

Strategic Transport Leadership Board

January 2026: Update on Actions

From 5th December 2024 Strategic Transport Leadership Board

Buses

Cllr Adam Zerny (AZ) said that he and Cllr Javed Hussain discussed the idea of establishing a bus link between the East Coast Main Line and Luton Airport, potentially from Hitchin, going cross-country.

In Progress

Further work to explore the Luton to Dunstable extension options has now been commissioned. Demand levels at either end and along its existing route are being captured as part of the study.

From 20th June 2025 Strategic Transport Leadership Board

Oxford - Cambridge Growth Corridor

The following actions were agreed:

- Further advice from EEH Board members on how to strengthen engagement between government, infrastructure delivery bodies and local places.

In Progress

The 'Securing Investment in the Region' table in Agenda Item 5 (11/07/25) sets out how EEH officers are working to strengthen engagement on each individual project.

Invite representatives from RESP to a future meeting to explain their work.

In Progress

Representatives from RESP have been invited to attend a future meeting. We are currently coordinating with them to agree on a suitable date for the board.

From 11th July 2025 Strategic Transport Leadership Board

Better Buses

EEH to produce a lessons learned summary on DRT schemes funded within the region through DfT Rural Mobility Fund, to support shared insights across partners—especially regarding rural transport.

Complete

Agenda Item 6

Making the Case for Investment EEH to report back to the Board on Homes England funding for infrastructure to support housing growth.	Ongoing	We are seeking clarity from Homes England.
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From 4 th December 2025 Strategic Transport Leadership Board		
Public Questions EEH to engage EWR Co and Network Rail on options for a direct MKC–Bedford–Cambridge service and report back.	Complete	EEH has engaged with EWR Co and Network Rail on options for a direct Milton Keynes–Bedford–Cambridge service and has reported back to Alan Francis
Integration EEH to incorporate feedback and develop prioritised TOPs (including a proposed Luton TOP and consideration of Cambourne)	In Progress	Agenda item 5
NISTA EEH to circulate slides.	Complete	EEH circulated slides on the 8 th December.
Progress on Priorities EEH to work with Swindon Borough Council to discuss options for the A420 Acorn Bridge constraint. Cllr Beckett to reach out to Margaret Read (NISTA) about opportunities for securing government funding for maintenance and renewal projects. EEH to draft the A404 letter to the Secretary of State.	Complete Complete Complete	EEH has contacted Swindon Borough Council and a meeting is being set up to discuss A420 Acorn Bridge options. EEH facilitated Cllr Beckett's engagement with Margaret Read. EEH drafted and sent the A404 letter to the Secretary of State.