

# Motorists Forum

## Minutes of meeting of 02 October 2013

### Attendees:

Edmund King (Chair)	AA
John Lewis	BRVLA
Joe Greenwell	RAC Foundation
Stephen Joseph	Campaign for Better Transport
Garrett Emmerson	TfL
David Bizley	RAC Motoring
Mike Hawes	SMMT
Ginny Clarke	HA
Christopher Macgowan	
David Davies	PACTS
<b>DfT</b>	
Steve Gooding	Director General, Roads, Traffic and Local
John Parkinson	Director, Motoring, Freight and London
John Dowie	Director, Strategic Roads and Smart Ticketing
Paul O'Sullivan	Road Strategy and Charging
Elizabeth Shovelton (items 4-7)	Road Safety Legislation
Tony Boucher (item 6)	Traffic Division
Miriam Lea	DfT, Forum Secretariat

### Apologies

Theo de Pencier	FTA
Nick Starling	ABI
Dave Jones	ACPO
Graham Dalton	HA (represented by Ginny Clarke)

### Item 1 – Welcome, introduction and minutes

Edmund King introduced new members of the Forum – Mike Hawes and Joe Greenwell, and John Parkinson at DfT.

There was a short discussion about information provided to motorists at the road side and on motorway signs, as well as what is currently available on smart devices. There was broad agreement that a more substantial discussion should be had on providing better information to motorists and responding to the digital challenge at the next meeting (**Action: Secretariat**)

The Minute of the last meeting was formally accepted.

### Item 2 – Oral updates

John Dowie outlined that summer had been a busy period with the dramatic rise in roads spending until 2021 announced as part of the Spending Round and the publication of Action for Roads. Work was now being taken forward to prepare for legislation and look at the powers a new strategic roads company would have. A consultation document on the changes to the Highways Agency was expected later

in the autumn. Members were thanked for their input on the issue of the new watchdog.

Work was being taken forward, albeit at a slower pace, to design the Roads Investment Strategy, the first of which was expected in 2014.

Work was also underway in preparation for the Autumn Statement.

The Secretary of State's recent announcement of new schemes as part of the local pinch point programme was noted.

Ginny Clarke covered the item on Circular 02/2013 and a discussion was held about the five changes in the new Circular, notably about whether the Agency's powers to mitigate the impacts of development - specifically increased congestion – had weakened. It was noted that where some large scale developments have taken place in the past, congestion had worsened, to the detriment of some major stretches of road. Ginny Clarke pointed out that the Agency still retained these powers and that the changes gave degree of certainty over who should pay for mitigation measures, and providing a case to set out why a developer should contribute. Members raised questions about the relationship of the circular to the Road Investment Strategy.

Paul O'Sullivan presented a short update on traffic forecasts and methodology, reminding members that updated traffic forecasts had been published alongside Action for Roads in July. He stated that more work was taking place to update forecasts, looking a trip rates in different parts of the country, and that another update is expected in 2014, around the time of the Road Investment Strategy. In the longer term, there is work on the new version of the National Transport Model with the aim of engaging a number of academics as plans developed. An update on developing work was offered to the Forum and accepted **(Action: Secretariat/Paul O'Sullivan)**

Paul also noted that there were plans to consult on a National Networks National Policy Statement before the end of the year.

Members raised queries about whether the proposals for fuel duty freezes were being factored into traffic forecasting. It was confirmed that the forecasts took account of government policy. Members were asked to consider the views of their memberships towards congestion and if the signs of a growth in motorway traffic continued to be a trend what sort of action would they want to see. The chair agreed to return to the topic at the next meeting **(Action: Members/Chair/Secretariat)**.

### **Item 3 – Route Based Strategies**

Ginny Clarke of the HA gave members a detailed briefing on the new approach to the management and enhancement of the network, setting out a two stage process – the first on evidence collection, the second on looking at solutions. She noted that stakeholder workshops were already underway as part of the stage one evidence gathering process and that 18 Route Based Strategy Evidence Reports are due for completion on January 2014 for comment. Priorities from the first stage are taken into the second stage, which in turn informs the Road Investment Strategy. A discussion followed with members raising queries about the extent to which local authorities and LEPs are engaged in the process, and the challenging timetable. Members also queried whether evidence gathering sat on a common analytical template, and how rail schemes and HS2 were being considered as part of the process. Members were assured that although the RBS process was not multi-modal evidence gathering was taking place around local plans and work that was already committed.

Paul O'Sullivan noted the intention was to have a second Road Investment Strategy in 2017 which afforded the opportunity of aligning planning with the High Level Output Specification process for Rail.

#### **Item 4 – Current Priorities for Members of the Forum**

Members were asked to feed back on their two most important priorities.

ABI submitted information by correspondence, highlighting that their overriding priority was the work going into improving the safety of young drivers, and in turn reducing insurance premiums.

RAC Motoring gave a short presentation outlining the research undertaken as part of their Report on Motoring 2013, which set out the areas of most concern to members. The cost of motoring was the main priority, alongside driver behaviour and the condition of local roads. The organisation was concerned with the delivery of proposals set out in Action for Roads, the rollout of low carbon vehicles and the safety of younger and older drivers.

The AA reiterated that the cost of motoring had been the top concern for their members for the last four years (notably on fuel and insurance) and their interest in the work on young drivers.

SMMT outlined their interest in the work of the forum on the Garage Customer Experience and the quality of service received by customers, and asked for the Forum to consider what progress had been made since the publication of recommendations as part of the work on Garage Customer Experience in 2012. Steve Gooding suggested that this would work well as part of a look at the merger of VOSA and DSA as part of the January meeting (**Action: Secretariat**). Edmund King noted that the AA has just completed some polling of members on perceptions of service at garages and promised to share with members (**Action: Edmund King**).

Christopher Magowan raised the issue of potholes and the quality of local roads, and police road closures. Edmund King reiterated the concerns from the AA membership around road maintenance and problems faced by motorists in bad weather.

The RAC Foundation were interested in the delivery of the actions set out in 'Action for Roads' in July, as well as discussions on mitigating CO<sup>2</sup>. They also had a strong interest in ensuring a coherent road safety strategy was in place.

BRVLA were concerned about the fragmentation of appeals services around parking on private land, as well as having broader concerns about ensuring rules on parking on private land were being implemented fairly. John Lewis identified a number of actions that were being pursued to prevent numerous appeals services and offered to speak to other members further about this.

TfL outlined an interest in the wider issue of technology development around driver information, traffic control and the technologies now available in vehicles and the potential this offered to offer benefits for motorists and better performing roads, if brought together properly

Stephen Joseph from CBT outlined the fruitful discussions they have been having with technology companies on smarter travel and the information that can now be held and analysed to give a much more accurate picture of travel patterns.

Edmund King asked members whether it would be useful to consider a wider discussion on this, and asked for views on who might be best placed to present to

the Forum. Steve Gooding asked members to shape ideas around what they thought DfT should be doing and thinking about in this area. It was agreed to cover this in a future meeting. **Action: Secretariat to take forward suggestions for external speakers as a session for members and find an appropriate slot.**

It was noted that the increase in 20mph zones was of interest to many members and agreed to cover this in the next meeting (**Action: Secretariat**). The Chair invited the secretariat to look for ways to address issues raised in future meetings (**Action: Secretariat**).

#### **Item 5: Alcohol at Motorway Service Areas**

Edmund King outlined the results from a Populus Poll of members on attitudes to alcohol's sale and availability at the roadside, in shops, bars and in hotels/travelodges. It was widely felt that there was strong opposition to pubs on motorways, although noted that there were differences in attitudes between older and younger drivers. The Chair committed to share findings with authorities looking at the planning application for pub on the M40. (**Action: Chair**).

#### **Item 6: Local Authority Traffic Enforcement**

Tony Boucher updated members on a number of announcements and developments in this area, notably the proposal that local authorities outside London's aspiration to have the same powers as in London for moving traffic contraventions and the joint announcement from DfT and DCLG on parking several days ago, which would need to be worked up into detailed proposals and subject to consultation. A discussion on motorists' attitudes to double yellow lines was held, with Edmund King offering to share the results of polling, which showed that most motorists were generally in favour where they contributed to freeflowing traffic. Members noted that it would be useful to invite the Roads Minister to further sessions on parking, so that members views can be considered as decisions are made about future policy (**Action: Secretariat**).

#### **Item 7: Road Safety Update**

Elizabeth Shovelton was able to give an update on the drug drive consultation. She noted that the consultation on the substances and amounts that would be covered by new legislation had now closed and responses were being considered. Amphetamines were not included as part of this consultation and a further shorter consultation was planned before the end of the year. Members were also updated that the Home Office had published a specification for type approval of roadside testing devices. Members had a short discussion about the progress of evidential screening devices for police officers to use at the roadside.

Elizabeth reminded members that the new offence was due to come into force in Summer 2014, and that evidential roadside devices would follow this.

On young drivers, a consultation is expected later in the year, which would explore a range of options and interventions aimed at improving young driver safety and reducing the cost of motor insurance. It was noted that the issue of young drivers was one of importance to all members, and agreed that the forum should be updated as the consultation progresses (**Action: Secretariat to ensure young drivers is included on January's agenda**).

It was noted that the THINK! campaigns team were working hard on a new cycle safety campaign, in partnership with TfL, with materials developed by TfL to be rolled out nationwide, particularly in areas with high levels of cycling KSIs. The Christmas

drink drive campaign is in final planning stages, and it was intended to run alongside ACPO's annual campaign, for greater impact.

David Davis raised a query about the response of the Department to the rise in drink drive related KSIs. Elizabeth confirmed that work was underway to look carefully at the latest statistics and estimates and it was a matter of concern to the Roads Minister.

#### **Item 8 – AOB/Date of Next Meeting**

No additional items were raised. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Mike Hawes noted that he was unable to attend that date. Members were requested to alert the secretariat if they too were unable to attend and an alternative date would be found. **Action: All members/Secretariat.**

**02 October 2013**