



## One City Transport Board

<b>Date/time</b>	11:00-13:00, Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	
<b>Location</b>	The Bordeaux Room, City Hall	
<b>Co-chairs</b>	Cllr. Donald Alexander (BCC), Melanie Watson (Transport Focus)	
<b>Meeting Attendees:</b>		
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Cllr. Donald Alexander (BCC), Melanie Watson (Transport Focus), Gordon Richardson (Disabilities Equality Commission), Adam Crowther (BCC), Ian Quaife deputising for Christina Stokes (Bristol Older People's Forum - BOPF), Susan Carter (Bristol Walking Alliance), Richard Cooper – deputising for Randall Rickabaugh, (Enterprise Holdings), Sean Walsh (Highways England), Katy Taylor (Bristol Women's Commission), Mya Parker (Bristol City Youth Council - BCYC), Stewart Cundy (University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW), Toby Wells (Bristol Cycling Campaign), Carole Stevens (First Bus), Sue Arrowsmith (First Bus), David Redgewell, Ben Bowskill – deputising for Zoe Banks Gross (Sustrans), Mya Parker (Youth Council)	
<b>Observers</b>	Jacob Pryor (BCC), Octavia Clouston (City Office), Allan Macleod (City Office), Martin James (BCC), Emma Edwards (BCC), David Wilcox (BCC), Press (Bristol 24/7)	
<b>Invitees</b>		
<b>Apologies</b>	Carrie Chamberlin (Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership), Shevaun hunt (Unite the Union), Malcolm Parsons (Network Rail), Mark Hopwood (Great Western Railway), Dan Okey (Great Western Railway), Zoe Banks Gross (Sustrans), Belinda Nicholls (Bristol Community Transport), Christina Stokes (Bristol Older People's Forum - BOPF), Randall Rickabaugh, (Enterprise Holdings), Neil Havill (Priority Express), Zoe Banks Gross (Sustrans),	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	
<b>1) Welcome and Introduction – Cllr. Donald Alexander (DA), Melanie Watson (MW)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairs gave welcome and introductions</li> </ul>		
<b>2) Task and finish update – 15 mins</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JP gave an update on the board Task and Finish Groups' progress:</li> <li>JP explained that the T and F groups are separate from the board meetings and their meeting frequency is dependent on need.</li> <li>There are currently two active groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freight consolidation and mobility hubs.</li> <li>There have been 2 sessions each since the last board meeting</li> <li>The Freight group met on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, evri, amazon and royal mail have joined and its become more representative of the sector – Lloyd Allan talked about the EV strategy and the plans for rolling out charge centres which should support freight fleets. There's a follow up conversation with royal mail about support to electrify their fleet, royal mail also brought a report which looked at trialling a virtual freight consolidation trial (taking historic data from freight consolidators and analysing how</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

much carbon is being emitted from freight, how many miles etc and what carbon savings would be made if they were all brought to the royal mayor hub instead)

- Mobility hub is a project being developed by WECA to pull different mobility services together in one area (cargo bikes, loan bikes, scooter, car etc all in one place) there are 6 sites being mooted for Bristol and a few more in South Gloucester. This is a difficult project as it demands engaging with different suppliers to bring projects together, the group is looking to input into that process. The Waking Alliance, Firstbus, Voi etc are looking at the preliminary designs. Half of the sites were covered in the last meeting, at the next, the group will go through the next half and feed into the design process ahead of construction. They are also advising on the component specification list.

Discussion

- TW apologised for being unable to participate and asked if Bristol cycle could contribute retrospectively and flagged that the timing is not accessible for those with day jobs who's role on the board is a result of a voluntary commitment outside of work hours.
- DR flagged that the rail freight industry sees Avonmouth as a key location and asked if the freight liners are being engaged about distribution within the city region? - DA answered that Western gateway strategic transport board has a rail strategy so South Gloucester should be engaging with that.
- DA asked: are they engaging into the site in Avonmouth in this particular stage?
- JP suggested getting in touch with Andrew Davis to pick up this discussion.
- DA flagged that Brompton bikes is setting up a hub in Stratford and are interested in other places to set up.
- AM suggested linking them up with the business improvement districts who are working on net zero with the Bristol Green Capital Partnership.
- DR flagged that, before press releases go out, there should be a soft launch of Bristol port and ride – DA answered that there are 6 partners to that project who need to be engaged.

**3) Bristol Innovation Group Intern – Hannah Hodge**

- JP explained that Hannah Hodge was due to give a presentation on different engagement techniques the council could do on bringing young people into consultations
- BB flagged that Sustrans is running a project with UWE which involves convening a panel of young people who give their opinion on transport policy
- AM flagged that the Bristol Innovation Group is holding an event to celebrate the work of the Bristol Innovation Group Interns on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November – CS flagged that she would be interested in finding out more and firstbus is exploring how to recruit younger people to the transport industry and is offering support to young people learning to drive to encourage them to then drive buses.
- Sue Smith flagged that they are about to start the trial with car drivers – this will then hopefully be included as part of an apprenticeship scheme.
- AM stated that the City Office would send the Bristol Innovation Group invitation through to the firstbus team.

AM stated that the City Office would send the Bristol Innovation Group invitation through to the firstbus team

--	--

**4) 'Acts of Kindness – Bristol' Presentation**

Carole Stevens gave a presentation on mental health of bus drivers (see paper 1)

- CS Explained:
- She came to the last Transport Board Meeting and heard presentations on road safety and thought about the impact of mental health on drivers and the impact of this on road safety.
- The bus industry has spent years promoting physical health with their bus drivers but there is less of an emphasis on mental health and its impact on road safety.
- This is linked to the recruitment crisis within the industry specifically within bus drivers.
- One of the biggest reasons for bus drivers leaving is how they're treated.
- The mental health foundation have done surveys that have found that 60% of adults have described a positive impact on their mental health as a result of kindness.
- CS asked members to be aware that one of the main reasons that drivers are leaving is due to treatment by customers.
- DA asked if there will be a comms campaign? – CS confirmed.
- DA asked if the industry is open to all ages and flagged that it used to be very difficult for 55 year olds to get work. - CS confirmed that Age is not a barrier.
- IQ stated that he would take this opportunity back to the Older People's Forum.
- IQ asked if the forum could work with first bus to access older people who may be interested in this opportunity. SA stated that she would involve IQ.
- KT asked if the firstbus team could send through the recruitment drive targeted to women to her for distribution – City Office to connect KT and SA
- DR asked if there could be more personal engagement and officers on the streets able to explain to passengers what is going on.

IQ asked if the forum could work with firstbus to access older people who may be interested in this opportunity. SA stated that she would involve IQ.

KT asked if the firstbus team could send through the recruitment drive targeted to women

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CS reminded the group that the goal is to shift treatment of drivers in a more positive direction.</li> <li>• TW raised the resource of mental health first aiding which gives companies the opportunity to train employees to be a resource for emotional support.</li> <li>• BB asked how quickly one could progress from driver to bus driver and asked whether you need to be able to drive a car for a set amount of time before becoming a bus driver – CS challenged this and explained that while some companies ask for a minimum number of years driving, it is not a legal requirement.</li> <li>• SCundy stated that he was also a bus driver at 18 when there were social clubs for drivers and asked what firstbust does for the social aspect for the drivers? – CS explained that they still offer social infrastructure but flagged that there is more of an emphasis on facilitating a work life balance for drivers.</li> <li>• DA asked if there are more female drivers now than when CS first started? CS answered that the proportion of female drivers as remained static and stated that there need to be more. CS flagged that the industry needs to be more accessible to attract women (toilets, shift flexibility, safety etc)</li> <li>• KT flagged that Women’s Voice met with the head of EDI for Firstbus last week to have conversations about ways to improve accessibility for bus users and bus drivers.</li> <li>• KT challenged the idea that women would be discouraged from applying due to the job and suggested that the issue is workplace culture</li> <li>• DR reminded the group that BCC and WECA have a regular committee with the Police and SARI and these workstreams are being very actively addressed though there is always more that can be done.</li> </ul>	<p>to her for distribution – City Office to connect KT and SA</p>
---	---

**5) Reflection on the year and the role of the Board Member - All**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AM explained that the City Office refreshed the membership of the board in March of this year to get in new voices and make the board more reflective of the transport sector. The City Office wants to think about where the board has been and how it is working for board members.</li> <li>• AM introduced the areas of focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The role of the board member (organisational representative, partner etc)</li> <li>- This agenda item is thinking about what you get form this as a board and whether you have any concerns about the way that the board operates and the role of the board member.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• JP flagged that the task and finish group meetings work better as smaller meetings (3-5 people), beyond that the meetings can become dominated by the loud voices. JP also raised that members with similar concerns tend to work better in the task and finish group setting (freight = shared challenges)</li> <li>• TW flagged that it has been positive to make connections with other board members and develop fringe projects which was one of the goals of the board - However there may need to be a distinction between the ways different organisations contribute (large vs small) – to make it easier for volunteers to participate. TW also flagged that the process of building the agenda is opaque and asked how the board members can shape the agendas more.</li> </ul>	
--	--

- MW flagged that the chairs actively welcome ideas from board members for the agenda setting but raised that there are few ideas sent in.
- AM explained that there are some items that are part of larger workstreams and some items are a result of direct contacts from board members or associated members within the industry.
- DR raised the issue of taking success forward – DA challenged this – DR stated that the agendas need to pick up the areas that are needing/receiving funding or a note from City Office to update members on the successes of transport projects in the city or about where they can engage with consultations.
- DA answered that there is very limited support resource for this – AM flagged that much of the previous board was focused on Council Activity and moving away from this was a conscious objective of the refresh, to shift towards partnership and opportunities for collaboration rather than a cascade of council information, however this can be re-addressed if the board members would like it to be.
- TW suggested that there could be a happy medium achieved and that there has been too significant a shift to the intangible and the board would benefit from a greater awareness of active or proposed policy.
- MW flagged that the key is that the board is about collaboration and we should be wary of shifting back into a council-lead model – TW challenged this and flagged that the voluntary sector is largely looking to influence the council rather than provide their own projects. They represent a voice.
- MW flagged that this role is about support and taking away actions – there are already mechanisms for consultations to be popularised within the council, this board does not need to focus on that, this is a space for articulating the challenges that the council is not already addressing to make a real difference.
- SA stated that there is a lot of officer level work within the Council that goes on without involving organisations and suggested that there could be a policy newsletter ahead of the agenda being sent out for the transport board which allows board members to engage with the ongoing workstreams.
- DA flagged that JP would have to compile this – SA suggested that this could be a job of getting the information from different officers.
- JP suggested that this would take up a significant amount of time and shift the emphasis of the board back to a council-lead structure - SA reiterated that this would be sent out in advance and allocated a small amount of the agenda.
- CS reinforced how valuable she has found the conversations in the meeting today that have illuminated areas for collaboration that she had not been aware of.
- DR suggested attendance from WECA – DA Agreed.
- BB flagged that he was unaware you could suggest agenda items and reiterated that this is useful and asked if the group has covered the Clean Air Zone. – DA confirmed that this has been covered in the past but again raised the issue of becoming council lead.
- DA agreed that a half page newsletter would be great but raised concern that this is unrealistic in terms of how much content there actually is.
- IQ raised that in his role, a phone call will come in with a challenge and the issue is how to go from that phone call to decision making on policy.

## 6) One City Plan Refresh

- AM explained that originally the OCP was written in 2019 as an internal consultation exercise. The next one in 2021 was after the covid pandemic and focused on integrating the challenges from the pandemic into the plan. After this plan the City Office held a workshop with city partners and received the feedback that the refresh should be less frequent and the interim time should be spent focused on delivery. As a result, the next refresh will take place in June 2023. So far there have been consultation workshops with council officers and more booked in with the equalities groups, councillors, VCSE groups and more. There will then be more focused groups with board members looking at the current plan in January exploring the themes. One of the key themes that has come up is: What can we do as partners that actually enables delivery?
- AM focused the board on:
  - What are the key challenges facing the Transport sector in the next 10-15 years?
  - What are some of the unrealistic areas that the Board has committed to addressing through the goals?
  - What solutions can you/your organisation bring to these key challenges through partnership working?
- SCarter flagged that the pedestrian is top of the transport hierarchy and that needs to be reflected. SCarter suggested keeping mass transit out of the plan and implementing short term clear targets in the local shift to get more people using alternative modes of transport as mass transit is already well-represented in Council strategies.
- SCarter stated that the Board needs to focus on complementary measures that will improve travel in the city more immediately and encourage walking, cycling and use of public transport. SCarter clarified that this does not necessarily mean more capital expenditure as reducing car flows will help.
- SA raised the issue of congestion and Bus priority. Firstbus have set a goal to decarbonise their fleet by 2030. For them to make the business case to make those changes they would need to be able to say its viable to have clean buses in Bristol.
- DA flagged that the issue with having only short term goals is that the groundwork for larger projects never gets laid – SCarter agreed but flagged that there needs to be a mixture of short and long term goals.
- SA asked for regular carrots to make sure people keep making the right moves – SC suggested sticks as well such as road pricing.
- KT asked if it would be worth increasing focus on accessibility and inclusivity and building that in inherently. By changing some of the language in some of the places ‘all people’, ‘proportionate’ ‘representative increase in the use of x,y,z’ we can build in this shift of mindset.
- JP flagged that there is data available to support this shift (quality of life survey etc)
- BB asked if there have been measurements after each plan to see what was and wasn’t achieved – AM answered that annual reports have been released after the last 2 plans which are mapped against the goals but the challenge with this

<p>mapping is that much of the City Office’s work is intangible, and progress is combatted by the national shocks the country has undergone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BB reiterated the importance of measuring, reporting back and transparency.</li> <li>• AM flagged that there is frustration that resourcing has meant that the team cannot share as much as they want in terms of communications.</li> <li>• TW asked if these timelines are the goals of the board of the goals of the city/council and asked what the role of the board is in delivering these council goals if the board has distanced itself from council processes – AM answered that the goals are for both the City and the Board. The board member’s role is to choose what they want to work on and drive a strategic vision with the task and finish on a more delivery-based project level. The Council is a key partner in all One City Work but the challenge is keeping the public perception from being that the Council is The Partner.</li> <li>• TW suggested separating Council goals from One City Board Goals? – AM confirmed and stated that this is why we are holding a refresh.</li> <li>• SW flagged that he represents a national organisation and has found it difficult to see his place in this room but suggested it is to reassure board members that this is not the only space in which these conversations are going on. There are tangible outputs to solutions from the problems addressed here, being made elsewhere.</li> <li>• DA encouraged SW to give a presentation at an upcoming board.</li> <li>• DR agreed with SCarter but flagged that they are very close to getting mass transit off the ground and stated that mass transit should not be taken out of the timelines.</li> <li>• AM flagged that the notes have been captured and proposed themes for the focus groups in January will be circulated.</li> </ul>	
--	--

<b>7) AOB and Open Forum</b>	
------------------------------	--

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MW asked for AOB and suggested that Board Members email in any suggestions about focus areas for the next Transport Board Meeting</li> <li>• AM flagged that the City Office is going to be developing the next round of the One City Plan and will be bringing drafts to the next board meeting for the Board Members to have the final say. They will be working with partners over the coming months to establish a timeline and will then come to the board members to confirm the content.</li> <li>• AM also flagged that there will be an EDI-focused City Gathering in the next few months.</li> <li>• AM also flagged that there is a community climate action project that has been awarded some national lottery funding to continue working with 4 communities across the city and have chosen to focus on transport – AM suggested that representatives from this group should attend the next Transport Board Meeting.</li> </ul>	
--	--