

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**14 SEPTEMBER 2010****DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

This report updates Members on various matters of interest and relevance to the work of the Partnership and seeks endorsement of proposed joint RTP submissions on rail proposals and consultations.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Partnership :-

- (i) endorses a joint RTPs' submission to the UK Secretary of State for Transport objecting to suggested termination of Intercity Express trains at Edinburgh, as outlined in the report;
- (ii) endorses a joint RTPs response to Transport Scotland's consultation on the ScotRail Franchise Policy Statement, as outlined in the report;
- (iii) notes and endorses the Director's involvement in the SusTay Project; and
- (iv) notes the various updates and other information provided in the report.

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

- 2.1 The last meeting of the RTP Chairs Forum was hosted by Nestrans in Aberdeen on 1 September 2010. The meeting included a discussion with the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change. A number of items discussed on 1 September 2010 are summarised below.
- 2.2 The Minute of the last Chairs meeting will be circulated for information/interest when available. The Minute of the previous Chairs meeting, held in Glasgow on 2 June 2010, is attached at Appendix A for information.

Meeting with Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change

- 2.3 The RTPs presented a progress report to the Minister, summarising the progress each Partnership has made in implementing its RTS since the Chairs last met with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth in March 2009. The summary of Tactran achievements presented is attached for information at Appendix B.

- 2.4 The Chairs also discussed the budget and funding constraints facing Government, RTPs, Councils and the wider public sector, as set out in the Independent Budget Review, and the significant challenges these will present over a number of years of public sector financial constraint. There was also discussion on the opportunity which RTPs represent in relation to working with partner Councils, other CPP bodies and each other, to effect efficiency savings through the Shared Services agenda.
- 2.5 Concerns were highlighted over the implications for transport if budgets for other sectors such as Health and Education are “ring fenced”, with the consequent potential for disproportionate cuts in funding for maintaining existing transport infrastructure and networks; funding new transport infrastructure in support of regional and national economic growth; and maintenance of socially necessary bus services, particularly in rural areas and at times of lower demand in urban areas. The need to continue to explore alternative sources of funding for major transport infrastructure and projects was also discussed and agreed.
- 2.6 The Chairs reinforced the RTPs’ willingness to work with Scottish Government, CoSLA, Councils and other public and private sector stakeholders to implement projects in their RTS Delivery Plans and also the STPR; to continue to support delivery of outcomes within SOAs; to continue to seek efficiency savings through Shared Services and other means; and to investigate alternative sources of funding. The Minister reaffirmed his own and Scottish Government’s support for the work of the RTPs. CoSLA’s Chair of Regeneration and Sustainable Development also reaffirmed CoSLA’s continuing support for the RTPs.
- 2.7 A further meeting between the Chairs and the Cabinet Secretary and Minister is being sought in the autumn, prior to the Government’s Draft Budget statement.

InterCity Express Programme and ScotRail Franchise Policy Statement

- 2.8 The Chairs discussed a report on Review of the InterCity Express Programme, published by Sir Andrew Foster in late June. This sets out and considers options for the proposed programme for replacement of rail rolling stock for services between London and Scotland, and included a suggestion that existing services north of Edinburgh to Aberdeen and Inverness could be terminated at Edinburgh, as an alternative to purchasing bi-modal trains capable of running on electrified and non-electrified lines.
- 2.9 This suggestion has provoked concern and objections from a range of bodies. Nestrans and Dundee City Council have written to the UK Secretary of State for Transport and the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change objecting to any proposal to terminate through services at Edinburgh. The Minister is on record as calling the suggestion to terminate InterCity Express trains at Edinburgh as unacceptable.

- 2.10 Dundee City Council has raised concerns in relation to the importance of maintaining high quality rail and air connections with London for the economic prosperity of the City and region, and in relation to the Dundee Waterfront regeneration project specifically. In response to various previous rail consultations by DfT, Network Rail and Transport Scotland the Partnership has consistently supported the retention of no less than the existing level of through trains north of Edinburgh. Through rail services to Aberdeen and Inverness are considered to be crucial economic links, which are essential for business, tourism and the general connectivity of the region. In addition to providing an extremely important direct link with London and the UK for business, leisure/tourism and other demands, the service to Aberdeen is an important part of the overall Scottish service network and capacity through Dundee, Montrose and Arbroath, whilst the service to Inverness performs a similarly important national and regional function through Stirling, Perth and stations on the Highland Main Line.
- 2.11 The Chairs agreed to send a joint letter to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change, reinforcing all 7 RTPs' combined opposition to the suggested termination of through InterCity Express services at Edinburgh. The Partnership is asked to formally endorse this position.
- 2.12 Under the 1993 Railways Act Scottish Ministers are required to publish a statement setting out how they intend to select the franchisee to operate future ScotRail services. Transport Scotland published a Draft Statement for consultation on 2 August with responses requested by 22 October 2010. A copy of the consultation can be viewed at http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/files/documents/rail/Franchise_policy_statement_-_consultation_-_August_2010.pdf.
- 2.13 The Chairs have agreed to respond giving broad support to the proposed policy of re-letting the franchise by means of a competitive tendering process wherever possible, with provision to re-let or extend the franchise in circumstances relating to early termination, or a where short-term agreement is needed to facilitate franchise "re-mapping". The circumstances set out in the consultation for this are considered to be reasonable. Where a franchisee fails and short-term replacement is required Ministers intend to arrange for this to be undertaken by a company wholly owned by Scottish Ministers, which is also supported.
- 2.14 The joint RTPs' response will seek clarity on the definition of "short term" for negotiated franchise extensions, suggesting that this should be for a maximum period of 1 or 2 years, and will also request that there should be consultation with RTPs and other key stakeholders where short-term extensions are proposed, with a view to enabling RTP proposals for rail service enhancements, such as TERS, to be considered for inclusion within negotiated extensions or franchise "re-mappings". The Partnership is asked to endorse this proposed joint response.

Transport and Health

- 2.15 Liaison between RTPs and Scottish Government on the relationships between Transport and Health has been reported in previous Director's Reports. The Chairs had previously written to Ministers highlighting the areas where RTPs can work collaboratively with Government and the Health Sector and the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing had responded indicating the intention to establish a Short Life Working Group bringing all relevant parties together to progress this agenda.
- 2.16 Since then no further progress has been made and the Chairs have written to Scottish Government again, requesting that the previously suggested Short Life Working Group is progressed.

National Transport Strategy Refresh

- 2.17 As reported previously, Scottish Government had embarked upon a refresh of the National Transport Strategy (NTS), with work on this being informed by a wide-ranging NTS Stakeholder Group, which included the Chair of SEStran on behalf of RTPs. It had been envisaged that a revised Draft NTS would be issued for consultation over a 12 week period during late summer, with the intention of publishing a revised NTS by the end of the year.
- 2.18 On 12 August Transport Scotland advised that Ministers have decided not to proceed further with work on refreshing the NTS. At the meeting on 1 September the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change confirmed that this development had been influenced by Ministers' view that the NTS and its key strategic outcomes continue to be relevant, and that they wished to focus on delivery of existing transport commitments, including those incorporated within the STPR.
- 2.19 RTP officers are continuing to seek guidance from Transport Scotland officials on Scottish Government's expectations and requirements for statutory review of Regional Transport Strategies, as required under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005, in light of the decision not to proceed with a review of the NTS.

Programme of 2011 Meetings

- 2.20 The Chairs agreed a programme of quarterly meetings for 2011, which will be held on 2 March (ZetTRANS); 1 June (Tactran); 7 September (SEStran); and 7 December (SWESTrans). Progress and issues arising from these meetings will continue to be reported to future meetings of the Partnership.

SusTay Project

- 2.21 The SusTay Project has been created under the auspices of the Tayside Leadership Group, consisting of the Chief Executives or senior representatives of Angus, Dundee City, Perth & Kinross and Fife Councils, NHS Tayside, the University and Colleges sector and Scottish Enterprise, to enable a coordinated public sector response to the opportunities and challenges facing the Tayside region through the sustainability agenda and move towards a carbon neutral economy.

- 2.22 SusTay is coordinated by a Lead Officers Group consisting of Chief Officers with lead responsibility for sustainability within the various partner bodies. Identification of joint opportunities and initiatives supporting the aims of the project is to be taken forward by 4 thematic groups covering Energy; Waste; Built Environment and Transport. The Director has been invited to Chair the Transport group and also be a member of the Lead Officers Group.
- 2.23 It is envisaged that SusTay will develop proposals in each of the 4 themed areas which will enhance the region's role and image through development of collaborative projects and sharing of best practice. Specific objectives in relation to transport include cutting carbon emissions; encouraging modal shift in favour of more sustainable modes for moving both people and freight; and improving the efficiency of public transport. Discussions are at an early stage and the Partnership is meantime asked to note and endorse the Director's involvement in the SusTay Project.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

Eric Guthrie
Director

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

NOTE

The following 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 :-

Reports to Forum of RTP Chairs on 1 September 2010: Various

**Meeting of Chairs of the Regional Transport Partnerships
Held in Glasgow on 2 June 2010
Draft Minute of meeting**

Present: Cllr Jonathan Findlay, Chair, SPT (Chair)
Cllr Russell Imrie, Chair, SEStran
Cllr Duncan MacIntyre, Chair, Hitrans
Cllr Will Dawson, Chair, Tactran

In attendance: Anil Gupta, COSLA (AG)
Dave Duthie, HITRANS (DD)
Derek Murray, Nestrans (DM)
Bruce Kiloh, SPT (BK)
Alex Macaulay, SEStran (AM)
Rachael Chambers, SEStran (RC)
John Nelson, SWESTRANS (JN)
Eric Guthrie, TACTRAN (EG)
Michael Craigie, ZetTRANS (MC)

Apologies: Cllr Brian Collins, Chair, SWESTRANS
Cllr Kevin Stewart, Chair, Nestrans
Cllr Iris Hawkins, Chair, ZetTRANS
Cllr Alison Hay, COSLA

Item	Action
1. Welcome & Apologies Cllr Findlay gave a welcome to the group and noted the apologies as above.	
2. Minute of Chairs Meeting on 3 March 2010 The Minute was agreed as a true record.	
3. Matters Arising SOA – A report will be brought to the next meeting. Meeting with Transport Minister – he has now accepted the invitation to the 1 st September. It was agreed that an invitation to the dinner on the 31 st August would be extended. Freight Issues - A report on this will be brought to the next meeting.	
4. Rural Garages Mr Duthie presented his paper on rural garages. This outlined several ways of intervention in these sites. It was noted that one way forward with this would be fuel duty relief for the islands and this was being perused by Hitrans to the treasury.	
5. Shared Services Mr Kiloh presented a paper on shared services. This gave details of the work that was being done within the SPT region and potential opportunities for other RTP's. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that it would be useful if Mr Kiloh could	

produce a case study showing the benefits and cost savings. It was also agreed that it would be useful for this to be taken as part of a half day workshop on shared services to be organised by COSLA. It was agreed that Mr Kiloh and Mr Gupta would liaise regarding this. AG/BK

6. Transport and Health

Mr Guthrie presented a paper providing an update on the progress that had taken place with regard to setting up a Short Life Working Group. It was agreed that Mr Guthrie would write to Nicola Sturgeon regarding this and copy on Stuart Stevenson and John Swinney. EG

7. Transport Budget Pressures

Mr Duthie presented a paper on potential budgets going forward and the impact of these on transport. It was noted that this report was written before the UK government announced further cuts of £320m and the Chart A6 may need to be changed to a longer period of recovery to reflect this. It was agreed that a paper would be written to the Scottish Government highlighting concerns regards the future of transport projects. RTP
Lead
Officers

Cllr Findlay left the meeting following this item and Cllr Imrie took over as Chair.

8. Audit Scotland Audit of Concessionary Travel

Mr Kiloh presented a paper on the inquiry by Audit Scotland into National concessionary Travel for older and disabled people. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that a joint RTP response would be written and a copy of this would be sent to COSLA. EG and
BK

9. NTS Stakeholders Group Update

Mr Macaulay presented a paper on the NTS Stakeholder group. This included a draft minute of the meeting and a copy of a presentation by Nick Wilson from Scottish Government.

A discussion followed and the main points were:

- The need to re-engage with SE and HIE
- Transport Scotland was focusing too much on reducing end to end journey times and not on increasing local commuter travel.
- There was concern that the consultation process was held over the summer.

10. AOB

Mr Duthie reported that Hitrans would be discussing the cancelation of the 3rd runway at Heathrow at their next board meeting and would bring any progress on this to the next meeting.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Date of the next meeting is 1 September in Aberdeen.

Tactran Achievements since March 2009

- **Strategic Park & Ride** – Business Cases developed for Tay South (with SEStran), Dundee West and Stirling South, all part of STPR Project 8, and for Perth East. Funded extension to successful Broxden P&R site and passenger waiting facilities.
- **Port Connectivity** - funding improved road access to Port of Dundee in support of NRIP and offshore renewables opportunities. Funding feasibility of tri-modal freight hub at Dundee Port and design work on improved road links to Perth Harbour.
- **Travel Information** – introduced www.tactranconnect.com Scotland's first multimodal travel information web gateway. Developed in partnership with Traveline Scotland. Funded extension of Real Time Passenger Information on Dundee – Perth Quality Bus Corridor. Currently finalising Regional Bus Information Strategy.
- **Rail Service Enhancements** – completed Tay Estuary Rail Study (TERS). Significantly positive Business Case for additional services Arbroath – Dundee – Perth – Glasgow. Synergy with STPR Project 23: Aberdeen – Central Belt.
- **Enhancing Strategic Road Network Capacity** - added left-turn lane on congested A90/Swallow Roundabout at Dundee, funded design of A9/A94 link around Perth.
- **Demand Responsive Transport** - working jointly with Dundee City and Perth & Kinross on urban and rural DRT pilots. Revenue and Capital support for pilots.
- **Walking & Cycling Infrastructure** – contributing £1.4 million to Connect 2 pedestrian/cycle bridge in Perth; funded extension and upgrading of NCN in Dundee (including link to Ninewells Hospital) and Stirling (NCN and Raploch pedestrian/cycle path) plus various workplace cycle lockers/facilities; cycle training.
- **Smarter Choices/Smarter places** - supporting Dundee SC/SP project through Capital support of £200,000/annum in 2009/10 and 2010/11 and 2 days/week of Travel Plan Officer time to project.
- **Travel Planning** – supported implementation of Active Travel Plans in all 4 partner Councils and 2 Health Boards and other public/private sector employers. Currently developing web-based Travel Plan Toolkit to support employer development, management and maintenance of Active Travel Plans. www.tactranliftshare.com with over 3000 members.
- **Freight Quality Partnership** - nationally recognised Overnight Lorry Parking Study; match funding support for Highland Spring rail siding proposals; support for Montrose Port Masterplan study; currently investigating Vehicle Priority Routes.
- **Freight Consolidation Centres** – with Perth & Kinross and FQP completed feasibility study into potential for regional Consolidation Centres at Perth and Dundee. Currently pursuing investigation of a pilot project in Perth area.
- **Timber transport** – active member of Stirling & Tayside Timber Transport Group. Part funding post of Timber Transport Project Officer. Reinvigorating proposals for timber railhead at Crianlarich.

- **Interchanges** – funding ongoing development of options for enhancing Dundee Station supporting Dundee Waterfront regeneration and Victoria & Albert Museum.
- **Health & Transport Action Plan** - developed in collaboration with NHS Tayside and NHS Forth Valley. Currently at final stages of consultation with a view to supporting implementation of national Health Transport Framework.
- **Strategic Development Planning** - positive “Key Agency” engagement with SDP and 7 LDPs, including support on using Accession accessibility mapping software.
- **Car Clubs Research** - with other RTPs funded Transform Scotland work on potential for Car Clubs in urban and rural areas.