



Steering Group Meeting

Venue: Government Office for the South West (GOSW), The Pithay, Bristol

Date held: 13 April 2000

Present: Peter Botham (GOSW & Chair)
David Mills (Contract Manager, GOSW)
Peter Dawson (Regional Transport Team Leader, GOSW)
Andrew Page-Dove (Assistant Project Manager, GOSW)
Julia Hucker (COI/GOSW Media Strategy)
Ciara Mulligan (DETR Central)
Iain Reeve (GOSE)
Clive Farnham (Highways Agency)
Martin Williams (SWRPC – South West Regional Planning Conference)
Claire Gibson (RDA – South West Regional Development Agency)
Matthew Lodge (Shadow Strategic Rail Authority)
John Wilkinson (CBI)
Mike Birkin (Sustainability SW)
Michele Dix (Project Director, Halcrow)
Martyn Brooks (Project Manager, Halcrow)
Gareth Walters (Project Co-ordinator, Halcrow)
Christina McDonagh (Sustainable Futures)
Simon Allen (Sustainable Futures)

Notes of Steering Group Meeting	Action
1. Apologies for absence. Tony Carrol (National Assembly for Wales).	
2. Introductions Chair asked everyone to introduce themselves.	
3. Minutes of previous meeting. No comments.	
4. Matters arising not on agenda. None.	

5. Feedback on Tenders

GOSW gave feedback upon the tender assessment.

6. Revised Programme

6.1 SGp noted no 3rd stage consultation included in programme. Chair said consultation on recommendations should be considered.

6.2 Halcrow suggested merging problems and options into one consultation, to give two sets including recommendations. Halcrow noted that a third consultation could just be added, but this was outside current terms of study. Agreed Halcrow to consider the options and provide a note on the options for altering consultation strategy. Halcrow

6.3 Halcrow noted that the new work programme had slipped 4-6 weeks overall, due to later than anticipated appointment. This would not enable all surveys to take place before the summer, and some 'neutral' month surveys would have to take place in September. There is still an intention to do some roadside interviews (RSIs) in June (probably in Cornwall).

6.4 DETR voiced some concern over the end of the Study, the potential need to brief Ministers if this was to run into 2002, and how the SGp deals with the consultants' final report – and prepares its report to the Regional Planning Body. Agreed that the SGp would be involved and informed in reporting process, and could prepare a report in parallel with Halcrow final report (note that this also relates to agreement of over-arching strategy). SGp/
Halcrow

7. Minutes of Steering Group meetings

Agreed that minutes of SGp meetings would be available to the public (using the study website) – attendees should respond quickly to confirm minutes. SGp

8. Media Handling

8.1 Study needs a 'corporate' identity for media, but full title (London to South West and South Wales Multi Modal Study) not conducive to producing an appropriate acronym. Halcrow proposed study nickname and logo is 'South West ARea Multi-Modal Study' – SWARMMS. Concern voiced by SG that reference to London and South Wales should not be lost. Resolved that the study title would not change, and that SWARMMS would be a sub-title and logo only. Chair to liaise with National Assembly for Wales over nickname and logo issues. GOSW

8.2 COI presented media and 'story' handling plans. Agreed the wordings should be checked to ensure not roads biased.

- 8.3 Media launch planned for 11th May – aim being to raise profile of the study and publicise the study website. After some discussion it was agreed the launch to take place at Bristol and Plymouth. COI indicated that Bristol and Plymouth were chosen these simply give best access to media.
- 8.4 SRA noted that 11th May could coincide with replacement rail franchise announcements – subsequently found not to be an issue. sSRA
- 8.5 MP/MEP presentations were discussed. It was stressed that MPs/MEPs wanted more than to be told what was going on, they want the ability to have some input. SGp agreed that a presentation should be organised as soon as possible (to be held in the Houses of Parliament if possible). Consideration should be given to a similar presentation to the Regional Chamber. It was agreed that any presentations to MPs/MEPs should include those in the South East with an interest in this study. GOSW

9. Participation

- 9.1 Halcrow outlined the proposed participation strategy.
- 9.2 Included noting there are 9 proposed workshops, to be held three times. 3 workshops are ‘strategic’, 6 are ‘local’ (plan) orientated. Some discussion about locations, but agreed that intended coverage of main corridors (M4/M5, A30/A303 and A30/A38 – plus parallel rail lines) was appropriate. Halcrow concerned about ‘consultation fatigue’ as a result of Salisbury bypass studies, but SGp considered that Salisbury might still be better locations than Yeovil for an A30/A303 workshop. Agreed to keep locations of workshops under review as study progresses.
- 9.3 SWRPC suggested that results of workshops for the A36/A46 study could be useful.
- 9.4 Halcrow indicated Design Groups are key to participation process. Ideas for membership from SGp required. SGp
- 9.5 GOSW described a meeting with statutory environmental organisations following a request from the Countryside Agency to be on the SGp. They accepted that the SGp was not the best way for these organisations to be involved. Halcrow explained that specific meetings would be organised with relevant organisations (Topic Groups). Groups include environmental (including attendees at initial meeting with GOSW), modelling, freight, public transport and tourism (subsequently added planning issues). Agreed these groups would meet early in the study, and may only meet once (according to requirements). Halcrow to organise. Halcrow

10. Access to models

Halcrow took the opportunity to discuss access to models, specifically those believed owned by members of the SGp. The A303/M5 transfer model has not been updated for many years, and thus considered too old to give meaningful input to the study. The Great Western 2000 model (GW2000) is considered potentially useful, but ownership and access is not clear. SWRPC promised to investigate this.

11. Any other business

RDA raised the issue of 'early conclusions' to the study, and asked if specific schemes could be put forward for consideration. Discussion concluded that attention could be focused on a limited number of specific areas early in the plan development process, but that overall, the SGp took the view that this would be difficult to prioritise.

12. Next Meeting

Date of next Steering Group meeting – 8th June at The Pithay.