

Date: 5th February 2013

1. Local Pinch Point Fund

At the beginning of January, the DfT published guidance to Local Transport Authorities on how to apply to a new £170m Local Pinch Point fund.

The Fund, which is available to LTA's only, is designed to promote economic growth through the rapid deployment of schemes that remove transport barriers or prevent the emergence of new transport barriers – exactly what we have identified within the TDP.

To ensure strong local commitment, promoters will need to assemble at least 30% of total scheme costs.

And, schemes should be delivered "as soon as possible," with funding required to be spent by the end of March 2015.

With a 21-02-13 deadline for submission of bids, an detailed application process, a requirement for a significant local contribution, and a short delivery timescale, potential bids need to be *shovel-ready*.

Hampshire County Council is developing bids for the following schemes:

- Significant capacity improvement to Asda Roundabout at Hulbert Road / Purbrook Way, in Havant
 - This will support the unlocking of the Dunsbury Hill Farm strategic employment site
- BRT Phase 1b (Tichborne Way to Rowner Road – Off-road extension of dedicated busway)
 - This scheme is shovel-ready, and will target reducing congestion on the Gosport peninsula and improving access to urban employment centres.

Southampton City Council is developing bids that will target structural maintenance issues on key highway links and a transport-led urban regeneration scheme at the North of Central Station to unlock employment potential.

Portsmouth City Council is also developing bids that will improve the use for all highway users particularly in the area of Angelsea Road, along the Western Corridor and also in the east of the city.

The announcement of this fund reinforces the benefits of having a robust Transport Delivery Plan and the need to have a pool of schemes ready to take advantage of funding opportunities as they arise. As we progress toward the General Election, we need to be ready to take advantage of our position of strength.

2. Regional Growth Fund

Last month (Jan) BIS launched a further round of the Regional Growth Fund. Of course, our area has already been successful through an earlier round of this Fund with the Platform for Prosperity scheme in Southampton.

This new round makes £350m of funding available with all bids required to be led by the private sector, with the minimum bid threshold being £1m.

The deadline for receipt of completed applications is 12 noon on 20 March 2013.

We will be working with the Solent LEP to consider if this Fund provides any opportunities for the funding of transport schemes in the TfSH area.

3. Ministerial Visit

The Under Secretary of State for Transport – Norman Baker – visited the area on the 9th January, and we were able to show him, first hand, phase 1a of BRT and discuss our plans for the future. The patronage growth is proof that the investment has delivered benefits, and the Minister was clearly impressed.

The visit also provided the opportunity for the Minister to visit the two major transport schemes in Portsmouth, at Tipner and Northern Road Bridge. Whilst the Northern Road Bridge scheme is critical to maintain the performance of the existing highway and rail networks, the Tipner Junction and Park & Ride scheme provides a huge regeneration opportunity to revitalise the Western gateway to Portsmouth and realise development potential.

The Minister will be returning to the area in March, when he will visit Southampton to see how delivery of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund and Better Bus Area Fund projects are progressing. The visit will also provide an opportunity for the Minister to meet with the South Hampshire Bus Operators' Association and see Southampton's exciting plans for transport-led regeneration of the city centre.