

MOVING TRANSPORT FORWARD WITH OUR PARTNERS



WHAT CHALLENGES DOES THE SOUTH EAST FACE?

Together with skills and affordable housing, an effective transport system is one of the fundamental requirements for the continuing competitiveness of our region. Businesses and communities need reliable and secure transport links, as well as improved access to education, employment and services.

Keeping goods moving between their port of arrival, or factory, and their markets in the UK, as well as providing access for foreign investment, is an important driver for regional economic development.

Whilst our transport infrastructure is extensive, it suffers from congestion and lacks a coherent, co-ordinated approach across the region. The region's transport system also has a number of bottlenecks in the road and rail network which add to congestion, travel time delays and lack of connectivity and continuity of access throughout the region.

HOW DOES THE SOUTH EAST MEET THESE CHALLENGES?

If we want to compete in a global market and continue to benefit from our economic success, we need to produce a clear framework for the prioritisation of investment across the region.

In order to sustain business growth in the South East, access to international gateways is very important. This means enabling the sustainable growth of our ports and airports to aid movement of people and goods to Europe and the world.

Controlling road traffic congestion through demand management is now widely accepted as an essential element of urban renaissance, and an integral part of the overall transport policy for the region. To address the problems faced in the South East, we must investigate innovative ways of managing transport demand.

We also need to enable sustainable mobility for everyone in the region, recognising that this means much more than simply access to a car.

SEEDA, through the HSTconnect project, will make improvements to the Station Plaza at Hastings to provide better connection to the main commercial core of the town centre and station, enhancing access for buses, taxis and cycles.



The increase in car use in the UK has led to problems of traffic congestion, higher carbon dioxide emissions and reduced exercise opportunities. In Oxford, people are being encouraged to use established alternatives to the car, such as cycling and walking.



WHAT IS SEEDA'S ROLE?

The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and its partners are working towards securing investment in a sustainable transport network in order to improve connectivity. To do this, SEEDA is influencing national strategies on development and transport issues to take account of regional priorities and investment requirements by:

- Assessing the feasibility of transport projects of regional economic importance.

Heathrow Airport is Britain's global hub airport and one of the UK's major centres of employment. AirTrack is a new rail link that would link Heathrow's new Terminal 5 with Reading and Guildford. The scheme would significantly improve London's orbital railway system to the South and West of the capital and into the Thames Valley. By providing regular and reliable rail transport, AirTrack could attract up to 15 million passengers a year and take 5,000 cars off the roads during peak hours.

- Leading on research intelligence to inform Government thinking on key regional issues by commissioning studies with partners, such as the commuter flow study for the Greater South East and the Freight Intermodality and Exchange on Seas and Straits in Europe (FINESSE) rail freight study.

FINESSE sought to secure more sustainable and commercially feasible ways of transporting freight



Reading Station is a key hub in the national rail network. Investments, made through the SEEDA-led HSTconnect project, focus on improvements to the existing interchange.

from the Continent across the Dover Straits to the UK. The project focused on shifting freight transport from road to rail and sea. Feasibility studies identified the transport policy and infrastructure requirements to do this. Intermodal Port Access and Commodities Transport in Europe (IMPACTE) builds on the outcomes of FINESSE. It aims to increase freight transport between the UK and the Continent by rail and ship, reducing the social and environmental costs of road transport. In the UK the project involves small scale investments at the ports of Southampton, Portsmouth and Ramsgate. It will also raise awareness of the vital role of ports in the growth of the regional and national economy and the contribution of ports to the regeneration of local communities and businesses.



The South East region is the gateway to Europe. It is home to 11 sea ports and has good links to the Continent via the Channel Tunnel and Dover, the largest ferry port in the North West of Europe.

- Engaging in European, national, regional and local policy debates, such as the South East Plan, to ensure that economic development issues related to infrastructure are taken into account.
- Providing new transport solutions to enable greater mobility for all in the region.

The key objective of the Mid Sussex Transport Project (MSTP) is to implement an affordable, sustainable and flexible transport service for all members of the community and improve the quality, safety and choice available. Particularly in non metropolitan areas of the South East that do not have a high frequency of



SEEDA, through the Mid Sussex Transport Project, is looking at solutions for providing transport in rural areas to enable communities to access services, employment and education.



Transport congestion is a challenge for the South East with increased traffic, and longer travel to work times. SEEDA is working with partners to deliver integrated transport and development schemes of strategic national and regional value.

public transport services, it is important to provide innovative transport solutions in order to enable the community to access services, employment and education. These new services can operate on a demand responsive basis, using smaller vehicles to take people from their homes to bus or rail stations.

- Securing funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to speed up delivery of projects and share best practice with partners across Europe.

The HST4i project is investigating the economic development opportunities around stations on high speed rail links in the UK and Europe, and funding infrastructure projects associated with those links. The locations being targeted in the UK are: Ashford and Ebbsfleet in Kent; and Stratford and Kings Cross/ St Pancras in London.

- Acting as a statutory consultee on planning applications to ensure that proposed developments are: sustainable in terms of infrastructure provision; supporting the economic development in line with the Regional Economic Strategy (RES); and integrating land use and transport planning.



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