



SOLENT TRANSPORT – AIR QUALITY

Overview of Solent Transport

Solent Transport (formerly known as Transport for South Hampshire Isle of Wight) is a partnership of the four transport authorities (Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight). The Isle of Wight is the most recent member, joining in 2012.

Solent Transport was established to look holistically at transport issues across the Solent area as a whole, recognising that transport issues cross traditional local authority boundaries. Solent Transport works closely with a range of key stakeholders, including amongst others the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership, Department for Transport, Highways Agency and Network Rail to develop transport policies and investment programmes. Solent Transport has developed the Sub Regional Transport Model (SRTM), a comprehensive transport and land use evidence base, which has the capability to assess the air quality impacts of transport interventions.

Solent Transport Policy Background

A joint Local Transport Plan 20 year South Hampshire Strategy was developed between the three mainland Solent Transport members in 2011. This identified Challenges, Outcomes and finally 14 policies, which aim to contribute to the Outcomes.

Policy E of the Joint Strategy is ***To deliver improvements in air quality***. The policy states that:

The TfSH authorities will work with key partners, environmental health professionals and transport operators to mitigate the impacts of traffic on air quality. The principal causes of poor air quality will be addressed by implementing a strategic area-wide approach within each urban centre to minimise the cumulative effect of road transport emissions. This can be achieved through measures promoting modal shift towards public transport modes, walking and cycling, reducing single occupancy car journeys. Tackling congestion at hotspots can also improve air quality.

Some specific delivery options noted, include:

- Air Quality Management Areas;
- Promotion of cleaner, greener vehicle technologies;
- Car share schemes; and
- Support for car clubs and similar schemes.

Subsequent work to develop the Transport Delivery Plan (TDP) has developed a Study Approach, which identifies Objectives, which are used to define specific solutions to unlock Barriers. This work was undertaken in consultation with a range of stakeholders. One of the five identified Objectives states:

Reduce emissions (particularly carbon) from the transport sector by reducing highway vehicle kilometres.

The TDP summarises the SRTM's analysis of emission trends over the period to 2036. This concludes that:

- Nitrous Oxide (NO_x) and particulate (PM₁₀) levels reduce substantially over this period, primarily due to improved vehicle technology;
- In contrast, whilst showing an initial decline due to improved technology, increased travel demand leads to hydrocarbon (HC) and carbon monoxide (CO) levels substantially exceeding 2010 levels in 2036.

Solent Transport Interventions to Address Air Quality Issues

Solent Transport has recently secured funding towards two projects, which will contribute towards improved air quality.

In 2012, Solent Transport secured £17.8m of Government funding towards the overall £31m investment in the **Better Connected South Hampshire** Local Sustainable Transport Fund project. This was supplemented by funding secured directly by the Solent Transport authorities.

The project includes a comprehensive range of interventions to encourage more sustainable travel patterns, particularly through increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, walking and cycling. The project is focussed on nine key corridors across the South Hampshire area, most of which focus on journeys to / from Southampton. These corridors include all the AQMAs in South Hampshire. The appraisal of the project shows that it would reduce NO_x, PM₁₀, HC and CO emissions in 2026 by around 1% compared to the reference case (i.e. without the implementation of the project). The reduction in emissions is primarily due to modal shift towards public transport, walking and cycling.

In March 2012, Solent Transport secured £4.5m from Government towards the **Better Bus Area Fund** project, which has made bus travel in South Hampshire more attractive. This includes investment to provide on board wifi, bus refurbishment, next stop audio visual equipment and installation of LED lighting. The project is contributing towards reducing emissions of pollutants that contribute towards poor air quality, by a combination of increasing the proportion of journeys made by bus and through the improved fuel efficiency offered by the installation of LED lighting.

Future Work

The four Solent Transport authorities are currently considering opportunities provided by the DfT's Cycling Delivery Plan to enter a Partnership with Government to increase levels of walking and cycling across the Solent. Modal shift towards these modes would improve air quality.

Summary

Solent Transport has established policies on a cross Solent basis, which support air quality improvements. Solent Transport led on securing funding for the **Better Connected South Hampshire** LSTF and BBAF projects, which are contributing towards reduced emissions.