Green – Project on track
	Freight Phase 2	Green – Project on track
	Electric Vehicles	Green – Project on track
	Coach Strategy Phase 2	Amber – Issues identified with national data source means some analysis has to be re-run. Approx 4 week delay.
	Decarbonisation Policy Playbook	Green – project on track

### 1.3 Schemes - progress update:

Ref	Project	RAG	Reason for RAG if not Green	Progress to date	Next Period
1.8	Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)	G		<p>Work has commenced with producing a list of strategic investment priorities that will detail the region's key transport projects needed to support the STP.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement kicked off following senior and transport officers' workshop in May. The aim of the workshop is to identify suitable metrics and methodology for the evaluation of proposals.</p> <p>Project plan produced, listing various activities that will lead up to the delivery of the SIP.</p> <p>Introductory project board held, awaiting board representative as executive member.</p>	<p>Approval of methodology in July Board</p> <p>Options generations of proposals</p> <p>Options assessment of list of schemes</p> <p>A full public consultation on Strategic Investment Plan begins in winter 2024.</p> <p>Adoption in Spring 2025</p>
3.1	Freight Strategy Implementation and Freight Forums	G		<p>Work undertaken jointly with Peninsula Transport. 7th round of meeting with the sub-groups (Aviation &amp; Maritime, Rail, Roads) and the main forum to take place in September, due to the decision to wait until year two report finalised and year three work commences.</p> <p>Year 2 monitoring report is now finalised and can be found on our website.</p> <p>Backload trial is underway with 6 operators signed up, 3 operating and discussions underway with others.</p>	<p>Programme for year 3 to be agreed with Peninsula Transport, aligned with the priorities set out in the implementation.</p> <p>Explore maritime opportunities using information from WP12 International Gateways study and road freight data analysis</p> <p>Conduct a feasibility study to operate intermodal container trains from deep seaports to intermodal sites and look at the options for modal shift to enable more freight to be moved by rail to its final destination.</p>
4.3	Strategic Rail Phase 2	G		<p>Heart of Wessex Line Strategic Outline Business Case produced for hourly services.</p> <p>Rail programme for 2024/25 to the Board for approval on 10 July 2024.</p> <p>Bristol to Oxford hourly services economic case work underway.</p>	<p>Dorset Metro Strategic Outline Business Case work to start (joint Dorset Council and Western Gateway funding).</p> <p>West of England Line service enhancements feasibility work to be commissioned with Basic Services Agreement.</p>

5.2	Rural Phase 2	G		<p>WSP commissioned (jointly with Peninsula) to develop pilot prospectus.  Launch meeting (in-person event) held in January '24 with approximately 40 participants. Following that, 8 initial pilot proposals received, to help shape development of full prospectus. Positive responses from other partners regarding proposing/hosting pilots.</p> <p>Identification and mapping of existing known rural pilots or projects complete.  6 “Grand Challenges” for rural mobility and overarching “liveable rural communities” objective proposed to focus pilot proposals.  A draft rural mobility pilot prospectus and supporting technical reports has been received but not yet approved by officers.</p>	<p>Reports and prospectus being revised in July/August following officer feedback. Final versions expected to be complete before the Oct board.</p>
6.1	Coach Strategy - Phase 2	A	<p>Challenges with data due to issues identified with national source data.</p> <p><u>Return to Green Plan</u></p> <p>Some of the analysis to be re-run to ensure some accuracy within the national source data.</p>	<p>Work commissioned by AECOM to take forward the second phase of coach work.  New South West Coach Sector Forum set up and second forum held in May with 28 stakeholders attending the in-person forum, a workshop session was held with the selection of the top 10 interventions that were included in final Coach Strategy - Review of current coach parking facilities in the South West was the most popular intervention.  Feasibility study of first of three priority routes identified in phase 1 strategy is in progress.  Programme is slightly delayed due to issues identified with national source data, but still expected to be complete by end Aug 2024.</p>	<p>Coordination for the third meeting with the group, to be held on 15th October.  Feasibility work on Gloucester/Cheltenham to Bristol Airport strategic coach route identified in the Strategy.  Review/revise programme and finances to incorporate Peninsula Transport, who wish to join SW Forum. Agree programme of meetings and key priority topics with the group</p>
7	Strategic Cycle Routes	A	<p>More work needed to identify options and refine outputs.</p> <p><u>Return to Green Plan</u></p> <p>A revised methodology produced which will be presented to the board for approval</p>	<p>Proposal for additional work to cover a wider scope to update the background data, network planning and prioritisation from the draft strategic cycle network, to reflect the STP and provide a greater focus on regionally significant locations.  Procurement with AtkinsRealis in progress</p>	<p>Further work with AtkinsRealis and Sustrans about to commence as part of the overall STP signpost commitment. Inception meeting to be set up after procurement is finalised.  Methodology and progress report to be presented at July Board  Update background data with LAs LCWIP networks  Update ‘Regionally significant destinations’ data, National / International gateways data and ‘significant new development sites’ data  Delivery timescale in Autumn</p>

8.1	Alternative Fuels for Freight Phase 2	G	<p>First version of tool delivered to Midlands Connect for review, with a release of a testable beta version which has now been shared with other STBs. Tool has been tested by STBs and feedback provided by Midlands Connect to take on board and improve the tool prior to a rollout expected in mid-July.</p>	<p>Work on shortlisting to start when the Midlands Connect rolls out the final tool</p>
9	Electric Vehicles	G	<p>South West EV Strategy has kicked off with work to be done in-house jointly with Peninsula Transport with the available resources.</p> <p>Organised two successful EV Southwest working group meetings, to see how the STBs can best support the LAs. These were well attended by officers from Local Authorities and we facilitated discussions regarding concerns about LEVI bids.</p> <p>Local Authorities across the region completed a survey to help ascertain their local progress, ambitions, and the role they expect STBs to take.</p>	<p>Develop regional Western Gateway/South West EV strategy in partnership with Peninsula, this will be shared with the Board for approval in December Board</p> <p>The roll out of the TFN Charging Infrastructure EV tool will happen throughout July and August to the Local Authorities in our region.</p>
10	Carbon Tool	G	<p>WSP commissioned to integrate carbon baseline with Decarbonisation Policy Playbook (renamed as Carbon Assessment Playbook)</p> <p>Work has commenced on the WGHAM Base Year Model updates and traffic model forecasts year updates to be available once completed - completion by Autumn</p>	<p>Development of LTA/WG dashboard tool for viewing baseline, built in PowerBI.</p> <p>Production of user guide and methodology report for LTA and WG users of dashboard</p> <p>Integration of the updated baseline into the Carbon Assessment Playbook tool.</p> <p>Training to local authority officers about using the tool expected throughout September.</p>

## **Consultation, communication and engagement**

- 2.1 This update has been discussed by the Programme Management Team and approved by the Senior Officer Group.

## **Equalities Implications**

- 3.1 No adverse impact on any protected groups.

## **Legal considerations**

- 4.1 The Western Gateway STB remains an informal non-statutory partnership.

## **Financial considerations**

- 5.1 The technical programme is produced within the allocated budget as spelt out in the business plan.

## **Conclusion**

- 6.1 This paper provides a summary of the Western Gateway technical programme of work, the RAG status and the progress made since the last board meeting. The Board is recommended to note the progress that has been made with the various workstreams.

## **Contact Officer**

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