

SOUTH YORKSHIRE TRANSPORT USERS GROUP

THURSDAY 17 JANUARY 2019

PRESENT: J Hoare (Chair)
I Jenkinson, M Wilson, J Brightmore (Ramblers - Sheffield Group), (Sheffield TUG), M Payling (Donc User Group), N Spetch (Vice-Chair/Rotherham TUG), and D Wrottesley (Hope Valley Rail User Group), M Wilson, M Turner (T4All)

GUESTS: Fred Johnson (Stagecoach), Megan Atkinson (Northern Rail), Nigel Wragg (Supertram), Lauren Eades (Supertram), Darshana Dholakia (SYPTE), Rachel Cowling (SYPTE). Andy Wright (SYPTE)

APOLOGIES: J Whittington (Barnsley TUG), T Taylor (SYPTE)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR/OPEN AND WELCOME

John Hoare was re-elected as Chair and Nigel Spetch as vice-chair
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Introductions were made around the table for the benefit of new attendees.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from J Whittington (BTUG) and T Taylor (SYPTE)

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2018

The question 'What is Mass Transit?' was asked. D Dholakia explained that it is a system of large-scale public transportation such as trains, buses, trams that can commute a large number of passengers from origin to destination on a no-reserved basis and in lesser time.

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2018 were agreed as a true record.

4. BUS

a. UPDATE ON BUS PARTNERSHIPS

A Wright updated the group on the Bus Partnerships and consultation for the upcoming service changes from early March. Almost 1000 consultation responses were received, generally in support of the proposals. Three petitions were received which will be presented to the SCR CA meeting on 28 January.

Details of the service changes can be found at www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/servicechanges/

b. BUS OPERATORS UPDATES

Disappointment was again expressed with regards to the lack of a representative from First at the meeting.

ACTION: R Cowling to liaise with First and secure representative at next meeting.

ACTION: New agenda item 'Issues raised from district User Group meetings' to be added for future meetings.

Issues raised from district User Group meetings:

RTUG: Complexity of TravelMaster ticket range. Names not explicit of what they are valid for. e.g. SY Connect and SY Connect +. The group felt they would be better named to include the mode of transport they are valid on.

A Wright advised there is an aspiration to improve ticketing across the board on both operator and multi-operator tickets.

N Wragg explained the reasoning behind the ticket names. Once purchased the ticket clearly shows what it is valid on. There is a limit to the amount of information which can be input on to the ticket machines. Works will continue to simplify tickets.

ACTION: SYPTE to feedback comments to TravelMaster.

5. TRAM

a. SUPERTRAM RAIL REPLACEMENT

2019 Rail Replacement works start in April and are focused in the Hillsborough area. There are two more years of rail replacement works scheduled from April 2019. Customer information is to be provided as per previous years.

Works will take place during the summer months due to the nature of the work to minimise disruption and the impact from adverse weather.

b. TRAM TRAIN UPDATE

The two incidents between the Tram Train vehicles and the lorry and the car have been reviewed. The traffic lights are being changed and tram times reviewed.

The Service is running well and usage is as expected. Currently promoting the service to build patronage including radio ads and door-dropping leaflets. Investigating Park & Ride at Magna.

Network Rail engineering works on Sundays scheduled up to end of February will affect Tram Train services.

6. TRAIN

a. UPDATE FROM TRAIN OPERATORS

M Atkinson provided an update to the group:

- New trains are coming this year and refurbishment of vehicles is also continuing. Driver training is being carried out for new vehicles.
- Stations are being improved via Station Investment funding.
- Consultation is currently ongoing re May timetable changes and communication late January.
- Improvements seen post December timetable changes.
- Strikes continue but discussions with RMT planned.

The group asked when Sheffield to Doncaster and Sheffield to Worksop trains will be replaced? It seems that Manchester trains are being given priority.

M Atkinson advised there is a phased approach to replacement.

A discussion was held around service issues since May 2018 service changes.

It is felt that there is little done by way of revenue protection in that tickets are not always inspected e.g. At Meadowhall people are permitted to just walk past the inspectors with little or no inspection.

The issue re requirement to purchase a ticket prior to boarding a train was raised again. Kiveton Park station given as an example as ticket machine is on the Sheffield side of station but if travelling in opposite direction you need to cross the bridge to purchase tickets and then cross back to the other side for the train. The group were previously advised that signage will be changed to advise customers that tickets can be purchased on the train for travel in the opposite direction. When will this take place, and can reassurance be provided that penalty fares will not be incurred?

ACTION: M Atkinson to investigate and feed back to the group

7. MASS TRANSIT

The Future of Supertram consultation was held 24 September to 5 November 2018, 2,888 responses received. 88% support for renewal and modernization of the tram system, 67% in support of maintenance and repair with 78% opposed to looking at alternatives. The consultation feedback is included in the Outline Business case to DfT. Further consultation will be held.

8. SHEFFIELD CITY REGION TRANSPORT STRATEGY REFRESH AND CONSULTATION - NEXT STEPS

The SCR Transport strategy is to be presented to the SCR CA meeting on 28/1/19. Papers published 21/1/19.

Transforming Cities fund:

- Bid for up to £9.3M of investment was submitted on 4/1/19 for six schemes – 4 x customer active travel, 1 x information and 1 x retro-fit of buses.
- The outcome of this bid is expected in March and SCR will need to start spending any funding in April.
- Next phase is to submit bids in June up to value of £180M for Infrastructure (Capital) schemes such as P & R, rail stations etc.

ACTION: the group to consider any ideas for potential schemes to include in the bid.

Suggestions so far include:

- Tram extension to NGH
- Dig car park below Lady Springs Wood to address congestion on Abbeydale Road at Dore
- Doubling of railway track through Dore and Totley

9. MEMBERS ITEMS

M Turner advised Shop Mobility funding has been withdrawn so had to close. What is the point of all singing all dancing transport if disabled people cannot get around places when they alight public transport?

ACTION: D Dholakia to investigate SYPTE role in Shop Mobility. Post meeting drafting note: DD has looked into this and this is a project that SYPTE has not been involved in funding, so they were responsible for any decisions about funding withdrawal.

The group wish to raise with Mayor possibility of free travel with ENCTS pass beyond 11pm

D Dholakia advised this is something along with many other items that has been submitted to the SCR Mayor for consideration..

I Jenkinson asked when feedback could be expected on the TfN strategy.

ACTION: SYPTE to investigate

D Wrottersley expressed his view that the issues for patients resulting from the relocation of the medical center to Jordanthorpe should not be laid at SYPTE's door.

D Dholakia updated the group on correspondence with Louise Haigh MP.

10. ROTHERHAM INTERCHANGE PROGRESS

Rotherham Interchange refurbishment - Work progressing well, on track and on budget to re-open early March 2019. Launch event planned and a stakeholder event ahead of opening. The group expressed enthusiasm for the plan to have SCR Mayor in attendance at the event.

11. FORWARD PLANNER

Request for Arriva Cross Country to attend the meeting

ACTION: R Cowling to discuss with the rail team and arrange

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

17 April 2019

