



Steering Group Meeting

Venue: Government Office for the South West (GOSW), The Pithay, Bristol
Date held: 8 June 2000
Present: Peter Botham (GOSW & Chair)
Mike Birkin (Sustainability SW)
Tony Carroll (National Assembly for Wales).
Claire Gibson (RDA – South West Regional Development Agency)
Matthew Lodge (Shadow Strategic Rail Authority)
Ciara Mulligan (DETR Central)
John Wilkinson (CBI)
Martin Williams (SWRPC – South West Regional Planning Conference)
David Mills (Contract Manager, GOSW)
Andrew Page-Dove (Assistant Project Manager, GOSW)
Ron Davies (Regional Transport Team, GOSW)
Michele Dix (Project Director, Halcrow)
Martyn Brooks (Project Manager, Halcrow)
Gareth Walters (Project Co-ordinator, Halcrow)

Notes of Steering Group Meeting		Action
1.	Apologies for absence.	
	- Iain Reeve (GOSE)	
	- Clive Farnham (Highways Agency)	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting	
2.1	Steering Group (SGp) requested that minutes of meetings be circulated with a deadline for comments.	GOSW
2.2	SGp requested clarification of the position regarding presentations to study area MPs/MEPs and the Regional Chamber. Noted that MP/MEP presentation was scheduled for 26 th June 2000. See 'Participation' for reference to Regional Chamber.	
2.3	SGp asked whether access to models had been resolved. Halcrow noted that this has not yet been fully achieved, but was not yet a critical issue. SGp offered to assist if access was a problem.	

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2.4	SGp agreed that the minutes on the website should carry a 'disclaimer' to ensure that any views of individual members of the SGp are considered 'personal' and not necessarily those of the body they represent. Agreed to find and include an appropriate form of words.	GOSW Halcrow
3.	Matters arising not on the agenda	
	No matters were considered outside discussion of other items.	
4.	Commissioning Report	
4.1	Any significant issues relating to the report should be discussed at the SGp. Comments on any matters of detail should be sent to Halcrow within 2 weeks of the meeting. Halcrow would then issue the final version of the Commissioning Report.	SGp
4.2	Halcrow outlined key issues in the report (as identified by Halcrow), including the study area, participation strategy, reference case, survey programme and dates of future steering group meetings.	
4.3	Some general points made:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - missing some regional objectives. GOSW to provide Regional Planning Guidance background documents for reference 	GOSW
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CO₂ emissions not specifically referred to. Noted this is a sub-objective measure in GOMMMS. Agreed to specifically mention some sub-objectives. 	Halcrow
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainability SW passed over a document on regional sustainability objectives for reference in defining regional objectives. 	
5.	Study Area	
5.1	Halcrow noted the specific intention of the study is to provide an overarching strategy addressing problems on the main routes from London to Penzance and South Wales. Road routes include the M4-M5 (M4 to the Severn Bridge) and M3-A303-A30 from the M25 to Exeter and the A30 and A38 routes west of Exeter. Rail routes include the Great Western main line from London Paddington to Bristol (and Severn Tunnel) and onwards to Exeter and Penzance (including the direct Reading-Taunton line) as well as London Waterloo to Exeter. The overarching strategy will include London to Reading. Problems and solutions will be identified for these main routes. Solutions would not necessarily need to be on these routes.	
5.2	Areas of more detailed study (plans) will depend on problems encountered, and Halcrow	

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will seek guidance from the SGp on the selection of plans to study in detail.

- 5.3 Halcrow noted that plans maybe identified outside the GOSW area. This is not an issue that needs to be decided at present, as the principle of the study programme is to produce an overarching strategy, and in the process refine the plans to be assessed.
- 5.4 Options could include incorporation into the London-Reading study (with possible extensions to the area), a separate study, or expansion of the SWARMMS Steering Group to include greater GOSE area representation (at the Plan stage), or a separate Steering Group (within SWARMMS) to cover GOSE area plans.
- 5.5 SGp noted that taking forward plans in the area between Swindon and Reading was of particular concern, as this falls between the GOSW border and the London-Reading area. SGp agreed that administrative boundaries should not be considered an impediment to producing the best overall strategies from the study.
- 5.6 DETR to liaise with GOSE to consider treatment of plans in the GOSE area, and increase in south east representation on the Steering Group before the plan stage. DETR
- 5.7 Timing of the London-Reading report was raised. In essence, as currently programmed, the study will produce an overarching strategy for the whole study area (including London-Reading) after the London-Reading scoping report is prepared. Suggestion that it could be delayed to fit in with strategy. DETR to include in discussions with GOSE, and liaise with GOSW. Chair indicated it was likely that the final London-Reading report could be delayed accordingly, with an interim report as per programme.
- 5.8 It was queried whether the study area map should include the mainline railway into Wales since the study was not intended to solve problems within Wales. It was, however, accepted that data gathering/or consultations could extend into Wales. To avoid doubt it was agreed to remove the rail route in Wales on the study area map. Halcrow
- 5.9 The National Assembly for Wales was carrying out further investigations on the multi-modal study around Newport in South Wales prior to a decision being made on the study by the Assembly. Data could be available. NA for W agreed to provide summary. NA for W
- 5.10 SGp queried the north-south corridor inclusion (such as A350). For example if issues on a north-south route cause problems on the A303, would SWARMMS suggest solutions off the A303. Agreed it could, review at the time.
- 5.11 A36/A46 study due for completion towards end June/early July. GOSW to feed results into SWARMMS, for reference. GOSW

6. Reference Case

- 6.1 The reference case represents the 'best estimate' of land-uses in the whole region for

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2016. The commissioning report notes that there will be a single reference case, against which a range of transport strategies can be assessed. There is no intention of seeking to alter land use patterns when assessing transport strategies. Agreed alternative land use patterns would be considered at plan level.

- 6.2 SGp noted there should be a prioritised list of strategic developments that could be expected by 2016, and linked to transport infrastructure improvements. Also noted that there is a capacity issue with development growth necessarily related to infrastructure. Halcrow indicated that some form of sensitivity testing could be attempted with lower trip generation rates, though no change to spatial distribution. It was noted that the reference case is an estimate, and not aspirational.
- 6.3 SGp queried who agrees the reference case. Halcrow indicated that the Planning Topic Group was a key meeting, though the results would have to feed back to the Steering Group. Noted that there could be problems as some local authorities may not agree with the reference case.
- 6.4 Halcrow noted that the planning topic group is to be held on 20th July 2000 (at the Pithay). Suggested attendance at planning topic group includes SWRDA, CBI , Sustainability SW, GOSW, GOSE, SWRPC (Dick Owen-Smith can suggest attendee), and SEERA (South East of England Regional Assembly).
- 6.5 SGp raised the issue of forecasting beyond 2016, that this was beyond all current land-use planning horizons, so a 'best guess' would be required. It was noted that looking beyond 2016 could be required for schemes that could be post 2016. Halcrow noted it would be appropriate to assume that such schemes would be in place at 2016, as it would not make much difference. Capacity could be an issue. Halcrow suggested that tests should ensure that such schemes should not be at capacity in 2016.
- 6.6 Agreed not to model in detail beyond 2016, but to develop 30-year strategy based on results at 2016, and other capacity/development considerations.

7. Participation/Consultation

- 7.1 Halcrow noted that the participation strategy had changed from the commissioning report, and the letter of 2 June, as a result of the design groups that have been held. Attendees at the design groups had reiterated the concerns of south west local authorities that many of potential participants were already in danger of suffering from consultation 'fatigue'. Also, that the 3-3-3 strategic workshop system did not allow for a central focus on the issues. Finally, attendees suggested moving the first local workshops back to after the overarching strategy is produced.
- 7.2 Halcrow indicated that the suggestion of a central focus is being taken up, and a 3-1-1 strategy workshop system is proposed. 3 in July (as currently planned) for problems/issues, with 1 in September/October for options and 1 in

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November/December for strategies and recommendations. Venue for single workshops are not decided, but options suggested include Bristol, Taunton, Salisbury and Exeter. However, there is no proposal to change initial local workshops from the autumn.

- 7.3 SGp agreed to go with 3-1-1 strategy workshops. Venues for single workshops to be decided, though Exeter generally supported.
- 7.4 SGp queried role in reviewing workshop attendee lists. Agreed to send lists to SGp on 13/6 for review. SGp needs to respond by 15/6. Intention is to send invites out as soon as possible, any glaring errors/omissions should be pointed out quickly. Halcrow noted that not all SGp suggestions will necessarily be added, so as not to bias the mix of stakeholder groups represented at the workshops. Halcrow
- 7.5 Local authority consultation was queried. Halcrow outlined intention to present to groups of local authority members and officers; first time in August/September between 1st and 2nd series of strategy workshops and again between the 2nd and 3rd (in October/November).
- 7.6 SGp agreed a presentation on 21 July to the Regional Chamber/PPAG, as this group would be heavily involved in drafting the Regional Transport Strategy. The Chamber is as yet not significantly involved in transport matters. A similar presentation will be needed for south east equivalent. SGp to sort out details of 21 July meeting and liaise with GOSW. CBI
- 7.7 A meeting of technical officers group (TOG) on 14 July was expecting some form of presentation. Agreed this was not to take place, as this would be covered by presentations to local authority officers and members. GOSW to liaise with TOG. GOSW
- 7.8 A presentation is to be given to MPs and MEPs by Halcrow/GOSW/SE on 26th June (12:30pm at Great Minster House). It was agreed that SGp members would not be invited to attend, but feedback would be provided to the SGp. It was agreed that GOSW would send the invitees a briefing pack before the event. GOSW

8. Topic Groups

- 8.1 Planning Topic Group (20th July) crucial in discussing reference case. Dick Owen-Smith suggested as a source of information for attendees from SWRPC.
- 8.2 SGp suggested that a 'Social Inclusion' topic group would be a good idea. Halcrow noted that not all 'topics' need to have a separate group, and that the main purpose of these meetings would be information gathering. SGp undecided about social inclusion group. Chair to seek advice from Celia Carrington about potential attendees and feasibility. Chair

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9. Surveys

9.1 Halcrow noted that surveys are going to take place (various RSIs, rail and coach interviews and attitudinal/SP surveys) in June-August period.

9.2 SGp queried whether air surveys are included. Halcrow noted that the intention was to use the SW Air Services Study. It was noted that this study is not complete, but that we may be able to have access to the data used – will find out. Chair

9.3 No surveys are to be conducted in Wales.

9.4 Halcrow noted that underlying assumption being used in the study is that models and existing data will be made available. SGp reiterated that any problems should be noted to GOSW as soon as it becomes an issue. Halcrow

10. Steering Group Meetings

Dates of next two meetings have to change from draft commissioning report:

- 10th August 2000 changes to 8th August 2000
- 12th October 200 changes to 17th October 2000

11. Next Meeting

Date of next Steering Group meeting – 8th August 2000, at The Pithay.