

# MCA - TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT BOARD

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

THURSDAY, 17 MARCH 2022 AT 11.00 AM

## VIRTUAL MEETING

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### Present:

Councillor Chris Read (Chair)	Rotherham MBC
Peter Kennan (Co-Chair)	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Councillor Joe Blackham	Doncaster MBC
Councillor Douglas Johnson	Sheffield City Council
Stephen Edwards	South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
Martin Swales	SYMCA Executive Team

### In Attendance:

Alex Linton	Head of Transport Development	Local Transport Plan
Colin Blackburn	Assistant Director - Housing, Infrastructure and Planning	SYMCA Executive Team
Joe Gardner	Head of Contracts	SYMCA Executive Team
Pat Beijer	Director of Public Transport Development	South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
Chloe Shepherd	Head of Strategic Transport	SYMCA Executive Team

Lisa Reed (Minute Taker)

### Apologies:

Councillor Dominic Beck	Rotherham MBC
Councillor Chris Lamb	Barnsley MBC
Sarah Norman	Barnsley MBC

### 1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

### 2 Declarations of Interest by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the agenda.

No declarations were made.

### 3 **Urgent items / Announcements**

None.

### 4 **Public Questions of Key Decisions**

None.

### 5 **Minutes of the last meeting held on 10 February 2022**

P Kennan would like item 9 of the previous minutes amending to read 'Ipsos Mori' not 'I Murray'.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2022 be agreed as a true record.

### 6 **MCA Levelling Up Fund Round 2 Bid**

A Linton provided an update on the Government's Levelling Up Fund and informed TEB of the report being presented to the MCA Board on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022, seeking delegated approval to submit the bid.

A Linton informed the Board that the bidding process opened last year. Each MCA was eligible for one successful bid capped at £50m. A Linton confirmed that SYMCA's first round bid was unsuccessful and shared the feedback from DfT with the Board.

A Linton confirmed that only one MCA was successful in the first round of bidding.

A Linton confirmed that the submission deadline for round two is 6 July and confirmed that work had already started on reviewing the feedback received from DfT to inform the development of our subsequent bid.

As the bid preparation is in its very early stages M Swales will bring back an update on regarding bid content to the Leaders and co-chair in due course. M Swales confirmed that initial discussions with the MCA team and Heads of Service about the general theme of the bid had taken place. A workshop was to be arranged to discuss with Heads of Service/Heads of Transport to develop the detail. M Swales confirmed that the submission would be complementary to the current challenges facing public transport.

Cllr D Johnson asked if the Board would have an opportunity to input into the submission. M Swales confirmed that ideally the submission would be brought to Board but due to time constraints and the pre-election period, this may not be possible.

P Kennan highlighted that the work of TfN is aligned with the Region's key rail schemes and EV charging projects, as well as focussing on the 'Cost of Living' crisis. P Kennan would like to see activity included that addresses the 'Cost of Living' crisis and considered the role of EV charging in addressing this. P Kennan would welcome the opportunity to input into the submission.

Cllr D Johnson – questioned the role of EV charging points in the ‘Cost of Living’ crisis but agreed it would be beneficial to discuss some basic strategic points to address this in the bid.

P Kennan commented that surveys have revealed that most travel across the country is done by car and efforts needed to be made to decarbonise car travel.

RESOLVED – M Swales to circulate the submission to Board members.

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## **Programme Approvals**

J Gardner presented the report to Board.

Cllr D Johnson stated that he was impressed with the active travel schemes and asked whether any further walking/cycle infrastructure was planned for the schemes at Parkgate and Wakefield Road. J Gardener confirmed that cycle stands were planned at the Park & Ride site and the securing of the land enabled further development of wider footways/cycleways in addition to this project, future proofing the area for further active travel development.

Cllr D Johnson questioned whether the car park at Parkgate was to be used as a Park & Ride or just a car park. S Edwards confirmed that it was a Park & Ride scheme and was intended to provide additional capacity for tram train, the current arrangements were only a temporary measure. S Edwards confirmed that Park & Ride facilities are being looked at across the Tram network as many of the current Park & Ride sites are on private land.

Cllr D Johnson stated there were lots of positives in the schemes.

P Kennan welcomed the Parkgate scheme as a way of hopefully easing the congestion on the Junction 33/34 corridor of the M1 but would also like to see proposals developed for the inclusion of significant EV car charging facilities. P Kennan also questioned what the level of bus provision would be at this location? S Edwards confirmed that there is provision for EV charging, which will be installed when it is opened but also the potential to increase public transport capacity will require further investigation. S Edwards will review the buses that travel around Parkgate currently and also provide some more information about Active Travel access at the next meeting.

P Kennan commented that although the A61 scheme looked like a road scheme from the report, it is supportive of our overall Transport and SEP Agenda. P Kennan would have welcomed more information in the paper on the parallel Transforming Cities Fund A61 active travel scheme and encouraged Board members to view the paper in that context.

Cllr C Read welcomed the Tram/Train scheme and was pleased the improvements would open up the site to the wider area and ease congestion.

J Gardner provided a verbal update regarding the Active Travel Fund 2 / Gainshare programme consisting of 8 schemes across 4 South Yorkshire local authorities totalling £7.70m. A change request was presented, seeking endorsement prior to MCA Board approval to a) replace 1 scheme (Goldthorpe

Active Neighbourhood) with an alternative in the same location and b) revise the deadline for the Active Travel Fund 2 delivery and expenditure until September 2022.

RESOLVED – The Board endorsed

- (i) Progression of 'T24 Parkgate' to MCA for full approval and award of £11.55m grant from Transforming Cities Fund (TCF2) to South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTTE) subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary;
- A new link road across a former steelworks and railway siding site from the A6123 Aldwarke Lane into the rear of the Parkgate Shopping complex;
  - A 268 space Park & Ride car park with an 8 metre cycle parking facility primarily for the tram-train service which runs from the rear of Parkgate Shopping to Rotherham Town Centre, Meadowhall, Centertainment and Sheffield City Centre;
  - Widening to the southern entry and exit arms of the Taylors Lane roundabout on the A633.
- (ii) Progression of 'T2 A61 Wakefield Road Bus Corridor' to MCA for full approval and award of £13.29m grant from Transforming Cities Fund (TCF2) to SYPTTE subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary;
- Old Mill Bridge Widening (Phase 1) to a 5 lane arrangement, 3 metres of which to be used as a cycle path;
  - Widening at Smithies Lane and Carlton Road (Phase 2) which would improve journey times for all traffic but most of all buses.
- (iii) Progression of 'T28 Unity' to MCA for full approval and award of £4.39m grant from Transforming Cities Fund (TCF2) to Doncaster Borough Council (DBC) subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary attached at Appendix A3
- 14.1km of new segregated walking and cycling infrastructure;
  - 2.7km of new cycle quiet streets.

The Board ratified the approval of:

- (iv) Progression of 'O48 SCC Nether Edge and Crookes Active Neighbourhood' to full approval and award of £0.59m grant from Active Travel Fund 2/Gainshare (ATF2/Gainshare) to Sheffield City Council (SCC) subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary;
- (v) Progression of 'G11 The Whins/Cinder Bridge Rd/Greasborough Lane Junction Improvement' to full approval and award of £0.77m from Getting

Building Fund (GBF) to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary attached at Appendix B2;

(vi) Release of development cost funding of £0.26m for 'O50 Sheaf Valley' from ATF2/ Gainshare to SCC.

(vii) Progression of Active Travel Fund 2 / Gainshare programme change request to MCA for approval

(viii) Delegated authority be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer to enter into legal agreements for the schemes covered at 4-6 above.

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### **SYMCA Response to the Government's Integrated Rail Plan**

C Shepherd introduced the report to the Board.

C Shepherd confirmed that the Integrated Rail Plan (IRP) had been published in November 2021 regarding Government spending on rail in the North and Midlands, which impacts the efficiency of the rail network and delivers wider benefits. The IRP covers investment in HS2, NPR and other key elements across the Midlands and the North.

C Shepherd confirmed that the plans published in the IRP for HS2 are broadly in line with previous proposals but there is a disparity between what was proposed and what was published with regard to NPR. The paper sets out recommendations to develop a post IRP action plan in partnership with each Local Authority/LEP members to address the gaps. C Shepherd asked the Board to consider the list of schemes affecting South Yorkshire and invited any initial views/priorities from the list below:-

- A second fast train per hour from Sheffield to Leeds
- A third fast train per hour from Sheffield to Manchester
- Capacity enhancements at Sheffield Midland and Doncaster stations
- Securing Midland Mainline electrification and upgrade to Sheffield
- Input to the study on how to serve Leeds by HS2 with a focus on Sheffield to Leeds
- Ensuring the East Coast Mainline upgrade benefits Doncaster

P Kennan agreed that it was disappointing for the region that the IRP did not deliver all of the region's original priorities. P Kennan expressed his priority would be the Sheffield to Leeds connection, due to the Government's study on how to connect the East Midlands with Leeds via Sheffield. P Kennan expressed his concern that until the study is complete the residents and communities of South Yorkshire would continue to be impacted by blight..

P Kennan confirmed that TfN are still considering how this corridor can be developed and funded.

M Swales agreed that it is a very important issue and that a meeting to discuss the study had been arranged with Network Rail and each of the Local

Authorities. M Swales stated that following the last TEB meeting the MCA team had done some work internally and confirmed that he is meeting with other Heads of Service next week and wanted to reassure Board members that a joint South Yorkshire approach was being taken to this issue.

M Swales informed the Board that there may be some disruption to the expected rail timetables due to run from May to December 2022 and would bring back further details to a future meeting. P Kennan confirmed that a backlog of driver training and increase in covid cases had contributed to the disruption.

Cllr D Johnson said he thought there was merit in progressing all of the projects and would be interested to see how they all fit together. Cllr D Johnson questioned what the purpose of responding to the IRP was and asked what the region expected to get out of it.

C Shepherd reiterated that the recommendation is to investigate further and produce an action plan regarding how to respond and how to secure additional investment. Cllr D Johnson requested figures to be provided for each of the proposals and C Shepherd confirmed this would form part of the process.

Cllr C Read agreed with the strategic approach suggested by P Kennan.

Cllr C Read expressed concern at the possibility of losing the Rotherham and Goldthorpe stations which would be transformational in those regions or the Tram/Train extensions and would like these schemes to be included as well as the larger strategic schemes.

P Kennan confirmed that a wish list of all the big rail schemes had been produced – including the railway Gateway East and Dearne Valley Parkway - and that these need to be added to the list with some costings. P Kennan stated that he has been having meetings with LEP members in Leeds and Ben Still to make sure they're aware of the issues.

M Swales expressed the importance of a South Yorkshire position on the IRP and our role as a LEP/MCA combined in how we position ourselves with government on this issue.

P Kennan confirmed that Ministers seem very open to schemes like this.

RESOLVED – Approved the action plan being created.

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## **Delivering the South Yorkshire Enhanced Partnership**

C Shepherd presented the report which sets out the result of the public and statutory consultation on the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme for South Yorkshire and the recommended next steps. The report will be presented at the MCA meeting seeking approval on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 to 'make' the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme. The report also outlines the principles of the supporting governance arrangements for the Enhanced Partnership Board, who will have responsibility for delivering the Enhanced Partnership Scheme.

C Shepherd confirmed that the consultation was positive overall so no changes will be made to the scheme, though the levels of support varied between questions.

Cllr D Johnson questioned why 11% of respondents have opposed a long term focus on reliability with a cleaner/greener fleet, and whether any groups had responded to the consultation.

C Shepherd confirmed that groups had responded to the consultation and that there was a larger report which will contain more detailed responses which will be published on our website in June 2022. This may provide more insight regarding why this answer was chosen as opposed to another.

C Shepherd confirmed that 22 groups had been consulted and as stated previously the larger report might contain more details of the responses received.

P Kennan referred Cllr D Johnson back to the previous bus review which contained responses from individuals and groups which may show a correlation with those answers received from the Enhanced Partnership (EP) consultation. C Shepherd stated it was important to keep the results separate as the EP consultation was on a specific issue. It was noted that despite conducting the consultation during a time of instability and against potential price rises, the consultation had a positive outcome overall.

C Shepherd confirmed that the larger report would offer more insight into any perceived anomalies.

Cllr D Johnson enquired as to whether there were already any forums for public members to voice their opinions at.

C Shepherd had covered in a previous meeting the need to establish a Bus Partnership Board, which would oversee the delivery and put the public voice back into bus policy. C Shepherd confirmed there was already a forum being considered surrounding the Enhanced Partnership, but members were yet to be decided and that the EP Board needed to be established first. S Edwards confirmed there were a number of user groups that already existed, and meetings took place on a regular basis.

P Beijer spoke about the consultation responses and that consideration should be given to how we could use these in the development and implementation of future schemes.

Cllr D Johnson questioned where Local Authorities fit in to the consultation and C Shepherd assured Cllr D Johnson that the EP Board would have a balanced structure and a link across to the TEB.

M Swales assured members that the appropriate governance process was being followed through TEB and which members would be selected.

S Edwards confirmed that although there will be an EP Board and forum elements of the Scheme will still have to go through TEB. S Edwards said all of

the structures were still in the development stages but he would share them with members when confirmed.

Cllr C Read reiterated the need to finalise the legal governance surrounding this and that proper local engagement with correct arrangements would be encouraging as any hold up would want to be avoided if any areas did not have a representative.

RESOLVED - APPROVED

10 **Additional MCA Feedback - Options to Support the Delivery of the Regions Bus Service Improvement Plan – Verbal**

P Beijer gave a verbal update on the decision that was made on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022 MCA meeting. The decision was made to give formal notice and P Beijer confirmed that the planning process has started, with completion due in around 12-18 months' time.

RESOLVED - APPROVED

11 **Bus Operations Update – Verbal**

S Edwards gave a verbal update on the funding that was being received from DfT and confirmed an extension on the current funding for bus and Light Rail had been granted.

S Edwards confirmed that although there has not been an official announcement it is expected that roughly £146m will be awarded to buses, of that roughly £39m will be coming to our Local Transport Authorities. There may be some changes to implement when the monies are received but that is currently being discussed as there is already an increased burden on transport from across the country.

S Edwards stated that the Light Rail funding still has not yet been agreed but the overall funding could be roughly £188m which is being discussed and confirmation should be given next week.

S Edwards confirmed that at present it is unclear how we will receive this, at present DfT are giving different views as to whether it will be split for bus and Light Rail, but neither us nor the operators are aware.

Discussions are still ongoing with operators and an update will be provided at the next meeting.

RESOLVED – S Edwards to confirm when DfT decide on funding and operators update at the next meeting.

12 **Any Other Business**

P Kennan would like thanks to be noted for Dame Sarah Storey, Active Travel Commissioner for South Yorkshire, who leaves at the end of March 2022.



P Kennan mentioned that the Great British Railways HQ tender submission bid had been submitted yesterday (16<sup>th</sup> March 2022) and had received a good level of support. The bid itself was across South Yorkshire with both public and private support. P Kennan will circulate to members and asked if elected members could support it as it runs through to the next stage.

P Kennan stated that at present there were no future meeting dates set. M Swales said he would pick this up and members would be invited accordingly.

In accordance with Combined Authority's Constitution/Terms of Reference for the Board, Board decisions need to be ratified by the Head of Paid Services (or their nominee) in consultation with the Chair of the Board. Accordingly, the undersigned has consulted with the Chair and hereby ratifies the decisions set out in the above minutes.

Signed .....

Name .....

Position .....

Date .....