

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**9 DECEMBER 2008****DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

This report updates the Partnership on various matters of interest and relevance to the work of TACTRAN, seeks the Partnership's agreement to arrangements for responding to the Strategic Transport Projects Review and for reviewing the Partnership's Publication Scheme, and considers a request by SEStran to give support to the EU Interreg IVB "Dryports" project.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Partnership :-

- (i) agrees to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to review and update the Partnership's Publication Scheme, in line with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002;
- (ii) agrees to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to approve any response required to the impending Scottish Government report on the Strategic Transport Projects Review which requires submission before the next Partnership meeting;
- (iii) considers SEStran's request for support of the Interreg IVB "Dryport" project proposal as discussed in sections 2.10 – 2.13 of the report;
- (iv) notes the updates and other information provided in the report.

2 DISCUSSION**Publication Scheme**

- 2.1 The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 requires that public authorities, including RTPs, adopt and maintain a Publication Scheme. Publication Schemes set out how authorities will publish information; the classes of information the authority publishes or intends to publish; the manner in which information will be published; and whether information will be provided free of charge or at a cost.
- 2.2 The Partnership's current Publication Scheme was approved by the Scottish Information Commissioner in 2006, initially until 28 February 2008. Last year the Scottish Information Commissioner extended the period of approval until 30 May 2009. A new Publication Scheme requires to be submitted to the Scottish Information Commissioner by the end of February 2009, for approval prior to expiry of the current scheme on 30 May.
- 2.3 The dates for Partnership meetings during 2009 are to be agreed at this meeting. In the event that the first meeting of the Partnership falls after 28 February 2009, the Partnership is asked to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to review and approve a revised Publication Scheme for submission to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Forum of Chairs of Regional Transport Partnerships

- 2.4 At its meeting on 28 October 2008 the Partnership received a report on the RTP Chairs Forum meeting held in Aberdeenshire on 27 August 2008 (Report RTP/08/32 refers). The Draft Minute of that meeting is now attached at Appendix A for information.
- 2.5 The next meeting of the RTP Chairs Forum is being held in Nairn on 4 December 2008. Issues of interest and relevance arising from that meeting will be reported orally.

Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR)

- 2.6 Updates on developments with the STPR have been reported in previous Director's Reports. At its meeting on 28 October 2008 the Partnership noted an exchange of correspondence between the RTP Chairs and Transport Scotland, regarding RTP concerns about lack of engagement with STPR Reference Groups, RTPs and Councils during the latter, critically important, stages of the STPR process.
- 2.7 The correspondence referred to above indicated that the outcomes of the STPR would be announced to Parliament in November, followed by a public consultation exercise. It is now understood that an announcement on the STPR will be made by Ministers to Parliament before the end of the year and that this will be followed by an 8-week consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the STPR. Any further developments will be reported orally to the meeting.
- 2.8 A major conference focussing on the outputs from the STPR has been arranged by Holyrood Conferences on 19 January 2009 in Edinburgh. The provisional programme for this event includes a Workshop in which RTPs are to be invited to give their reactions to the STPR. Holyrood Conferences have requested RTP officer input to this and the Director has provisionally agreed to participate.
- 2.9 It is proposed that the Director agrees the Partnership's initial views with members of the Executive Committee and in consultation with the Chief Officers Liaison Group, for reporting to the event on 19 January. Depending on consultation deadlines a detailed report on the outcomes of STPR will be reported to the next meeting of the Partnership or to the Executive Committee.

EU Interreg IVB Dryport Project

- 2.10 At the Partnership meeting on 28 October 2008 mention was made of a proposed Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme application which is seeking EU funding support for a project entitled Dryport Concept for the Sea Intermodal Gateway Network in Scotland (SIGN Scotland). This project is being jointly led by SEStran and the Napier University Transport Research Institute. The partners are seeking support in principle from other RTPs, and also potential "in kind" support through officer time and input to elements of the project. No financial contribution beyond possible staff input is being sought at this stage

- 2.11 The project extends over 3 years, with a total Scottish project budget of approximately £585,000, which would be match-funded by EU. The key objective of the project is to improve connectivity within Scotland by rail and road between Gateway Ports and their hinterlands, with particular emphasis on developing a “Dryports” network, of inland freight transshipment hubs. Project deliverables include a Scottish international freight traffic analysis and modelling; examination of potential for increased movement of international freight through Scottish east coast ports; improved transnational connectivity for Scotland through direct ferry and container services; identification of effective “Dryport” locations and development of a “Dryport” distribution cost optimisation model; and research into system links between “Dryports” and Gateway Ports.
- 2.12 The current draft project submission focuses on the ports of Rosyth and Grangemouth, which are important for freight movements to/from the TACTRAN region. The proposal also makes mention of including consideration of other east coast ports, which could potentially include Dundee, Montrose and Perth.
- 2.13 At the time of writing further clarification of the scope of the project and how it might address and relate to port and freight issues within the TACTRAN region is being sought from SEStran. The views of TACTRAN Freight Quality Partnership Steering Group members are also being sought and will be reported orally to the meeting, to enable a final recommendation on responding to SEStran’s request for support of the project.

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

Maryculter House Hotel, Aberdeen

27 August 2008

Minute of meeting

Present: Cllr Kevin Stewart, Chair, Nestrans (Chair)
 Cllr Duncan MacIntyre, Chair, HITRANS
 Cllr Allan Wishart, Chair, ZetTrans
 Cllr Russell Imrie, Chair, SESTRAN
 Cllr Alistair Watson, Chair, SPT
 Cllr Brian Collins, Chair, SWESTRANS
 Cllr Alan Jack, Vice Chair, TACTRAN

In attendance:

Derick, Murray, Nestrans
 Dave Duthie, HITRANS
 Michael Craigie, ZetTrans
 Alex Macaulay, SESTRAN
 John Nelson, SWESTRANS
 Eric Guthrie, TACTRAN
 Rodney Mortimer, SPT
 Bruce Kiloh, SPT

Also attending:

Anil Gupta, COSLA

Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome and Introductions Councillor Kevin Stewart, NESTRANS, as host RTP, took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting</p>	-
<p>2. Note of Chairs meeting on 20 June 2008 The minute of the above meeting was agreed as a true record.</p>	-
<p>3. Matters Arising</p> <p>Fuel prices – Letter sent. A Macaulay noted that there had been no response from Transport Minister on this. Considerable discussion followed in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the effects of fuel price rises on communities across Scotland, particularly in rural areas • the need to communicate RTPs views to Westminster 	

<p>After discussion, the Minute of the above meeting was agreed.</p>	
<p>6. STPR and National Delivery Plan</p> <p>Eric Guthrie (TACTRAN) presented paper, and highlighted that there had been no response as yet from Transport Scotland.</p> <p>After discussion, the Chairs noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerable concerns and disappointment at the lack of engagement by Transport Scotland on the STPR • Wider concerns about the overall performance of Transport Scotland. <p>Anil Gupta (COSLA) noted that COSLA share these concerns.</p> <p>The Chairs agreed:</p> <p>A letter signed by all Chairs be sent to Transport Minister emphasising these concerns</p>	<p>SPT</p>
<p>7. National Transport Strategy Stakeholder Group</p> <p>Rodney Mortimer (SPT) reported that an invitation from the Scottish Government had been received for an RTP Chair to become a member of the NTS Stakeholder Group.</p> <p>After discussion, two nominations were received: Cllr A Watson (SPT) and Cllr R Imrie (SESTRAN). Accordingly, a vote was held, the result being 4 votes to 3 in favour of Cllr A Watson.</p> <p>Cllr Watson accepted the nomination with thanks to the group, and welcomed this opportunity for RTPs to have an input to national policy. Cllr Watson confirmed that he would report back to the RTP Chairs via a verbal update at the next meeting, and by circulating any relevant material.</p>	<p>SPT</p>
<p>8. Funding Issues</p> <p>Bruce Kiloh (SPT) presented a joint paper between SPT, Alex Macaulay (SESTRAN) and Anil Gupta (COSLA) in relation to the above.</p> <p>During discussion, the following issues were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of private sector • Involvement of enterprise sector, and money from Europe • Scottish Futures Trust 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Acquisition Tax, and the 'Harrisburg Model' • Single Outcome Agreements and Scottish Government 'asks'. • Development Tax currently being consulted on in England • A 'roof tax' being considered within Perth and Kinross • Business Improvement Districts • Funding rural transport projects • The length of the Scotrail franchise and its effects on significant investment from the franchisee <p>In conclusion, the paper was agreed to, provided that:</p> <p>Further consideration would be given to involvement of the private sector after 'Stage One' as outlined in the report.</p>	SESTRAN / SPT / COSLA
<p>9. Meeting with Minister</p> <p>Derick Murray presented paper.</p> <p>During discussion the following issues were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of satisfaction with current, irregular arrangements for meetings with Minister • The possibility of joint meetings with Enterprise Minister <p>In conclusion, it was agreed that:</p> <p>Officers communicate to Scottish Government officials that RTP Chairs would like quarterly meetings with the Minister, failing that 6-monthly meetings.</p>	NESTRANS
<p>10. Audit Scotland programme</p> <p>Alex Macaulay (SESTRAN) presented paper.</p> <p>During discussion, the following issues were highlighted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for RTPs to have a strengthened input into strategic planning developments • Equity of remuneration across Scotland for members of RTP boards. <p>In conclusion, the paper was agreed to, provided that Further representations were made to Audit Scotland regarding remuneration issues, seeking equity across Scotland.</p>	SESTRAN

<p>11. Engagement with other organisations</p> <p>John Nelson, (SWESTRANS) presented paper.</p> <p>During discussion, the following issues were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Parks Authority and Strategic Development Planning Authorities should be added to organisations to be engaged with. • Transport Scotland should be the first organisations invited to attend. • Access to Healthcare is a key requirement for RTPS but there is a lack of consistency across the country in how this is addressed. HITRANS would be happy to prepare a paper for a future RTP Chairs meeting on this subject 	<p>HITRANS</p>
<p>12. Date of next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting of the RTP Chairs should take place at the CPT Conference, or in October, potentially in the Shetland Isles.</p>	<p>OFFICERS</p>