

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

29 APRIL 2008

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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| This report updates the Partnership on various matters of interest and relevance to the work of TACTRAN. |
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1 RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That the Partnership notes the updates and other information provided within the report.

2 DISCUSSION**Forum of Chairs of Regional Transport Partnerships**

- 2.1 The last meeting of the RTP Chairs Forum was held in Edinburgh on 17 March 2008. The Draft Minute of the meeting is included at Appendix A for information. A number of matters are highlighted below.

Proposed RTP's Conference

- 2.2 At its meeting on 21 August 2007 the Partnership agreed to contribute a sum of £2,500 towards the costs of a proposed Regional Transport Partnerships Conference, planned to be held in spring 2008 (Report RTP 07/26 refers). The RTP Chairs agreed on 17 March to defer this proposed event in light of the need for RTPs to review Regional Transport Strategies and Delivery Plans within the context of the new relationship between Central Government and Local Government.

RTP Members National Briefing Event

- 2.3 A previous proposal to hold a national RTP Members Induction/Briefing event on 27 September 2007 was postponed by Scottish Government. It had originally been intended to re-schedule this event, once the outcomes from the Government Spending Review and confirmation of Government's views on the future role of RTPs was confirmed. Given the passage of time coupled with most RTPs, including TACTRAN, having now undertaken their own Members' induction training, the proposal to hold a national event has been deferred indefinitely.

European Funding Opportunities

- 2.4 As summarised under Branch 1 in the Minute of the 17 March meeting, there is to be ongoing joint discussion and investigation of potential opportunities to source European funding to support future delivery of RTS proposals. A recent officer seminar hosted by SPT has indicated that limited opportunities exist within current EU Structural Funds.
- 2.5 The RTP Chairs Secretariat is to make contact with CoSLA's EU office and Scotland Europa on future funding opportunities. In addition there has been

contact with Scottish Government officials in relation to seeking Government support in influencing future EU Structural Funds eligibility criteria, with a view to securing increased opportunities for EU funding support. Any opportunities arising from these discussions will be incorporated within the RTS Delivery Plan.

Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR)

- 2.6 An important role of the Regional Transport Strategy is to inform and influence the STPR, which will determine national transport spending priorities in the period from 2012 – 2022. Transport Scotland has appointed consultants to support development work on the STPR, which is due to be completed in late summer 2008.
- 2.7 A number of Reference Groups were established by Transport Scotland to inform the STPR and offer objective comment on emerging information, analysis and proposals. One of these consists of the seven RTP Lead Officers. Other groups have been established covering Planning; Enterprise, Business and Freight; Environmental Interests; and Public Transport and Mobility. The Director of Planning and Transportation for Dundee City Council sits on the Planning Reference Group.
- 2.8 The consultants have recently completed reports examining Current and Future Network Performance and Determining Expectations, Gaps and Shortfalls. Technical comments on these reports, which currently remain confidential, have been submitted to Transport Scotland.
- 2.9 The current phase of STPR analysis involves Options Generation and Sifting, which will identify those priorities and schemes to be taken forward for as national priorities in the STPR Delivery Plan and National Planning Framework 2. The initial outputs from this important phase of the STPR were due in late 2007 but are still awaited.
- 2.10 Transport Scotland has previously agreed to consult with the RTPs Reference Group on the conclusions emerging from the Options Generation and Sifting phase of the study, and also with officers of individual RTPs and their constituent Councils. It is understood that the outputs from this phase of the work will be available within the next month or so and further developments will be reported to the next meeting.

Council Single Outcome Agreements

- 2.11 At the meeting on 18 December 2007 the Partnership received a report on the Government Spending Review, which advised that the new partnership framework between Scottish Government and Local Government for funding and delivering public services is to be founded on the development of Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) (Report RTP/07/42 refers).
- 2.12 Councils were asked to submit initial Draft SOAs to Scottish Government by the end of March 2008, with finalised SOAs to be submitted by the end of June. TACTRAN officers have engaged with each of the Councils in the development of the Draft SOAs. Liaison on this will continue as the finalised SOAs are developed over the next 6 – 8 weeks. A more detailed report on the evolving SOAs, and linkages with the RTS and associated Delivery Plan, will be submitted to the next meeting on 24 June 2008.

- 2.13 Scottish Government officials have requested a meeting with RTP and constituent Council officers to discuss how the development of SOAs relates to and reflects the delivery outcomes of the National Transport Strategy and the RTS. Further progress on this will also be reported to the next meeting.
- 2.14 All RTPs have been invited to attend a meeting with CoSLA on the evolving experience of developing SOAs on 28 April. Further developments arising from that meeting will be reported orally.

Stakeholder Liaison Fora

- 2.15 The Partnership previously agreed to establish a number of Regional Stakeholder Liaison Fora, which would meet 2 – 3 times a year to inform the development and delivery of the RTS.
- 2.16 In parallel with development of the RTS sub-Strategies on Buses and Community Transport/Demand Responsive Transport; Travel Information; Park & Ride; and Walking & Cycling, inaugural meetings of the Regional Buses Forum and the Walking & Cycling Forum were held on 6 February and 18 March respectively. A further meeting of the Buses Forum was held on 8 April to discuss developing work on the Buses and CT/DRT, Travel Information and Park & Ride sub-Strategies. Meetings of the Regional Freight Forum and Regional Rail Forum were held on 19 March and 26 March respectively.
- 2.17 The Regional Freight Forum took the form of a facilitated Workshop to discuss key freight issues and, in particular, the potential for development of a Regional Freight Quality Partnership. The meeting was attended by and Chaired by Gavin Roser. The outcomes from the Freight Forum and proposals for taking forward the development of a Regional Freight Quality Partnership will be the subject of a detailed report to a future meeting.
- 2.18 At each of the Fora meetings the groups discussed arrangements for their future role, operation and membership, including the development of proposed Terms of Reference to guide their future operation. It is the intention to hold further meetings of all 4 groupings in the early autumn, to progress their establishment as key contributors to the development and implementation of the RTS. These meetings will also act as a focus for stakeholder consultation to inform development of the RTS Delivery Plan, as discussed in a separate report.
- 2.19 An agreed purpose of the Regional Fora is to identify potential nominees to act as Advisers to the Partnership in the areas of interest covered by the respective groupings. At this early stage of their development each of the groups felt it would be premature to identify nominated individuals to act as Advisers to the Partnership on their behalf. It is anticipated that nominations for Adviser representation from each of the Fora will be submitted to the Partnership in the autumn.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

3.1 This report has no direct financial or other resource implications.

Eric Guthrie
Director

For further information email ericguthrie@tactran.gov.uk or tel. 01738 475771

NOTE

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing this Report.

Meeting of Chairs of the Regional Transport Partnerships

SEStran Offices, Edinburgh
17 March 2008

Note of Meeting

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|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Present: | Cllr Russell Imrie | Chair, SEStran |
| | Alex Macaulay | SEStran |
| | Cllr John Laing | Deputy Chair, HITRANS |
| | Dave Duthie | HITRANS |
| | Cllr Kevin Stewart | Chair, Nestrans |
| | Derick Murray | Nestrans |
| | Cllr Davie McLachlan | Vice Chair, SPT |
| | Ron Culley | SPT |
| | Cllr Alan Jack | Deputy Chair, Tactran |
| | Eric Guthrie | Tactran |
| | Cllr Brian Collins | Chair, SWESTRANS |
| | John Nelson | SWESTRANS |
| | Cllr Allan Wishart | Chair, ZetTrans |
| | Michael Craigie | ZetTrans |
| Ben Kerfoot | Nestrans (Secretariat) | |
| Apologies: | Cllr Duncan McIntyre | Chair, HITRANS |
| | Cllr Alistair Watson | Chair, SPT |
| | Cllr Fraser Macpherson | Chair, Tactran |
| | Alistair Speedie | SWESTRANS |

As SEStran was hosting the meeting Cllr Imrie took the Chair and welcomed everyone to Edinburgh.

1. **Note of Last Meeting, 7 December 2007**

The note of the meeting was agreed. Matters arising:

- **Item 3 – Role and Function of RTP Chairs Forum** - Eric Guthrie reported that following the discussion at the last meeting regarding cooperation on European funding issues, a meeting had been arranged by SPT which involved a presentation on current European funding opportunities. Whilst opportunities for infrastructure support funding under the present structural funds appeared limited, it was agreed that more work was required to explore the opportunities that were available currently and also how these might be influenced, in terms of future funding eligibility and criteria for the next funding period beyond 2013, and also to identify the level of structural funds which might currently exist within the Scottish Government budget. Cllr Stewart suggested investigating maritime opportunities in particular and Cllr Collins referred to the work of the North Channel Partnership and the importance of

improving the road link between Stranraer and Rosyth to improve access to continental Europe. Cllr McLachlan noted the reduction in the Superfast service and the risk of losing business to other ports. The need to find other project partners was noted and Eastern European and Scandinavian countries were suggested. Cllr Imrie suggested making contact with Cosla's EU Office and Cllr Stewart offered a contact name at Scotland Europa (Steven Geffins). The potential for a new continental service through the Norshukon project was discussed. However Derick Murray noted Nestrans' concern about any potential impact of this service on the existing ferry service between Aberdeen and Shetland. Cllr Jack suggested there was potential for greater use of Dundee harbour. It was agreed that it was important to look at the benefit to Scotland as a whole from European projects.

- **Item 5 – Joint RTP Position Papers** – Alex Macaulay reported that the proposed paper on rail fares had proved more complex than first thought and that it appeared unlikely to reach a consensus. It was agreed to drop this paper. He reported that SEStran has put forward its own views to the Government.
- **Item 6 – Joint RTPs Conference** – Alex Macaulay reported that due to the changed national context it had been agreed by the lead officers not to progress the proposed conference any further. The Chairs endorsed this position and agreed to drop the proposal at the present time.

2. **Note of the meeting of RTP Chairs and CPT representatives, 7 December 2007**

Cllr Wishart advised that he and Michael Craigie had given apologies for this meeting due to travel difficulties and asked that the minute reflect that. The note of the meeting was otherwise agreed.

Eric Guthrie noted that it had been suggested that the next meeting would take place in March, and suggested that it would be appropriate for the next joint meeting to coincide with the next RTP Chairs meeting.

3. **Funding arrangements for 2008/09 and Single Outcome Agreements**

Cllr Imrie invited each partnership to give an update on their budget arrangements and input to Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs):

- **SEStran** – Alex Macaulay advised that they had produced a document for constituent local authorities which set out how regional transport priorities linked to national outcomes, reflecting the guidance on SOAs from Cosla. He reported that the Board had approved the Business Plan for the coming year but that capital funding to the partnership had not yet been agreed by all constituent councils.
- **Nestrans** – Derick Murray reported that Nestrans was contributing to the development of SOAs through the community planning process and had completed some work linking the RTS to national outcomes, which the councils had found useful in developing SOAs. Progress on developing action plans to inform the Delivery Plan was ongoing. Capital and revenue funding had been committed by both councils.

- **Tactran** – Eric Guthrie reported that they were engaging with councils on developing SOAs, although it was expected that these would initially be very high level, with more detail being set out by the end of June. The RTS Delivery Plan was being prepared to a similar timetable. Revenue funding had been agreed by the constituent councils, but not yet capital by all Councils.
- **ZetTrans** – Michael Craigie reported that they were also mapping the linkages between the RTS and national outcomes and it was intended to embed the RTS Delivery Plan in the SOA. Capital and revenue funding had been agreed.
- **SPT** – Ron Culley reported that SPT had been meeting with each of their constituent councils to discuss transport as an important input to deliver the desired outcomes. It was intended to agree a core common wording on transport across all twelve SOAs. Councils had also agreed to provide DRT funding to SPT to enable them to continue to co-ordinate it across the region.
- **HITRANS** – Dave Duthie reported that they were working with council colleagues to ensure that transport priorities featured highly in the SOAs, although it was expected that these would be fairly high level. Revenue funding had been agreed in principle, but not yet capital.
- **SWESTRANS** – John Nelson reported that they were working with the Council on developing the SOA and intended submitting the RTS Delivery Plan to the Council in May. Dumfries and Galloway is progressing the SOA on a Community Planning basis. The allocation of capital and relevant revenue funding has yet to be agreed.

Ron Culley added that he had recently met with John Swinney and John Ewing to discuss SOAs.. He reported that John Swinney foresaw a greater role for community planning partners in developing SOAs in the future and supported closer working between public sector bodies. In particular it was noted that health boards were now more interested in working with RTPs on transport and Ron Culley noted that the Scottish Ambulance Service was also showing greater interest in working with SPT to better organise transport services.

4. **2007/08 Capital Programme**

Cllr Imrie referred to the paper which had been circulated setting out the reductions in this year's capital allocation that the Government was expecting from RTPs. Derick Murray advised that this had been confirmed at the recent Transport Partnerships Liaison Group meeting. The situation was noted.

5. **Regional Transport Strategies – Revisions and funding for regional projects**

Derick Murray reported that Nestrans had sent a letter to John Swinney which proposed that the Government make funding available for projects for which they have responsibility that are of a regional significance but were unlikely to be funded through the STPR or local but expensive projects that could not be sufficiently covered by council funding. Ron Culley reported that he had also raised this issue with John Swinney and had made the point to him that transport improvements were needed to deliver national priorities such as the

Commonwealth Games. The need for the Government to make funding available for regional or significant local projects that added value to Government's national objectives was agreed by all the Chairs and it was suggested that the Transport Scotland budget could be topsliced for this purpose.

It was agreed to produce a paper setting out the types of project that would fit this category and to seek a meeting with Malcolm Reed of Transport Scotland to discuss further. It was also agreed to raise this issue with Ministers.

6. Future meetings with Ministers and Cosla

Derick Murray reported that Cllr Alison Hay from Cosla had been invited at short notice to attend this meeting, but had not been able to attend due to prior commitments. She hoped to attend meetings in future. It was agreed to write to Cllr Hay to invite her to the next meeting. It was agreed to stick with the rotation of meetings, but to include a meeting at Cosla's offices as part of that, if they are agreeable to that.

It was noted that the Cosla Presidential team meet regularly with the Cabinet and Cllr Stewart suggested that RTPs could advise the Presidential team of any relevant issues to raise with the Cabinet Ministers.

It was also agreed to seek regular meetings with both John Swinney and Stewart Stevenson.

7. National Planning Framework 2 – Possible joint response

Alex Macaulay noted that the Government was currently consulting on a draft version of the second National Planning Framework and introduced a paper which set out a possible joint response. The Chairs endorsed the paper and noted the important linkages with the STPR. The importance of moving quickly to ensure that national developments gained approval in principle was noted, however it was also noted that some areas of the country did not have any projects classified as national developments in the Discussion Draft and that RTPs would be making their own representations in this respect. The joint response was agreed.

8. AOB

- **Future of RTPs** – Cllr Wishart queried whether the RTPs should develop a shared vision and direction as a foundation for moving forward that is specifically relevant to the new public sector context. Michael Craigie added that perhaps there was a lack of clarity regarding the role and value of RTPs and on the back of recent events, where the development of the future of RTPs is being placed firmly with RTPs themselves, then there may be value in doing some work to redefine RTPs to take advantage of the many opportunities now available. However following discussion it was agreed not to progress this at the present time.
- **Secretariat** – Cllr Imrie noted that Nestrans would be handing over the secretariat for the Forum of RTP Chairs to SPT. He thanked Nestrans

and in particular Ben Kerfoot for their hard work and thanked SPT for taking on this task.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Agreed to take place on Friday 20 June. The meeting is to be hosted by HITRANS.

BK/17 March 2008

ANNEX

ACTIONS ARISING FROM RTP CHAIRS' MEETING – 17 MARCH 2008

| Agenda Item | Action | Responsibility |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1 | Investigate future opportunities for European funding. | Lead officers |
| 2 | Amend note of RTPs+CPT meeting | Ben Kerfoot |
| | Invite CPT to a future meeting | SPT (Secretariat) |
| 5 | Produce a paper setting out the type of projects that would require a dedicated regional funding stream. | SPT |
| | Invite Malcolm Reed to a future meeting. | SPT |
| 6 | Invite Cllr Alison Hay to the next RTP Chairs meeting. | SPT |
| 7 | Submit joint response to NPF2. | Alex Macaulay |
| 8 | SPT to take on Secretariat. | SPT |
| 9 | Arrangements for next meeting – 20 June. | Dave Duthie |