

# Strategic Transport Leadership Board

5 December 2024

## Agenda Item 5

### Integrated National Transport Strategy

#### *Recommendation:*

**It is recommended that the Strategic Transport Leadership Board:**

- a) Notes the former Transport Secretary's launch of her vision for an Integrated National Transport Strategy, planned for publication by summer 2025**
- b) Considers, and provides some immediate reflections on areas that should be addressed/resolved in seeking to deliver better integration of transport**
- c) Agrees that EEH should play a coordinating role for our partners in developing the debate, ensuring that we capture (and if possible explore further) any emerging opportunities and set them out clearly for the Department for Transport**
- d) Notes that STBs have been asked to convene regional events**

#### **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. To update the Strategic Transport Leadership Board on the Integrated National Transport Strategy.

#### **2. Key points to note**

- 2.1. On 28<sup>th</sup> November, the Government launched the development of an Integrated National Transport Strategy (INTS).
- 2.2. The launch of the Integrated Transport Strategy, addressed by the former Secretary of State, highlighted a strong commitment to putting people at the centre of transport policy.
- 2.3. The strategy is intended to be developed in collaboration with the broadest range of stakeholders, from transport users, providers, other services (such as health), innovators and those for whom transport acts as a barrier to opportunity.
- 2.4. DfT has three key points of engagement:
- 2.5. A Call for Ideas, also launched on 28 November (deadline 30th January 2025)
- 2.6. Regional roundtables, to be coordinated by the sub-national transport body
  - Ongoing engagement and discussion to stimulate ideas and shape policy thinking.

#### **3. Context**

- 3.1. On 28<sup>th</sup> November, the Government launched the development of an Integrated National Transport Strategy (INTS). The launch of the Integrated Transport Strategy, addressed by the former Secretary of State, highlighted a strong commitment to putting people at the centre of transport policy.

- 3.2. The strategy aims to set out a national vision for a transport system which puts users at the forefront and set a high-level direction of how transport should be designed, built and operated in England over the next 10 years. The former Secretary of State acknowledged the important role that behavioural science, data and technological advancement must play in the Integrated Transport Strategy and committed to revising the transport appraisal process to focus as much on value for money as the right outcomes – such as more jobs, improved access to education and healthier communities.
- 3.3. The strategy also aims to empower local leaders to deliver integrated transport solutions that meet the needs of their local communities.
- 3.4. From an EEH perspective, the announcement of the strategy is to be welcomed. The regional transport strategy, and core basis of EEH's approach has always been that users should be at the heart of the transport system. The INTS provides an ideal opportunity for EEH, its Board and partners to collectively identify those opportunities to improve the way transport is planned and delivered for the benefit of users. We, and partners, should be ambitious in our aspirations and innovative in our approach. Many of the projects that the EEH Board is actively supporting, such as our approach to supporting bus services; or planning a single integrated transport system around East West Rail, should be highlighted as opportunities where the INTS can make a real difference to how those projects might be better delivered.
- 3.5. At the same time, individual authorities will have their own examples of where better integration and planning of the transport system would have delivered much better outcomes for local communities and businesses.

#### **4. Shaping the Strategy**

- 4.1. The strategy is intended to be developed as a genuine discussion, capturing the views and ideas of as broader range of people as possible. The former Secretary of State is particularly keen to ensure those members of society who may historically have been marginalised, often with poor connectivity being a barrier to them accessing opportunities and services, are heard.
- 4.2. There are three key routes for informing and shaping the strategy:

- **Call for ideas**

DfT have launched a call for ideas for organisations, transport operators and the public to give their views on how to make the transport system work for them and their communities. We would encourage Local Authorities to respond to the consultation to give your views on why an integrated transport system is important and importantly how you would like to see it delivered.

EEH will be responding to the call for ideas and will work with your officers to develop key themes, identified in the discussion by the Board, or subsequently.

- **Regional Roadshows**

In early 2025 the DfT will be holding a series of regional roadshows as part of their engagement process. England's Economic Heartland, as the sub-national transport body for the region, has been asked by DfT to coordinate the event. We are liaising with DfT to ensure the region is fully represented across Local Authority Members and Officers, industry experts, businesses and other stakeholders. We understand that Local Authorities (LAs) have received letters from the Department for Transport, outlining their intentions to engage as part of the process of developing the strategy.

- **Ongoing engagement to stimulate policy thinking**



As well as the set piece events, the Department is expecting to continue ongoing discussions, particularly around key themes (such as personal safety, healthier journeys, people and places, accessibility or financing). EEH is keen to capture some of the views of the Board on where the key areas of opportunity for delivering better transport integration may be. We will continue to work with the Board to capture your ideas and thoughts in the weeks and months ahead.

4.3. Ideas for improving transport integration could include:

- Long term funding settlements, which are non-mode specific, would allow for delivery of an integrated approach with decisions being made by those who understand the local need and communities they serve.
- Information provision and collaborative working is key to enabling a joined-up transport system – this is applicable at all levels; within industry to enable elements such as timetable planning and multi-modal approaches; within the technology sector for enabling and innovative solutions and, importantly, for the end user to help them plan for the journeys they make.
- Local and Combined Authorities know their communities and the interventions which will be locally appropriate. Understanding the needs and personas of a community and matching transport intervention to need enables good decisions to be made for communities.
- Cross department working will be crucial to enabling a transport system which works - decisions made in health or education, for example, impact the transport choices of residents. For example, centralisation of health services may mean that people are having to travel further, and with more complicated journeys.
- Services and infrastructure must form part of the approach to the Integrated National Transport Strategy, for both fiscal and service provision factors.
- Integration of systems – there should be integration of systems and data between organisations in order to plan for things such as diversionary routes, severe weather events and large-scale system failures.
- There is high potential for some place types to benefit from new technologies, which can be used for a whole journey or as a first mile last mile solution.
- Organisations should work together in the tech and innovation arena to ensure lessons learned are shared and there is a consistency in approach across networks. For example, if National Highways were to apply an innovative approach to the Strategic Road Network, could this also be applied on the Major Road Network?

## 5. Next Steps

- 5.1. The announcement of the Integrated National Transport Strategy aligns closely with the values of EEH and with our partners. Co-creation of the strategy is a real opportunity for the region, one which should be embraced and delivered on.

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**November 2024**