

Thursday 7 February 2019

Dear Brian

Funding for Innovation: Opening Local Authority Transport Data Application UTM Data Warehouse Bedford

The Transporting Bedford 2020 project received Local Growth Fund funding approval from the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) board in July 2018. Total project funding amounts to £15.5M over a three year period from 2018/19 through to 2020/21. The project has commenced with funds drawn down against the funding agreement. SEMLEP regularly attend the Steering Group meetings overseeing the project. The project will improve journey times, reduce congestion and is aimed to create an improved connectivity which will support economic growth.

The project encompasses three main themes to bring about transport improvements for Bedford. A significant part of the project is centred on the use of existing and developing traffic management technology to deliver a smart transport corridor in Ampthill Road Bedford and wider improvements to Network Management, Communications and Traffic Signal control across the town. The Transporting Bedford 2020 project will also lay the foundations for data management and availability that could be built upon should the Councils bid for funding under the Opening Data funding be successful.

Details of the approved technology element of the project can be seen on both the SEMLEP and Bedford BC websites and include funded activities related Data Management Hub which can be summarised as:

- Providing real time data feeds which will be plugged into Intelligent Transportation Systems ;
- Performing data analysis on Journey Time Reliability (JTR) and report on network performance
- Bringing together additional data input feeds into an Urban Traffic Management Control;
- Establishing the foundation for a platform for real time data analytics and the storage of long-term historic data for planning purposes; and
- Providing a source of information to be disseminated to internal and external parties. E.g. housing developers, academia carrying out studies or ITS companies developing new technology

Whilst these elements form part of a much larger project the approved business case estimated costs of £182,000 that are directly related to the data management elements.

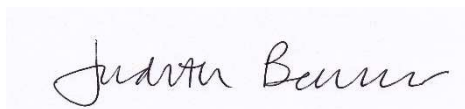
SEMLEP is particularly supportive of how this project can support new and emerging technological opportunities, particularly for SMEs. Access to open data has the potential to add significant value to the local economy, by encouraging commercial and academic interests to carry out research and / or develop digital based products. For instance the Transport System Catapult will play a key role as they have existing and developing contacts and links in the industry and with new start-up companies and

academia. In addition, the digital based products and enhanced knowledge base which could result from allowing access to open data are likely to bring relief to travellers and residents within Bedford Borough.

This funding is secured through annual approval and review of the scheme business case. Delivery, programme and risks are monitored quarterly by SEMLEP with funding payments being made upon completion of pre agreed milestones.

SEMLEP has every confidence that management of this project will take place within the agreed framework for Transporting Bedford 2020 and as such is pleased to support Bedford and its partners in the submission of their Funding for Innovation: Opening Local Authority Transport Data funding application.

Kind Regards,



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Director of Programmes and Governance

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