

SOUTH YORKSHIRE TRANSPORT USERS GROUP

18 OCTOBER 2018

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

GUESTS: F Johnson (Stagecoach), Pete Myers (Northern Rail), Nigel Wragg (Supertram), T Taylor (SYPTTE), C Whittaker (SYPTTE) R Cowling (SYPTTE), H Crow (SYPTTE)

OPEN AND WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 JULY 2018

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

UPDATE ON BUS PARTNERSHIPS

T Taylor updated the group on the Bus Partnerships. Sheffield Bus Partnership expired last year but will continue on a rolling basis. There is ongoing dialogue with Sheffield City Council and partners around replacement. Same principles apply to other Business Partnerships.

J Brightmore commented that Buses for Sheffield had not improved service reliability, particularly First services. F Johnson advised that as a commercial operator it is better to lose a trip and get back on time later than to run all services out of time. He also advised that First are experiencing engineering and resource issues at present, which they are working hard to resolve. N Wragg stated 'congestion' on the roads is currently a big factor for all operators, including Supertram as it has a negative impact on reliability.

BUS OPERATORS UPDATE

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

F Johnson advised that services were operating satisfactorily. The only issues are external factors e.g. Yorkshire Water works and associated road closures on Manchester Road. As a result of Health & Safety requirements, road works are now often requiring full road closure as working areas are getting wider to make for safer working.

T Taylor updated group that he was attending the scrutiny committee regarding recent works and diversion notices that had caused some issues of late particularly with service 120 and 52 in Sheffield. He clarified that SYPTE is committed to looking at processes to improve the communications to customers both online and at bus stops. T Taylor added that if any of the group had any concerns to direct them directly to him.

T Taylor confirmed that Powells Bus Company had been taken over by HCT Group, a non-profit organisation. Their main base is in West Yorkshire.

F Johnson confirm that that services 52/52a operate a combined 6-minute frequency i.e. each service runs a 12-minute frequency alternating between First and Stagecoach.

T Taylor stated he would share the Community Transport consultation analysis report results with the group when available.

SUPERTRAM RAIL REPLACEMENT

2018 Rail Replacement works are complete. There are 2 more years of rail replacement works scheduled from April 2019. Works will take place during the summer months due to the nature of the work to minimise disruption and the impact from adverse weather.

TRAM TRAIN UPDATE

Ghost running of the tram/train is still ongoing, there have been some minor teething problems, but these are being worked through. Launch date is Thursday 25 October, with the first public tram at 09:39 hours from Cathedral. Campaign to promote service by door-dropping leaflets, radio campaign and Twitter.

The pilot will run for 2 years initially to see if commercially viable. Three services per hour between Cathedral and Parkgate. Timetables available on Supertram website.

UPDATE FROM TRAIN OPERATORS

P Myers from Northern Rail gave updates:

- current strike action is ongoing, with 4 more days scheduled, no agreement in sight as yet. **Post meeting note: strikes are to continue every Saturday until the end of this year.**
- Working hard to remedy disruption from May 2018 timetable changes. Performance measures are currently in the low 80 percent which is disappointing. Small timetable changes from December are planned but not expected to be significant.
- Electrification works at Bolton to be completed this month which will strengthen the service.
- May 2019 sees a new timetable service– communications will begin in the New Year.

- December 2019 – introduction of a new Northern Connect service.
- There will be new electric and diesel trains on Connect routes. A number of trains are currently being refurbished and these are all expected to be completed by October 2019.

P Myers confirmed that all new trains will be able to be operated by the guard.

A question was asked as to the rule of buying a ticket before boarding if not possible to access a TVM beforehand? P Myers responded to say that TVM's are/will be installed at all stations but the inspector will always be reasonable and use discretion.

MASS TRANSIT

T Taylor confirmed that there is a tram network consultation currently running 24 September – 5 November and encouraged members to participate. The current concession expires in 2024. SYPTTE is submitting business case for c. £230M funding from DfT.

SHEFFIELD CITY REGION TRANSPORT STRATEGY REFRESH AND CONSULTATION - NEXT STEPS

T Taylor updated the group that this strategy is something that the Mayor is taking a keen interest in and it is included in his manifesto.

MEMBERS ITEMS

Peel Holding have put a planning application in for housing on reserved track at Doncaster Sheffield Airport. This has been raised at DTUG.

N Spetch raised the subject of 'Do we have a voice over the railway franchise'?

T Taylor suggested putting views in writing to Transport for the North (TfN) and invite Melissa Farmer, Rail Development Manager, to a future meeting to discuss.

It was also suggested to extend an invite to the SCR Mayor to a future meeting.

FORWARD PLANNER: ROTHERHAM INTERCHANGE PROGRESS

Work progressing well, on track and on budget to re-open late February 2019.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

17 January 2019