



Government Office  
for the South East

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### **REPORT INTO SOUTH COAST TRANSPORT PUBLISHED**

A report setting out wide-ranging proposals to improve transport on the South Coast was published today.

The Government Office for the South East commissioned consultants Halcrow to develop a long-term strategy to balance the need for economic development while protecting and improving the South Coast environment. The study area runs from Southampton to Margate.

The proposals include measures to increase public transport use, while also dealing with a number of notorious bottlenecks along the A27 and reducing congestion in urban areas.

In developing the strategy, more than 4,000 comments were received during the three phases of public consultation.

Regional and local stakeholders, such as Local Authorities, environmental groups and local business organisations, will now consider Halcrow's findings. The South East England Regional Assembly will seek the views of interested parties before considering these and the study's recommendations at its full Assembly meeting in November. The Assembly's formal views will then be considered by Ministers who will make decisions on the way forward.

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### **Notes to Editors**

1. The South Coast Multi-Modal Study was officially launched in June 2001.
2. The study stems from concern about congestion, safety and environmental problems of transport on the South Coast between Southampton and Margate, and a wish to improve access to and between the regeneration areas and other areas of economic activity along the South Coast. The consultants were asked to consider the contribution of transport modes to resolving these concerns.
3. This study precedes the Highways Agency's Route Management Strategy for the corridor and is intended to provide a much wider range of solutions over a longer time-span.
4. In June 2001, the public were consulted at the "problems and issues" stage and in October they were consulted on potential solutions. They were also consulted in the early part of this year on the consultants emerging 'preferred strategy' proposals. The consultants have taken into account the comments received during the consultation in developing their final recommended strategy.
5. The study recommendations will initially be considered by the Regional Assembly's Planning Committee at its meeting on 15 October and, subsequently at the full Assembly meeting to be held on 20 November. Comments submitted to the Regional Assembly by 30 September will be considered by the Regional Planning Committee.
6. The published report can be viewed on the study website – [www.socomms.org](http://www.socomms.org)

**ENDS.**

**Issued on behalf of the Government Office for the South East by Government News Network London and South East. Media enquiries to Peter O'Connor/Sarah Weston. Tel: 020 7261 8815/8733.**

**Study website:** [www.socomms.org.uk](http://www.socomms.org.uk)

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