

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**28 OCTOBER 2008****DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

This report updates the Partnership on matters of interest and relevance to the work of TACTRAN, seeks agreement to participation in a Public Policy Knowledge Exchange project on transport and climate change, and welcomes the introduction of improved rail services in the December 2008 First ScotRail timetable.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Partnership :-
- (i) approves TACTRAN's participation in a Public Policy Knowledge Exchange project on Transport and Scotland's Economic and Climate Change Objectives, as outlined in sections 2.14 – 2.19 of the report;
 - (ii) welcomes the improvement to rail services which are being introduced with the December 2008 First ScotRail timetable; and
 - (iii) otherwise notes the updates and other information provided in the report.

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

- 2.1 At its meeting on 24 June 2008 the Partnership received an oral report on the RTP Chairs Forum meeting held in Inveraray on 20 June 2008 (Report RTP/08/18 refers). The approved Minute of that meeting is attached at Appendix A for information, which includes the Minute of the regular 6-monthly liaison meeting between RTPs and the Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT).
- 2.2 The last meeting of the RTP Chairs Forum was held in Aberdeenshire on 27 August 2008. The Minute of that meeting will be reported to the Partnership when available. A number of matters are highlighted below.

RTP Chairs/CoSLA Strategy Group

- 2.3 As was reported on 24 June, the RTP Chairs and CoSLA have agreed to establish formal liaison arrangements, following the positive collaboration which surrounded the successful joint meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth and the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change in December 2007, as reported to the Partnership on 30 January 2008 (Report RTP/08/02 refers).
- 2.4 At the meeting on 27 August the RTP Chairs considered a report which had been prepared by CoSLA officers for submission to the CoSLA Leaders meeting on 29 August, recommending the establishment of a Joint Transport Strategy Group, under the auspices of CoSLA's Task Group structure.

- 2.5 The proposed group would consist of the Chairs of the 7 RTPS and seven members of the CoSLA Regeneration and Sustainable Development Executive Group (R & SDEG), which is chaired by Councillor Alison Hay of Argyll & Bute Council. Two RTP Chairs are also members of the CoSLA R & SDEG, and further consideration requires to be given to how this dual role is best addressed.
- 2.6 The main purpose of the Group is to enable joint local government discussion and agreement on high level matters of policy, funding and delivery of transport locally, regionally and nationally, particularly in relation to the wider local government sector engaging with Scottish Government on the funding and delivery needs of Councils and RTPs. The proposals have been approved by CoSLA and arrangements are being made for the first meeting of the Group, when the joint Terms of Reference and other detailed working arrangements will be agreed. Further developments will be reported to the Partnership as they arise.

Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR)

- 2.7 Updates on progress with the STPR have been reported in previous Director's Reports. The RTP Chairs Forum wrote to the Chief Executive of Transport Scotland on 11 August, expressing concern at a recent lack of engagement with STPR Reference Groups during the latter, critically important, stages of the STPR process. The Chief Executive of Transport Scotland responded on 26 August indicating that there would be further consultation with RTPs and other interested stakeholders later in the year, after Ministers have considered and pronounced on the outcomes of the STPR.
- 2.8 The RTP Chairs wrote again on 22 September, seeking access to background reports on the STPR work packages relating to the Options Generation and Sifting stages of the STPR process. A further response has been received dated 16 October, which merely reaffirms the intention to release information after an announcement on the STPR to the Scottish Parliament. The relevant correspondence is attached at Appendix B for information.
- 2.9 A Ministerial announcement to Parliament on the STPR is expected during November. Any further developments will be considered by the RTP Chairs at their next meeting, which is to be held in Inverness on 4 December 2008, and will also be reported to the Partnership's next meeting on 9 December 2008.

National Transport Strategy Stakeholder Group

- 2.10 As members are aware, a key requirement of the RTS is to support the National Transport Strategy (NTS). As was reported on 24 June, Scottish Government has commenced development of the NTS Delivery Plan. The Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change has established a stakeholder group, to act as a sounding board for the development of the NTS Delivery Plan and associated policies and commitments. The Minister wrote to the RTP Chairs Forum on 31 July, seeking nomination of an RTP Chair to represent wider RTP interests on this stakeholder group. At the meeting on 27 August the RTP Chairs agreed to nominate Councillor Alastair

Watson, Chair of SPT. CoSLA is also represented on the Group, along with CBI Scotland, SCDI, CPT, Federation of Small Businesses, STUC and various Government advisors.

- 2.11 The first meeting of the group took place on 2 September and developments will be reported back to the next RTP Chairs meeting on 4 December. It will clearly be important to ensure that there is close connection between the NTS Delivery Plan and TACTRAN's own RTS Delivery Plan (which forms the basis of a separate report on the Agenda). Further developments on the NTS Delivery Plan, and its relationship with the RTS Delivery Plan, will be reported to future meetings.

Meeting with the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change

- 2.12 The RTP Chairs met with the Minister and CoSLA representatives on 29 September 2008. The meeting was held under "Chatham House" rules, and covered discussion on the proposed liaison arrangements between RTPs and CoSLA, as outlined above; NTS/RTS Delivery and Single Outcome Agreements; progress on the STPR and links with the review of the National Planning Framework 2; and RTP/RTS funding.
- 2.13 At the meeting it was agreed to reinstitute a regular pattern of meetings between the RTP Chairs and the Minister, initially on a 6-monthly basis.

Knowledge Exchange for Public Policy in Scotland : Proposed Participation in Pilot Project

- 2.14 An approach has been received from the Transport Research Institute at Napier University (TRI), asking if TACTRAN would wish to participate as one of 2 "Key Public Sector Partners" in a proposed pilot project on Transport and Scotland's Economic and Climate Change Objectives. SEStran has already agreed to participate.
- 2.15 The proposed project will be led by TRI, in collaboration with the University of Glasgow, University of Aberdeen, Robert Gordon University and Heriot-Watt University. The project seeks to bring together academics and public policy practitioners with three key aims of :-
- strengthening connections between Government and public agencies responsible for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change;
 - developing transport policy options in relation to the UK and Scottish Climate Change Bills and UK Climate Committee's recommendations to Government on the first three Climate Change budgets; and
 - understanding how public policy can be improved to increase the potential for achieving targets for transport within the Scottish Climate Change Programme.
- 2.16 The aims of the project are consistent with the aims and objectives of the RTS, in particular the RTS Objectives of :-
- contributing to the achievement of Scottish national targets and obligations on greenhouse gas emissions;
 - promoting a transport system that respects both the natural and built environment;
 - promoting a shift towards more sustainable modes; and

- ensuring fit with relevant national, regional and local strategies and policies.
- 2.17 The principal resource input will be the participation of TACTRAN staff in around 6 Knowledge Exchange Workshops over the one year term of the project, commencing in autumn 2008, plus any additional staff time required to support input to these and the ongoing study.
- 2.18 The project offers the opportunity for TACTRAN to contribute to emerging thinking on policies and actions aimed at tackling transport's contribution to climate change and reducing carbon emissions. This would also enable the sharing of knowledge and experience with partner Councils, to assist in their own actions on addressing climate change and sustainability issues within Single Outcome Agreements.
- 2.19 The Partnership is asked to approve TACTRAN's participation in this project. Regular progress updates will be submitted to future meetings

December 2008 Rail Timetable

- 2.20 Significant changes will be made to First ScotRail services from 15 December 2008. These include :-
- timetable recast to provide a regular half-hourly service between Dundee and Aberdeen;
 - existing hourly Dundee – Edinburgh service to stop only at Leuchars and Haymarket, with reduced journey times between Dundee and Edinburgh of up to 10 minutes;
 - an additional hourly Edinburgh - Dundee service stopping at the intermediate stations in Fife;
 - a new service departing Blair Atholl (07.12), Pitlochry (07.26) and Dunkeld & Birnam (07.39) to Perth and Edinburgh that will enable daily commuting to Perth;
 - Perth - Ladybank - Edinburgh service increased to hourly, with later evening journeys from Edinburgh to Perth;
 - an earlier first departure from Dunblane to Edinburgh that provides a connection at Edinburgh for an earlier arrival in London.
- 2.21 The new timetable introduces significant improvements in service frequencies within the TACTRAN region, with two direct trains per hour between Dundee and Edinburgh and, through combining an hourly direct service with existing Edinburgh – Stirling and Stirling – Perth services (with a short connection time at Stirling), two trains per hour between Perth and Edinburgh.
- 2.22 The new timetables put into effect a number of the desired regional improvements to rail passenger services which are identified in the Regional Transport Strategy and are, therefore, to be welcomed.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 This report has no additional 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

Argyll Hotel, Inveraray

20 June 2008

Minute of meeting

Present: Cllr Duncan MacIntyre, Chair, HITRANS
 Cllr Allan Wishart, Chair, ZefTrans
 Cllr Russell Imrie, Chair, SESTRAN
 Cllr Alistair Watson, Chair, SPT
 Cllr Brian Collins, Chair, SWESTRANS

In attendance:
 Dave Duthie, HITRANS
 Rab Dickson, NESTRAN
 Michael Craigie, ZETRANS
 Alex Macaulay, SESTRAN
 John Nelson, SWESTRANS
 Eric Guthrie, TACTRAN
 Bruce Kiloh, SPT

Also attending:
 Cllr Alison Hay, COSLA Regeneration and Sustainable Development
 Spokesperson
 Anil Gupta, Team Leader, Environment and Regeneration, COSLA

Apologies:
 Cllr Fraser Macpherson, Chair, TACTRAN
 Cllr Kevin Stewart, Chair NESTRAN

Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome and Introductions Cllr Macintyre, as host of the event, took the Chair, welcomed everyone to Inveraray, asked for a round table introduction, and asked for apologies which were duly noted.</p>	-
<p>2. Note of Chairs meeting on 17 March The note of the meeting on 17 March was agreed.</p>	-
<p>3. Matters Arising Matters arising from the Note of Chairs meeting on 17 March were discussed, and one issue was raised. In response to a query from Cllr Hay under item 5, officers confirmed that a paper on RTS funding would be submitted to the next meeting.</p>	<p>EG to cover STPR relationships within paper being prepared under item 11.</p>

4. Regional Transport Strategy approval

Eric Guthrie (EG) presented paper and noted that SPT's RTS had been approved, and that he had been informed a further 2 RTSs were being submitted by Scottish Government (SG) civil servants to the Transport Minister this afternoon. EG noted that it was not revealed which 2 RTSs were being referred to.

Each RTP gave an update on the current status of their RTS and Delivery Plan.

SPT - Cllr Watson presented the letter from the Minister approving SPT's RTS, and noted SPT's contentment with the approval, the first in Scotland, but highlighted concerns over funding. He emphasised that SPT look forward to working in partnership to deliver the RTS. SPT are going out to consultation on their Delivery Plan and hope to have it approved in September.

NESTRAN - Have been contacted by the SG with minor comments which have now been addressed, and that the revised RTS had been approved by the NESTRAN board.

SWESTRAN - Have moved their Delivery Plan forward and are hopeful to submit their revised RTS to SG imminently.

ZetTrans - Have effectively completed their revisions, and is going to Committee for approval.

Hitrans - Working on their Delivery Plan, getting approval from Councils, and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of agencies involved in delivery of the RTS.

SESTRAN - Delivery Plan has been approved by Board and has been passed to Councils for approval, and to SG and Transport Scotland for information. Awaiting approval of RTS by Ministers.

TACTRAN – Revised RTS submitted to Ministers on 1 May. Working on revised Delivery Plan, by sifting out interventions to be delivered nationally and by other external agencies. Will be consulting Councils on core Delivery Plan content and priorities during autumn, with a view to securing agreement on this and related delivery funding and responsibilities by end of 2007

In further discussions, Cllr Collins highlighted the key role of COSLA in informing the development of relationships with RTPs, and that this role will increase in future. Cllr Hay agreed, noted that COSLA have been supportive of RTPs, and that COSLA looked forward to a closer working relationship in future.

5. RTS Funding Issues

<p>Dave Duthie (DD) presented paper, which highlighted the regional funding gap between national and local levels and how best for RTPs to address this. He highlighted the need for RTPs, through COSLA, to engage with the SG, and that the Scottish Futures Trust and prudential borrowing mechanisms were two opportunities which warranted further investigation and consideration in terms of delivering regional significant transport projects as part of the country's developing integrated transport system.</p> <p>After significant discussion, in relation to the 'funding gap' between national and local levels, involving the private sector, RTP's and Councils being 'smarter' in how to lever funding for projects, and maximising return from existing infrastructure, it was agreed that COSLA and RTP officers work together to arrange a seminar on funding for transport schemes, possibly hosted by the Scottish Transport Studies Group (STSG. Suggested invitees to the seminar included senior Ministers of the SG.</p>	<p>COSLA / RTP officers to work on arranging seminar.</p>
<p>6. Resource Funding issues This item was passed over.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>7. Working with COSLA John Nelson presented paper setting out preliminary scoping of potential ways forward for developing relationship between COSLA and RTPs.</p> <p>Cllr Hay reaffirmed CoSLA's support for the RTPs and the important role they play in the new Local Government framework.</p> <p>After discussion, there was mutual agreement that COSLA and RTPs want to work together, and that it would be beneficial for the RTP Chairs as a group to meet with the COSLA Presidential Team.</p>	<p>Officers (DD) to draft letter to Cllr Hay requesting meeting with COSLA Presidential Team.</p>
<p>8. Single Outcome Agreements Rab Dickson (RD) presented paper on RTPs approach to contributing to the SOAs of their member councils.</p> <p>Discussion concerned the experience of each RTP in ensuring transport was appropriately represented in SOAs, how it was crucial to success in other sectors, and that the process of developing SOAs had been a steep learning curve for all agencies involved.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>9. Audit Scotland study into ScotRail Franchise extension DD presented paper, highlighting that it was for noting, on the current Audit Scotland investigation into the awarding to First Group of an extension of the ScotRail Franchise.</p> <p>Discussion focussed on issues such as the fact that the SG / TS had missed an opportunity by not involving stakeholders in franchise</p>	

<p>extension discussions. There was mutual agreement that RTPs should seek to be heavily involved in negotiations for the next franchise. Cllr Watson noted that in agreeing the extension, TS may have committed SPT to significant revenue spend, a legacy from SPT's previous role as co-signatory to the franchise. This issue had now been resolved, but highlighted the lack of consultation.</p> <p>In conclusion, it was agreed that officers be tasked with drafting a joint letter from RTP Chairs to SG / TS highlighting these concerns.</p>	<p>SPT to draft letter on behalf of Chairs highlighting concerns to SG / TS.</p>
<p>10. Fuel Price Issues</p> <p>JN presented paper on impact of rising fuel prices on transport across Scotland, and the potential service disruptions this may cause.</p> <p>Discussion included the former Bus Route Development Grant (BRDG) and how the monies formerly assigned under this were being distributed currently. It was also acknowledged that the effects of fuel price increases would be felt wider than transport e.g. house prices and pressure on inflation. The increases were also focusing energies on the application of new technologies in the transport field e.g. fuel cells, and impacting on individual's views of how they will use their cars in future. The Road Equivalent Tariff pilot was referred to, in terms of it not appearing to take account of rising fuel costs during the period of the trial.</p> <p>In conclusion, it was agreed that fuel price increases would have major impacts for transport, including freight, although it was acknowledged that it would appear there is little the SG can do to influence fuel prices. The point was raised that the Government should reinvest the extra revenues from fuel and oil related taxation in public transport and into research and development into alternative fuels. Agreed to send response to SG highlighting RTP concerns.</p>	<p>AMc to draft letter to SG on behalf of Chairs highlighting concerns and opportunities for modal shift to public transport.</p>
<p>11. Strategic Transport Projects Review</p> <p>RD presented paper on current status of TS's Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR).</p> <p>Discussion highlighted that the Forth Bridge will dominate the STPR, and if that is the case then the crossing should be multi-modal. There was also consensus that RTPs would appear to be disengaged from the development process on such an important project which impacted on a significant number of RTP areas.</p>	<p>Officers (EG) to draft letter to TS on behalf of Chairs highlighting concerns.</p>

<p>There had been suggestions that the STPR conclusions would be reported to Ministers in August, but there had been no further consultation with the RTPs Reference Group on the national priorities that were emerging from the STPR Options Generation and Sifting phase, as had been promised by TS officials.</p> <p>In conclusion, agreed for officers to draft letter to TS highlighting these concerns.</p>	
<p>12. Agenda for meeting with CPT The agenda for the afternoon's meeting with CPT was agreed.</p>	-
<p>13. AOB No other business was raised.</p>	-
<p>14. Date of next meeting. Agreed that a date in August would be arranged, host RTP to be NESTRANS.</p>	Officers to confirm date.

Meeting of the Chairs of the Regional Transport Partnerships with the Confederation of Passenger Transport Representatives

Argyll Hotel, Inveraray

20 June 2008

Minute of meeting

Present: Cllr Duncan MacIntyre, Chair, HITRANS
Cllr Russell Imrie, Chair, SESTRAN
Cllr Alistair Watson, Chair, SPT
Cllr Brian Collins, Chair, SWESTRANS
Ian Craig, CPT (Lothian Buses)
Paul White, CPT
Brian Peak, CPT (First)

In attendance:
Dave Duthie, Director, HITRANS
Rab Dickson, NESTRAN
Michael Craigie, ZetTrans
Alex Macaulay, Director, SESTRAN
John Nelson, SWESTRANS
Eric Guthrie, Director, TACTRAN
Bruce Kiloh, Senior Transport Advisor, SPT

Item	Action
<p>1. Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the last meeting on 7 December 2007 were agreed as true record.</p>	
<p>2. Regional Transport Strategies Update Eric Guthrie provided an update on meeting with Cabinet Secretary on 11 December 2007 and the RTS re submission and approval status.</p> <p>Each RTP then gave an update on where they were with their Bus Sub strategies.</p> <p>After further discussion, Ian Craig welcomed the move from strategy to delivery, although acknowledged that the issues surrounding funding were disappointing. He emphasised CPT's support for SPT in their moves to tackle bus problems in the west of Scotland.</p>	

<p>3. RTS Delivery Plans Each RTP gave an update on the current status of their Delivery Plan.</p> <p>There was lengthy discussion over the funds previously known as the Bus Route Development Grant (BRDG), and the funding gap which this created for 'regional' initiatives.</p> <p>In conclusion, it was agreed that approaches should be made to Scottish Government regarding the allocation of former BRDG monies, and there was an opportunity for RTPs to act in this role.</p>	<p>RTPs</p>
<p>4. Single Outcome Agreements This item was passed over due to it being covered under other items.</p>	
<p>5. Government Spending Review RTPs gave an update on their current capital and revenue allocations from the most recent Govt Spending Review.</p> <p>Paul White gave an update on bus industry funding issues, particularly the Bus Service Operators Grant. Operators didn't get a rise in line with increase in fuel duty, and are currently looking at a reform of this with Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government.</p> <p>PW further noted that increasing fuel costs are having a severe negative impact on the bus industry.</p> <p>With regard to Concessionary Travel, PW highlighted that operators were not fully reimbursed in 2007/08, and that CPT were working with Government to review and address this.</p> <p>There then followed discussion on fraudulent claims, and the usefulness of smartcard technologies for concessionary travel.</p>	
<p>6. National Buses Action Plan Item 4 was covered under this heading, with each RTP giving an update on their involvement in the development of Single Outcome Agreements.</p> <p>PW updated that the CPT have mapped the Bus Action Plan against National Outcomes and circulated a paper showing this. This was welcomed by RTPs as a useful document.</p> <p>There then followed discussion around RTPs involvement in the High Level Bus Forum, which was attended by Cllr Watson and Cllr</p>	

<p>Collins, and which provide a useful platform for inputting to Government policy.</p> <p>EG noted that he will report back on Bus Action Plan as soon as permitted.</p>	<p>Eric Guthrie</p>
<p>7. CPT conference</p> <p>PW highlighted this forthcoming conference and that ministers from Scottish Government would be in attendance.</p> <p>PW also highlighted that the involvement of RTPs would be welcome, and issued an invitation to have an RTP Chair on the Panel as part of the conference on the 2nd day. RTPs welcomed this, and committed to getting back to CPT about who this representative would be.</p>	<p>RTPs</p>
<p>8. AOB</p> <p>No items were raised under this heading.</p>	
<p>9. Date of next meeting</p> <p>This would be arranged in future, but with a tentative date of December</p>	<p>RTP / CPT to liaise</p>

Malcolm Reed
Chief Executive
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House
58 Port Dundas Road
Glasgow
G4 0HF

11th August 2008

Dear Malcolm,

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PROJECTS REVIEW

I am writing to you on behalf of all 7 Regional Transport Partnerships regarding our concerns at the lack of engagement with RTPs, and stakeholders generally, during the final stages of the Strategic Transport Projects Review.

In November 2006 Transport Scotland established a series of Reference Groups, as a focus for key stakeholder consultation and to inform development of the STPR. One of these groups included RTP Lead Officers and CoSLA. Although we had some concerns about the process and constraints that this placed on RTP Lead Officers being able to fully brief and share information on STPR developments with our Partnership Boards and constituent Councils, the Reference Group meetings were viewed as a valuable opportunity for RTPs, and other relevant interests, to contribute to the evolving work on STPR. The creation of these groups by Transport Scotland reflected a commitment to follow STAG in the review process.

During 2007 we participated in a number of RTP Reference Group meetings and in late summer/early autumn 2007 meetings were held between your STPR team and individual RTPs, when there was consultation on the process to be adopted during the SWP5 (Options Generation and Sifting Report) phase of STPR. It was confirmed then that there would be further consultation with the RTPs Reference Group, and a further round of "one to one" consultations with individual RTPs, when the outcomes of SWP5 were known. During the period since January 2007 a considerable amount of time and effort has been invested by RTP representatives in reviewing and commenting upon the STPR process and outputs from the earlier SWP3 (Existing/Future Conditions Report) and SWP4 (Expectations, Gaps and Shortfalls Report) stages of the work. This has often included reviewing and commenting on significant reports within very short deadlines, during which we have sought to provide positive assistance while recognising the challenging timescales your own staff and consultants were working towards.

In March this year a further series of regionally based cross-Reference Group consultation meetings was held to "sign off" the earlier SWP3 and SWP4 work packages and discuss the next stages of the work. At that time it was again confirmed that Reference Groups would be re-engaged when the outputs from SWP5 were known, in our view a critical point for stakeholder participation, and likely to be in June. No further contact has been made with RTPs on the detail of STPR since this series of meetings. The presentation given at the first joint Reference Group meeting on 6th November 2006 clearly stated that the key responsibilities of the Reference Groups included "to assess and advise how well the emerging findings address the National Transport Strategy expectations" and also that there would be "consultations with Reference Groups during work packages SWP3; SWP4; SWP5 and SWP6". As indicated above there has been no engagement on the detail of SWP5 or SWP6.

At a recent meeting of the Joint RTP Chairs Forum on 20th June concerns were raised by reports that the outcome of STPR was to be submitted to Ministers in August, this to be followed by a period of public consultation later in the year. This position appears to be confirmed by recent Ministerial answers to Parliamentary Questions on transport issues.

It is extremely disappointing and frustrating that RTPs and the other Reference Groups who participated so willingly in supporting Transport Scotland during the earlier phases have been completely excluded from the later, most critical stages of the STPR process. This seems to be completely at odds with the ethos of STAG and the role of the Reference Groups, as originally set out by the STPR Project Board, and also the more transparent process which RTPs followed in developing our Regional Transport Strategies. This included a requirement to consult with stakeholders on the Options Generation and Sifting phase of our own strategies over an eight week period.

Another meeting of the Joint RTP Chairs Forum is being held on 26th and 27th August, when officers are required to provide an update on the position with STPR, including what arrangements are planned for future engagement with RTPs and other stakeholders. Individual RTPs will also want to report on progress to their own Partnership Board meetings over the next few weeks, and to their constituent Councils.

I would, therefore, be grateful if you could provide an update on the current position with STPR generally; the position with work packages SWP5 and SWP6; and an indication of when and how RTPs and the other Reference Group members will be re-engaged in the STPR process. It would also be helpful to receive an update on how the work on STPR is informing the ongoing National Planning Framework review.

A response addressing these points, and our general concerns regarding the general lack of engagement during the later stages of STPR, in time for reporting to the RTP Chairs on 26th August, would be greatly appreciated. If you or any of your team want to discuss the matter please contact myself or Eric Guthrie at TACTRAN (Tel. 01738 475771) in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

Rodney Mortimer
Secretary to Joint RTP Chairs Forum

Chief Executive's Office

Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF
Direct Line: 0141 272 7112, Fax: 0141 272 7111
chiefexecutive@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk



**TRANSPORT
SCOTLAND**

Your ref:

Our ref:
0395/08/CER

Date:
26 August 2008

Mr R Mortimer
SPT
12 West George Street
Glasgow
G2 1HN

POLICY AND STRATEGY			
Date Rec'd	27.8.08		
Pass To	RM 32437		
Copy To			
Action By			
Action Req'd			
Action Date		File Ref.	

Dear Mr Mortimer,

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PROJECTS REVIEW

Thank you for your letter of 11 August regarding the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR). I note your concerns expressed on behalf of the 7 Regional Transport Partnerships about the recent lack of engagement by Transport Scotland during the final stages of the Strategic Transport Projects Review.

The Reference Groups were established at the start of the Review with senior representatives of the various organisations concerned who have considerable knowledge, experience and understanding of the complexity of the technical issues involved. As you point out, as the STPR has progressed there have been a number of meetings either with individual references groups or organisations or as a collective body and we are extremely grateful for the time taken and the valuable contribution made at such meetings.

At the last round of consultation meetings in March/April this year it had been our expectation that we would have been able to meet again as we progressed through work packages SWP5 and SWP6. Unfortunately, due to the immense amount of activity taking place in the technical assessment of the large number of options being considered in the last 3-4 months it has not been possible to timetable such discussions into an already challenging programme. I'm sure you'll acknowledge that our priority has been to ensure that we meet the Review programme and report to our Ministers this summer in order not to delay the important decisions that have to be made.

Nevertheless, I am grateful for the Reference Groups earlier and invaluable input to the STPR process and understand your concerns regarding this matter.

I can now confirm that the STPR is currently in the process of concluding the final Strategic Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) based appraisals. Drafting of the Summary Report has commenced and Ministers are being advised of the emerging, initial findings. This takes account of work packages SWP5 and SWP6. Depending upon the outcome of their considerations, it is anticipated that there will be an announcement in Parliament later this year, with an opportunity to discuss the STPR draft Summary Report and the accompanying Environmental Report with Reference Groups and other interested stakeholders during the 8 week public consultation period.

Regarding the National Planning Framework Review, we have been working closely with colleagues who are delivering the NPF2 by sharing information and the emerging findings of the STPR to ensure that these two important pieces of work will set out a consistent and ambitious programme that together can deliver the Government's Purpose. The timing of these two pieces of work now affords a much greater opportunity for this collaborative working.

I hope this is helpful and re-assures you regarding the re-engagement of key stakeholders, including the Reference Groups, as the STPR progresses to a conclusion.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.P. Gilchrist MCR', written in a cursive style.

MALCOLM REED

22 September 2008

Dr Malcolm Reed
Chief Executive
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House
58 Port Dundas Road
Glasgow
G4 OHF

Our ref:
Your ref: 0395/08/CER
Direct dial: 0141 333 3470
Direct fax: 0141 333 3284
Email: rodney.mortimer@spt.co.uk

Dear Dr Reed,

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PROJECTS REVIEW

I write to you on behalf of the Chairs of the Regional Transport Partnerships and thank you for your letter of 26 August 2008. Unfortunately your letter arrived too late to report the content to the RTP Chairs meeting held on 27 August.

In your response you confirm that it had been your intention to engage with Reference Groups as the work packages SWP5 and SWP6 progressed. Given this intention, RTPs would be grateful to be given early sight of the reports on the SWP5 and SWP6 phases of the process. As you are aware, RTPs are progressing development of our own regional Delivery Plans, and it had been anticipated that an awareness and understanding of the work on SWP5 and SWP6 would help inform these. The Option Sifting Methodology discussed with RTPs in August 2007 included assessment of the significance – national; regional; local – of potential interventions. It was agreed then that there would be further meetings with RTPs on the outcomes from SWP5, in particular discussion on interventions which were to be “dropped” at this sifting phase of the process. We also understood that there would be further detail and discussion, in the initial stages of SWP6, on how the appraisal of STPR interventions going forward to full STAG assessment would be undertaken. As indicated in my previous letter, these are viewed as critically important phases of the STPR process. The provision of information on the outputs from SPW5 and SWP6, albeit at a much later stage in the STPR process than originally anticipated, would help inform the work RTPs are currently engaged in, which seek to develop Delivery Plans which support the National Transport Strategy and Single Outcome Agreements, as required by Ministers.

You also indicate in your response that there will be an announcement in Parliament later in the year, with an opportunity to discuss the STPR Draft Summary report and accompanying Environmental Report during the 8 week public consultation. I would be grateful if you could provide any further update on when it is envisaged this public consultation might take place, and also whether the Reference Groups will re engage prior to conducting a wider public consultation exercise.

The RTP Chairs are to meet the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change on 29 September, and I am sure that developments with the STPR will be discussed then. A response which can be shared with the RTP Chairs ahead of that meeting would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Rodney Mortimer
Secretary to RTP Chairs Forum

Chief Executive's Office

Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF
Direct Line: 0141 272 7110, Fax: 0141 272 7111
chiefexecutive@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk



Mr Rodney Mortimer
SPT
Consort House
12 West George Street
Glasgow
G2 1HN

POLICY AND STRATEGY			
D- F	17.10.08		
P. to	RM 32663		
Copy to			
Action by			
Action Req'd			
Action Date		File Ref.	

Your ref:

Our ref:
0566/08/CER

Date:
16 October 2008

Dear Rodney

Thank you for your letter of 22 September regarding the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR).

I have noted your request regarding the provision of information on the outputs from SWP5 and SWP6 in helping inform the work which the Regional Transport Partnerships are currently engaged in.

However, as I indicated in my previous letter of 26 August, due to the intensive activity which took place during May – August in relation to the technical assessment of a large number of options, unfortunately it has not been possible to share such information with the Reference Groups within the timetable agreed for an already challenging programme. Meeting this timetable has ensured that there have been no delays in reporting the initial findings to Ministers to allow them to consider the important decisions that have to be made.

I would like to reiterate my gratitude for the valuable input of all the Reference Groups earlier in the review. The STPR reports including one covering the work of SWP5 and SWP6 will be published following an announcement to Parliament in November.

Regarding the public consultation exercise and re-engagement with the Reference Groups, I cannot add anything further to the information I also provided in my previous letter of 26 August.

I am sorry that this reply is not more helpful.

*I sincerely
Malcolm Reed*

MALCOLM REED