



TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS for the SOUTH COAST

Your chance to have your say

Welcome to the first issue of this newsletter. It provides the first of several opportunities for you to have your say in helping Government develop a better transport system for the future.

The comments we receive from you will become part of a major study - the South Coast Corridor Multi Modal Study (SoCoMMs) - which will make recommendations for future transport along the South Coast in the Spring of next year.

So, if your home, workplace or business is in the area; if you study here or if you regularly use the trains, buses, roads, ports or airports along the South Coast, this leaflet offers you the opportunity to air your views on the transport issues and challenges currently facing you.



Tell us what you think

Over the next twelve months, the study will be talking to a broad range of people and groups with an interest in transport and the environment and listening to what they have to say. It is important that we hear what your opinions are - the questionnaire in this newsletter is one of many ways for you to make them known.



WHAT IS SoCoMMs?

The need for better transport networks is one of today's most important issues. Together with its impact on our environment and quality of life, transport also has a major role to play in long-term economic prosperity and the regeneration of key target areas.

To enable Government to deliver better transport and plan for the future, it has commissioned a number of major transport studies. These will look at current challenges and issues, how they might change over time and how they might best be addressed to serve the needs of people, businesses and the environment.

SoCoMMs is one of these studies. It focuses on a diverse transport network which extends along the South Coast in a 150-mile arc between Southampton and Ramsgate.

Why Carry out the Study?

In the past, many transport schemes have been considered separately from one another. This meant, for example, that little attention was paid to railways when new road schemes were being planned and vice versa. This approach is disjointed and can lead to duplication, with certain areas benefiting while others miss out.

The Government is committed to having a fully integrated transport system where rail, road, sea and air are considered together. SoCoMMs will set out to achieve this and bear in mind the needs of both passengers and freight.



What are the Transport Challenges?

The challenges within the SoCoMMs area are varied.

Congestion - Many people will be aware of the congestion that occurs on our roads, both within town centres and elsewhere.

Overcrowding - this is a problem on some South Coast rail and bus routes, with many people feeling that services need improvement.

Environment - reducing the impact of traffic levels - through reducing noise and fumes for example - is a major challenge.

Safety - safety on road and rail, as well as on sea and air routes, is a major issue for consideration.

Economic regeneration - a number of areas along the South Coast have been targeted for regeneration and economic development - how can transport assist in helping sustainable growth?

Public transport - the study is not just about towns. Much of the area is rural and many people have to rely on their cars where public transport is not available. Getting public transport to work - both in towns and the countryside - will also be a key challenge.



WHERE ARE THE CHALLENGES?

The study needs to look at current and future travel demand and decide if the number, or length of journeys can be reduced.

It also needs to look at existing rail, road and sea routes to see if they serve current needs and to see how they might be improved or enhanced in the future.

In doing this the key transport networks will need to be considered. They include:

- the South Coast railway, linking Southampton to Ashford, and the branch lines to Gosport, Portsmouth & Southsea, Bognor, Littlehampton, Newhaven and Seaford;
- the railway links between Wivelsfield, Hove / Brighton and Lewes, the links from Ashford to Canterbury, Ramsgate, Eurotunnel, Folkestone, Dover, Deal and Ramsgate and the link between Canterbury to Dover; and
- the road corridor between Cadnam and Brenzett (M27, A27 and A259), the two alternative routes between Brenzett and Ramsgate (A259, A20 and A256 via

Folkestone and the A2070, A28 and A253 via Ashford), and the routes between Ashford and Folkestone (M20) and Canterbury and Dover (A2).

In addition, the study will look at the current and future role of shipping facilities - including ferry services - seaports, airports, pipelines and the Channel Tunnel.

SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Some challenges that will need to be considered during the study will include:

Should rail:

- Continue to cater for short-to-medium distance travel only?
- Be given a bigger role in providing services between one town/city and another?
- Play a greater role in carrying local freight and cargo from ports?

Should the road network:

- Provide a major strategic road along the whole corridor or parts of it?
- Provide an improved local road network which connects neighbouring



towns/cities and offers links to the north/south routes?

- Allow for the creation of new roads which can be integrated into the surrounding area so that the environmental gains in towns/cities outweigh the impacts elsewhere?
- Contribute towards regenerating the economies of towns in the area (eg Eastbourne, Hastings, Dover and Ramsgate)?

Do you have any views on the above ?

Are there other issues that also need to be addressed?

Please use the space below to tell us what you think.

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Q.1 Please indicate whether you think the following are transport problems, and if so how serious (please tick only one box on each line)

	serious problem	slight problem	not a problem	positive feature	don't know
Car Travel					
Traffic congestion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Journey time reliability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Road safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bus Travel					
Service frequency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travel times	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service reliability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travel comfort	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buses don't go where I want to	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Obtaining good information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coach Travel					
Travel times	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service reliability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coaches don't go where I want to	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Obtaining good information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Q.2 Are you? Male Female

Q.3 Which age group do you belong to?

Under 18 18 - 24 25 - 34 35 - 44
 45 - 54 55 - 59 60 - 64 65 or older

Q.4 Please tell us where you live - the first half of your post code is all we need

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Q.5 How often do you use the following forms of transport?

	5+ times a week	2-4 times a week	once a week	less often	never
Car	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Train	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q.1 (Continued) - Please indicate whether you think the following are transport problems, and if so how serious (please tick only one box on each line)

	serious problem	slight problem	not a problem	positive feature	don't know
Rail Services					
Service frequency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travel times	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service reliability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travel comfort	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trains don't go where I want to	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Obtaining good information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interchange with buses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lorries					
Congestion affects lorries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speed of lorries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lorries can be intimidating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Number of lorries on the road	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air and Sea					
Access to main airports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to sea ports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Transport					
Availability of public transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost of car travel in rural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic speeds in rural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Environment					
Overall quality of the environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport noise and pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic impact on local communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of greenfield sites for development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Economy					
Congestion effects on local businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Congestion effects on access to jobs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disadvantaged Groups					
Transport for those without access to a car	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport for people with disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This questionnaire can also be accessed from the SoCoMMs website (socomms.org.uk) and can then be submitted to us via the internet.

The website is available 24-hours a day and contains more information about the study.

Alternatively, you may e-mail comments to us directly at socomms@halcrow.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

Any information given will be treated confidentially and will not be passed on to third parties.

YOUR VIEWS ARE VITAL

It is essential to the success of this study that as many people as possible have the opportunity to give their views on the major transport issues in the area.

Your response is very important to us. We will look at all responses, together with information from other sources, to help identify the range of challenges that the study needs to address.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

This newsletter and questionnaire (together with our web site www.socomms.org.uk) provides the first of a number of opportunities for you to get involved. Our aim is to get as many views as possible from throughout the study area on the transport issues affecting it.

The findings of this first stage of participation will be set out in the second newsletter to be issued in Autumn 2001. You will then have another chance to contribute by offering your views on possible long term transport solutions for the area.

Then in early 2002, after we have examined all of the ideas put forward, a further newsletter and travelling exhibition will be used to illustrate how the best of these might contribute towards providing an emerging transport strategy for the area. Once again your views will be sought before any decisions are made regarding the way forward.



HOW CAN YOU KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE STUDY?

You can let us know your thoughts at any time by logging on to the SoCoMMs website at www.socomms.org.uk or by writing to us at SoCoMMs, Halcrow Group Limited, Vineyard House, 44 Brook Green, London W6 7BY.

If you would like to receive copies of future newsletters as the study is proceeding, please fill in your details in the section provided.

Remember, you can let us have your views at any time by visiting the website at www.socomms.org.uk and going to the 'What do you think?' section.

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