

ALTERNATIVE FUELS FOR FREIGHT STUDY

WP25 Alternative Fuels for Freight Revised Report

5 July 2023

Please note that the following recommendation/s is/are subject to consideration and determination by the Board before taking effect.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- (a) The board approve the revised report on Alternative Fuels for Freight in the Southwest
- (b) The Board agree that Work Package 25 is not signed off as complete and ready for publication
- (c) Delegate the Officer Group to take forward the potential shortlisting of potential alternative fueling locations for further feasibility review.

1. Background/Introduction

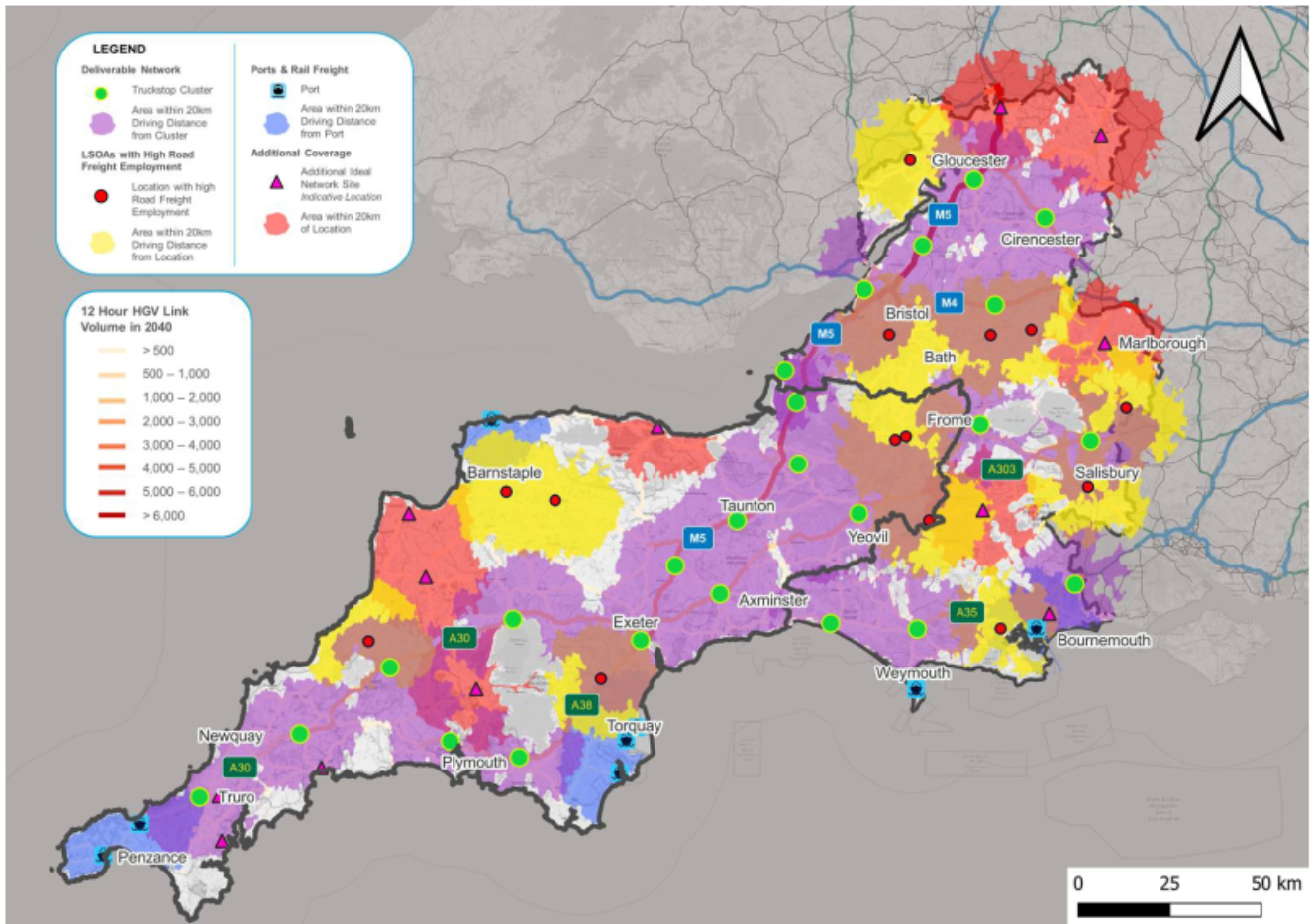
In March 2022 Peninsula Transport and Western Gateway STB jointly commissioned Atkins, with their industry partner CENEX, to undertake a study to consider the barriers and opportunities associated with the transition of freight vehicles to alternative fuels. The study adopted a methodology successfully applied in a similar study for the Midlands Connect STB.

The draft Strategy based on the original scope was brought to the Peninsula Transport Board on 8th December 2022. Members were broadly supportive of the study, however concerns were raised that it was too focused upon the Strategic Road Network (SRN), disregarding large areas of the Peninsula Transport area. It was requested that further work be undertaken to consider additional charging infrastructure in areas away from the SRN such as North Devon, North Cornwall, Dorset, Wiltshire and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. A revised scope of works was agreed with the Atkins team and a revised strategy has now been produced.

2. Overview of the Revised Study

The study has been updated in a number of sections. Chapters 3 to 5 have been updated to include greater reference to the issues raised around coverage in rural, non-SRN served areas. Additional sections of the report have been added to set out the broader scope and also consider the limitations of the approach in certain geographical areas. Chapter 14 sets out what are considered to be the limitations of the approach, as well as the Key considerations around rurality, availability of raw materials and the planning considerations for hydrogen and EV refuelling facilities.

Chapter 17 sets out a revised set of recommendations for establishing a network of hydrogen refuelling and EV charging stations based on a zonal approach rather than simply based on proximity to the SRN. This has taken in to account locations of existing freight and logistics hubs and other freight employment locations, as well as existing truckstops and lorry parking facilities. Whilst gaps are still evident in the more rural areas of the study area, these are based on a forecast low demand for such infrastructure, rather than just geographically based. The proposed refuelling network is shown below in Figure 1.



3. Next Steps

A site ranking tool has been developed by Midlands Connect to shortlist potential refuelling locations. The DfT have provided additional capacity funding to Midlands Connect to roll out this function and undertake this work for all STBs.

The tool can be used to test of range of potential locations and the criteria can be adjusted to reflect the rurality of the Peninsula and Western Gateway STB areas. The advisory tool combines a mapping function with demand forecasting to indicate when sites will be needed. The tool and accompanying dashboard is under development and should be available for Local Authorities to feed into Local Plans and Local Transport Plans in autumn 2023.

Following the roll out of the tool, consideration will be given by Peninsula to supporting the delivery of potential sites through business case development and working with stakeholders and operators.

4. Consultations/Representations/Technical Data

Officers from Peninsula Transport authorities have been consulted on the development of this revised report throughout and stakeholders have engaged in workshop sessions. In addition, National Highways have provided comments on the final revised report which have been taken into account.

5. Financial Considerations

Funding for this revised study was provided by Peninsula Transport and Western Gateway from the 2022/23 STB budgets.

6. Environmental Impact Considerations

Each of the schemes reviewed will have considered the environmental impacts of their delivery as part of the scheme appraisal.

7. Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations.

8. Risk Management Considerations

There are no direct risks associated with this paper. The process of reviewing schemes and providing an overview to DfT is intended to provide reassurance on the Value for Money of the schemes, thereby reducing the risk of schemes being refused or cancelled at a later stage.

9. Public Health Impact

There are no public health impacts.

10. Reasons for Recommendation

The recommendation is proposed to approve the final Alternative Fuels for Freight Report.

The report has been developed by Atkins through a robust and formal process: collecting and assessing data; consulting with stakeholders through workshops and providing opportunity for comments / amendments to draft reports.

This process will help meet the DfT requirements to research, develop and publish a transport strategy for the Peninsula Transport STB region