

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: 22 SEPTEMBER 2006

AGENDA ITEM NO: 17

SUBJECT: TRANSPORT STRATEGY UPDATE

Report of the Passenger Transport Executive

1. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1.1. To provide an update on the development of a City Region Transport Vision, the Local Transport Plan and Bus Strategy.

2. INFORMATION

Transport Vision and City Region Development Plan

- 2.1. Metro has been leading work on the development of a long-term (25-year) vision for transport across the City Region. The Transport Vision will form a key part of the 'City Region Development Programme' (CRDP) which is being developed as part of the Northern Way Strategy and the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review. In addition to transport, the CRDP addresses issues around housing, skills and the financial and businesses service sector. Transport is emerging as the key priority issue in the CRDP.
- 2.2. The development of the vision has involved extensive consultation with the 11 other authorities covering the City Region and with key stakeholders including PCC Members, businesses, transport operators, LSPs and the Economic Partnership. A seminar was held at the end of 2005 for PTA Members. The vision was endorsed by City Region Leaders at their meeting on 11 September 2006.
- 2.3. The focus of the vision is connecting the main centres within the City Region to each other and to other key nodes such as Leeds Bradford International Airport. The vision covers all modes (including highways), but the precise nature of the interventions proposed for each corridor depends on the analysis of current and future demand, capacity constraints and opportunities available. The interventions proposed cover the following areas:
 - Highways supporting economic growth and regeneration;
 - Heavy rail – including further electrification and potential tram-train routes;
 - Bus rapid transit – covering a range of bus interventions where rail based solutions are unlikely to offer value for money;

- Interchange and integration – including Park and Ride, ticketing and bus networks.
- 2.4. The vision must be finalised by the end of September 2006 so that it can be included as part of the CRDP. Further consultation with key stakeholders is underway and ‘breakfast briefings’ (particularly aimed at businesses) are planned.

Local Transport Plan and Major Schemes

- 2.5. The second Local Transport Plan, covering the period until 2010/11, was submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) at the end of March. The final progress report on the first Local Transport Plan was submitted to DfT at the end of July. Feedback, including funding settlement for 2007/08, is expected in the autumn and will be reported to the Authority.
- 2.6. The implementation of the second Local Transport Plan is being overseen by the LTP Steering Group. Progress in implementing the Plan strategy, programme and achieving targets will influence future funding allocations and District Council Comprehensive Performance Assessments. The LTP Steering Group is considering a framework of monitoring and reporting to facilitate good performance and maximise future funding.
- 2.7. The second Local Transport Plan also identified a number of major public transport schemes (projects costing over £5 million). The status of these schemes is summarised below:

MyBus Yellow Bus	Phases 1 and 2 have been implemented. Phase 3 is being implemented with funding for 2006/07 and 2007/08.
Yorcard	DfT have approved funding for the Yorcard pilot in Sheffield. The pilot project will run from spring 2007 until 2008. Funding for the full project will be sought (subject to a successful pilot).
Castleford Interchange	The project has provisional approval. Work is being undertaken on design, planning consent and land acquisition. Full approval will be sought once tenders have been received and a contract can be let.
A65 Kirkstall Road Quality Bus Initiative	The scheme has been approved for ‘programme entry’ and work is commencing to progress the detailed design and statutory procedures.

Leeds Bus Rapid Transit (Supertram replacement scheme)	An initial funding application (Outline Business Case) is being prepared and, subject to PTA and Leeds City Council approval, will be submitted in the autumn.
Leeds Station Southern Access	Initial proposals will be reported to the next meeting of the Rail Working Group.
Wakefield Westgate additional platform capacity	Further work on the benefits including performance modelling is currently being led by Network Rail.
Yorkshire Bus Initiative	Elements of the scheme are currently being progressed via Integrated Transport Funding.
Park and Ride	Options are being considered as part of the work on the transport vision.
Bradford Minitram (pilot)	Alternative technologies and options are being considered including the 'FreeCityBus' type operation.

Bus Strategy

- 2.8. The next steps in implementing the Bus Strategy have been discussed at a recent joint meeting of the Bus Working Group and Tendered Services Working Group.
- 2.9. The joint meeting was advised that:
- the Department of Transport would be reviewing the framework for local bus services;
 - discussions being concluded with bus operators to clarify their commitments in respect of the Bus Strategy;
 - a programme on local area network reviews that was being undertaken;
 - partnership approaches with operators were being discussed to ascertain if the strategy and outcomes of network reviews could be achieved through co-operation;
 - further work should also be undertaken on the development of a potential Bus Quality Contract application to the Secretary for State and the information that the Authority would need to consider in deciding whether to submit an application;

- further work to implement the recommendations of the Best Value Review of accessible transport;
- the potential scope for expanding AccessBus provision in a cost-effective way and providing higher quality home-to-school transport for SEN pupils was being explored.

2.10. It is proposed that a seminar on the next steps in implementing the bus strategy, including the potential roles of Partnership and Quality Contract approaches, be held for all PTA members in October. This seminar would be held in conjunction with the seminar on the Transport Vision.

3. FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1. The work set out in this report is being resourced from approved budgets.

4. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

4.1. None as a result of this report.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1. None as a result of this report.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. That the report be noted.

6.2. That a seminar be arranged for all members regarding the finalised Transport Vision and the next steps in implementing the bus strategy.

Director General
West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive