

## TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of the Meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership held in the Balmoral Suite, Queen's Hotel, Leonard Street, Perth on Tuesday 3 February 2009 at 10.30am.

Present: Councillor John Whyte (Angus Council); Councillors Fraser Macpherson and Brian Gordon (Dundee City Council); Councillor Ann Gaunt (Perth and Kinross Council); Councillor Andrew Simpson (Stirling Council); Professor Malcolm Horner and Professor Tony Wells (Members).

In Attendance: E Guthrie (Director); N Gardiner and M Cairns (TACTRAN); G Chree (Angus Council); M Galloway (Dundee City Council); J Valentine, J Cockburn, A Wilson and P Frazer (Perth and Kinross Council).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Iain Gaul (Angus Council); Bailie Roderick Wallace (Dundee City Council); Councillors John Kellas and Alan Jack (Perth and Kinross Council); Councillor Jim Thomson (Stirling Council); Bill Wright and Gavin Roser (Members) and Eric Lawson (Angus Council), Les Goodfellow (Stirling Council) and Cathy Wylie (Henderson Loggie).

Councillor Macpherson, Chair, Presiding

### 1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made in terms of the Code of Conduct.

### 2. **MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF 9 DECEMBER 2008**

The minute of the Partnership meeting of 9 December 2008 was submitted and approved as an accurate record.

### 3. **MATTERS ARISING**

#### **(i) Proposed Dates of 2009 Meetings**

Due to the unavailability of meeting rooms, the timetable for 2009 had required to be amended in respect of venues, but not dates, for the June, September and December meetings. The timetable and venues would now be as follows:-

Tuesday 10 March 2009 in Dundee  
 Tuesday 23 June 2009 in Perth  
 Tuesday 22 September 2009 in Stirling  
 Tuesday 15 December 2009 in Forfar

#### **4. MINUTE OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 9 JANUARY 2009**

The minute of the Executive Committee meeting of 9 January 2009 was submitted and approved as an accurate record.

#### **5. MINUTE OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 20 JANUARY 2009**

The minute of the Executive Committee meeting of 20 January 2009 was submitted and approved as an accurate record.

#### **6. PUBLICATION SCHEME**

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/09/09) seeking the Partnership's approval of an updated Publications Scheme for submission to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Regional Transport Partnerships were required to review and present a revised Publication Scheme for approval by the Scottish Information Commissioner by the end of February 2009. Subject to the Commissioner's approval, the revised scheme would come into effect on 1 June 2009. A further report, updating the Partnership on progress, would be submitted to a future meeting.

##### **Resolved:**

- (i) Submission of the updated Publication Scheme to the Scottish Information Commissioner, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be approved.
- (ii) The development of a Records Management policy and procedures to accompany the updated Publications Scheme be noted.
- (iii) A report on the outcome of consultation with the Scottish Information Commissioner's office, and progress with associated procedures to be submitted to a future meeting of the Partnership.

#### **7. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008/09: PROGRESS UPDATE**

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/09/10) updating the Partnership on progress in implementing the 2008/09 TACTRAN Capital Programme and seeking endorsement of amendments required to ensure the commitment of Capital Grant within the current financial year.

The report highlighted additional slippage on the Broxden Park & Ride Waiting Facilities and Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge over the Tay at Perth schemes and advised Members that completion of these projects in 2009/10 would be managed within the overall Perth and Kinross Capital Programme. The report also noted that it had not proved possible to progress the South Tay Park and Ride and Dundee Railway Station enhancement projects during 2008/09. After discussions with Dundee City Council, it had been agreed that the funding for these projects would be reallocated to supplement an ongoing programme of works to upgrade the Grassy Beach National Cycle Network route from Broughty Ferry to Dundee.

In response to a question from Councillor Gordon regarding consideration of alternative uses of slippage on projects, it was confirmed that the Grassy Beach project had been selected as contractors were already on site and extension of the works could be completed within the current financial year. It was also noted that the project aligned well with the Cycling and Walking Strategy.

Professor Horner raised concerns about the constraining effect of Annualisation on Capital funds programming. It was suggested that an ability to programme Capital expenditure more flexibly across financial years would provide useful assistance in managing expenditure on projects. Professor Horner also advised of his recent involvement in a project being undertaken on behalf of Scottish Government, to develop models for prioritising transport projects in relation to their impacts on climate change. It was suggested that it would be advantageous to explore potential links between this work and the Partnership's own work on RTS project prioritisation. The Director advised that the issue of flexibility in managing both Capital and Revenue RTP expenditure was the subject of ongoing discussion between RTPs and Scottish Government, and noted that an opportunity might exist to raise this at a forthcoming meeting between RTP Chairs and Scottish Government. He also undertook to raise with Scottish Government officials the scope for linkage between the Partnership's own work on project prioritisation and related work in this area on behalf of Scottish Government.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The slippage in programmed expenditure on projects in the TACTRAN Capital Programme 2008/09, as outlined in the report, be noted.
- (ii) The approach to management of financial slippage of £223,000 within Perth and Kinross Council's overall Capital Programme be noted.
- (iii) The virement of funding of £100,000 from the Dundee Park and Ride and Dundee Railway Station Enhancement projects to the Grassy Beach NCN Cycle Route upgrade be noted.

**8. TRANSPORT SCOTLAND – STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PROJECTS REVIEW**

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/09/11) informing the Partnership of the outcome of the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) and seeking the Partnership's approval of a proposed response to consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the STPR (Appendix D). Appended to the report was a summary of interventions contained in the STPR which related to the TACTRAN area (Appendix B), and an outline of potential projects which had been appraised by Transport Scotland but had not been included in the final STPR (Appendix C).

In discussion, severe disappointment was expressed that Stirling had not been included as a "strategic node" despite the city being identified as a key transport interchange in the National Planning Framework 2 (NPF2). The Director advised that, despite putting forward a strong case for inclusion of Stirling as a strategic node at earlier stages of the STPR process and through

responses to consultations on the NPF2, this had not been reflected in the final STPR.

There was a general concern about a lack of linkage and consistency between the STPR and the NPF2, particularly with regard to the importance of enhancing key national transport interchanges at Dundee, Perth and Stirling and the need for improving road and rail connectivity to national gateway and regional ports at Dundee, Montrose and Perth, which were recognised in NPF2 but had been overlooked in the STPR. The Director proposed that representatives from Transport Scotland be invited to a future meeting of TACTRAN to discuss this and other issues including: (i) the appraisal of certain projects in Appendix C and the rationale for these being discarded; (ii) the omission of strategic interchanges and access to regional ports from the STPR; (iii) opportunities to collaborate with Transport Scotland on taking forward early work on STPR projects identified in the RTS, including strategic Park & Ride around Dundee and improvements to the A90 through or around Dundee. The Partnership was advised that an early meeting on the STPR was being sought between the Chief Officer's Liaison Group and Transport Scotland and feedback would be provided to a future meeting of TACTRAN.

In relation to the proposed response to the STPR SEA consultation set out in Appendix D, it was noted that development work on the RTS had concluded that it would not be practically feasible to relocate Dundee Bus Station adjacent to Dundee Rail Station, in light of wider proposals under the Dundee Waterfront regeneration project. It was reaffirmed that measures to improve integration between the Bus and Railway Stations were fully supported. It was agreed to expand TACTRAN's response to the SEA comment on this potential intervention in paragraph 3.16 of Appendix D, to make specific reference to the need for upgrading facilities at Dundee Station and improving integration at the other gateway interchanges at Perth and Stirling.

Concerns were raised by Members in respect of the Dundee Northern Relief Road proposal, which left questions unanswered including: (i) the route which any new by-pass would be likely to take; (ii) the potential effects on the Kingsway should a new bypass be built; and (iii) the potential increase in overall traffic volumes as a result of the proposal. The Director advised that the need to ensure that a full assessment was undertaken of both alternatives of a Northern Bypass or improvements to the Kingsway, which were clearly identified as options within the STPR, had already been raised with Transport Scotland officials.

Councillor Simpson suggested that additional safety measures should be introduced to mitigate the risks associated with passengers standing too close to the edge of platforms when trains were arriving at stations. The Director advised that this was a matter outside the scope of the STPR and agreed to raise this with the rail industry through the Regional Rail Forum and/or other rail liaison mechanisms as appropriate.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The publication of the Strategic Transport Projects Review be noted.
- (ii) The inclusion of a number of Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) priorities within the STPR, be welcomed.
- (iii) The submission of a response to consultation on the STPR Strategic Environmental Assessment, as set out in Appendix D and amended to incorporate additional comment within paragraph 3.16, be approved.
- (iv) Officers be remitted to enter into discussions with Transport Scotland and Scottish Government officials on the connections between the STPR and the RTS Draft Delivery Plan, and report back to a future meeting.
- (v) To invite Transport Scotland to attend a future meeting of the Partnership to discuss the STPR and its future development.

**9. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT – NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTLAND 2 – PROPOSED FRAMEWORK**

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/09/12) updating the Partnership on developments with the National Planning Framework 2 (NPF2) and seeking approval to submit observations to Scottish Government and Transport Scotland.

The report noted that the issuing of the Proposed NPF2 did not constitute a formal consultation. However, analysis of the latest version of NPF2 alongside the STPR had raised concerns regarding a lack of strategic and policy connection between the NPF2 and STPR. Particular concerns existed in relation to recognition of the strategic importance of Dundee, Perth and Stirling as key, gateway interchanges on the national transport network and the role of the regions three ports, all of which were viewed as significant inconsistencies between NPF2 and the STPR. It was agreed that the observations outlined in paragraphs 3.2 to 3.11 of the report would be submitted to the Scottish Government and the Minister responsible.

**Resolved:**

- (i) Developments on the National Planning Framework 2 be noted.
- (ii) The submission of observations to Scottish Government and Transport Scotland, as outlined in the report, be approved.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held in Committee Room 5, Dundee City Council on 10 March 2009 at 10.30am.

**IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WHICH WAS EXEMPT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1973.**

**P1. APPOINTMENT OF NON-COUNCILLOR MEMBER**

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/09/13) seeking the Partnership's approval of the appointment of a Non-Councillor Member of the Partnership.

**Resolved**

- (i) The appointment of Mr James Fleming as Non-Councillor Member of the Partnership be approved.
- (ii) The proposed appointment of Mr James Fleming be notified to Scottish Ministers for endorsement.