
Report of meeting from external body

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Agenda item : (a)

TS039

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AirTrack Forum steering group meeting 28 May 2010

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To record for information the proceedings of a meeting of an external body attended by a representative of London TravelWatch.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report is received for information.

3 Information

- 3.1 The minutes of a meeting of are attached in the Annex. The Policy Officer represented London TravelWatch at this meeting.
- 3.2 These minutes were prepared by the AirTrack Forum, and London TravelWatch has no responsibility for their content or format.

4 Equalities and inclusion implications

- 4.1 Not applicable – report is for information only.

5 Financial implications

- 5.1 Not applicable – report is for information only

6 Legal powers

- 6.1 Section 252A of the same Act (as amended by Schedule 6 of the Railways Act 2005) places a similar duty upon the Committee to keep under review matters affecting the interests of the public in relation to railway passenger and station services provided wholly or partly within the London railway area, and to make representations about them to such persons as it thinks appropriate.

AirTrack Forum

Notes of Steering Group meeting, 28 May 2010 BA Waterside.

Present – Iain Reeve, Surrey CC (Chairman); Kerry Bangle, BAA; John Dutton, BAA; Steve Smith, AirTrack Forum (Secretary); John Slaughter, SWELTRAC; Simon Tarrant, Guildford BC; Richard Morris, CJ Associates; Stephen Fuggles, Runnymede BC; Stuart Jeffries, Bracknell Forest BC; Paul Harwood, Highways Agency; Rachel Barker, SE Regional Partnership Board; Jocelyn Pearson, Passengerfocus; Steve Ronald, BA; David Milford, BA.

1 - Apologies/Introductions

Apologies received from - Richard Meeks, TfL; Bev Hindle, Bracknell Forest BC; Peter Sims, Runnymede BC.

2 - Notes of previous meeting

Agreed.

3 - BAA/TWA Update

The ES addendum had been published on 12 May. No new objections since (but much of 6 week objection period still to run). Next steps - more work on ecological issues and crossings in LB Richmond.

Principal reason for publication of the addendum was updated timetabling work and re-evaluation of level crossing impacts. **SS to update Forum website to reflect latest information.**

PI likely to be end November but firm dates not yet available - this might be announced soon after closing date for new objections. Next step is issuance by Sec of State of "statement of matters" ie the issues that will need to be addressed going forward.

In parallel with above, BAA have continued to meet objectors to seek to resolve issues. There are essentially 3 possible outcomes from this process:

- 1) Objection withdrawn following explanation.
- 2) Objection not withdrawn, but objector won't appear at PI.
- 3) Objection actively pursued.

KB noted that there was no connection between Airtrack and the now withdrawn R3 proposals. The project and BAA's position were therefore unaffected. Preparation for the PI was continuing. It was likely that Philip Hammond, as SoS for Transport, would be 'conflicted out' of any decision making due to project's direct relationship with his constituency. KB had also met recently with Spelthorne.

IR advised that SCC was close to reaching agreement which would allow its political leaders to withdraw its objection. association

Other comments on current positions included:

- JS - it was hoped that SWELTRAC would also be in a position to withdraw its objection.
- PH - HA unlikely to have issues.
- SF - RBC no change - issues bound up with SCC, but Spelthorne unlikely to change position.
- RB - SEPB will cease as of 31 July. Transition arrangements unclear but likely that RTB submission will express support for Airtrack. SW quadrant DAST still progressing.
- Bracknell - no objection - 3rd LTP may touch on Airtrack with positive statements.
- JS queried position of Wokingham. It was understood that although subject to more train movements, their stance might be closely linked to future long term developments including possible new roads and bridges.

RM reiterated the importance of supporters actively supporting the project at the PI.

KB reminded the SG that it was not definite that BAA would continue with the project - more support from the Forum would be fundamental.

4 - Other developments since last meeting/SCC implementation Group

None reported.

5 - Future Forum activity

The comms strategy meeting agreed at the last meeting had taken place on 21 May. Focus was on how to "raise the volume" of support and remake the positive case for the project.

Suggestions included:

- BA - Internal and staff comms - perhaps using individual "case studies".
- Briefing note - what the project is and what it isn't - perhaps tailor content to different areas and use "sound bites".
- Parliamentary reception. Shift focus to potential agree-ers and decision makers.
- Reissue of leaflet - **SS to progress this** - perhaps as Forum/BAA joint production, dependent on SCC position. Perhaps include other supporters logos?

KB emphasised that other ideas welcome.

- SJ - garner support from major businesses - ?open letter.
- Economic partnerships?
- RB - use Nigel Horton-Baker whilst opportunity still existed.
- KB noted that Central London BID (business improvement district) were interested.
- "Sell" mitigation package to local objectors - possible newspaper advert?
- A comms strategy for each area?

IR noted that SCC cabinet meeting at beginning of July would be a key event.

RM suggested that now would be a very good time for letters of support from Forum members to go to SoS. **Forum (SS) to write to member organisations** reiterating support in principle for scheme and make a plea for organisation to write letters of support.

7 - AOB

IR suggested that if it ultimately proved impossible to secure dropping of SCC objection, the resultant conflict of interest might make it advisable for him to relinquish the Forum Chairmanship.

An Annual meeting ahead of the PI might be useful. IR/SS to bring proposals to next meeting.

7 - Next Meeting

July? (post meeting note now fixed for Wednesday 4 Aug, 9.30 am - to be hosted by BA at Waterside)