

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**21 AUGUST 2007****REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY : PROGRESS UPDATE****Report by Director**

This report updates the Partnership on progress in gaining Scottish Executive approval of the Regional Transport Strategy, on progress with the programme of work for developing the Strategy during the current year, and seeks approval of a financial contribution towards a joint study with SEStran.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Partnership Board :-

- (i) notes the anticipated receipt of Ministerial approval of Regional Transport Strategies in September;
- (ii) notes the publication of additional guidance on Motorcycling in Scotland, which will be incorporated within future review of the RTS;
- (iii) notes progress on the work programme for developing the Regional Transport Strategy during the current year;
- (iv) approves a contribution of £10,000 towards a joint study with SEStran into the development of a Tay Bridge South Park & Choose facility; and
- (v) receives a further progress report to its meeting on 23 October 2007.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 19 June 2007 the Partnership received a report, updating Members on progress in securing Scottish Executive approval of the finalised Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), as submitted to the Transport Minister on 30 March 2007. At that time the Partnership also approved a proposed programme of work to develop elements of the RTS during the current financial year, utilising funding allocated by the Scottish Executive for this purpose (Report RTP/07/22 refers).

3. DISCUSSION**RTS Approval Process**

- 3.1 The Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 provided for Ministerial approval, or return, of submitted strategies by the beginning of July 2007. As reported on 19 June 2007, post-submission discussions with Scottish Executive officials had resulted in review and refinement of certain aspects of the submitted RTS over recent months.

- 3.2 Further work undertaken in relation to Appropriate Appraisal of three specific proposed interventions, and review of content in relation to Equality Impact Assessment and Monitoring, led to receipt of confirmation from Scottish Executive officials on 25 June that they were content to recommend the Strategy for Ministerial approval.
- 3.3 As outlined in the separate Director's Report to this meeting, the Chairs of all Regional Transport Partnerships met with the Transport Minister, Stewart Stevenson MSP, on 17 July. At that time the Minister indicated his intention to confirm approval of strategies in September. Further developments will be reported to the Partnership's next meeting on 23 October 2007.

Additional Scottish Executive Guidance on Motorcycling

- 3.4 On 12 July 2007 the Scottish Executive issued new guidance on motorcycling related issues, which should be taken into account by Roads Authorities and Regional Transport Partnerships when preparing Local and Regional Transport Strategies. The guidance, which has been prepared by the Scottish motorcycling community and is endorsed by the Scottish Executive, is available for inspection on the Scottish Executive's website www.scotland.gov.uk
- 3.5 The new guidance covers issues relating to the role powered two-wheelers (motorcycles, scooters and mopeds) can play in overcoming social exclusion, reducing urban traffic congestion and reducing transport emissions. The guidance also encourages development of strategies to reduce casualties and improve safety and security, particularly through the design and implementation of motorcycle friendly road safety schemes and infrastructure (e.g. secure parking).
- 3.6 Clearly the guidance was issued after formal submission of the finalised RTS to the Scottish Executive. It is, therefore, proposed to incorporate this within future review of the strategy and development of relevant sub-strategies and projects, as appropriate, in consultation with constituent Councils.

RTS Development Programme

- 3.7 On 19 June the Partnership approved a programme for developing the RTS during the current year, utilising funding of £320,000 which has been allocated by the Scottish Executive for this purpose.
- 3.8 Since the last meeting Project Briefs for taking forward development of the Buses Strategy; Park & Ride Strategy; Regional Information Strategy and Walking & Cycling Strategy have been developed with consultancy support through the Stirling Council and Perth and Kinross Council Framework Agreements. Work is also progressing on development of a Project Brief for the undertaking of a STAG Level 2 appraisal of the Tay Estuary Rail Service project.
- 3.9 The commissioning and overseeing of work by consultants has been remitted to the Transportation Officers Liaison Group, who are meeting on 27 August to progress arrangements for procuring work on the above projects. Further progress on these, and other elements of the RTS development programme, will be reported to future meetings.

- 3.10 Within the report submitted on 19 June, a list of other potential development work options was noted. This included a possible contribution of £10,000 towards appraisal of a Tay Bridge South Park & Choose facility, in partnership with SEStran. Discussions have taken place with SEStran, who have allocated £75,000 in their 2007/08 RTS development programme to take this proposal forward. The need for such a facility, with or without Bridge Tolling in place, is highlighted in the TACTRAN RTS. The Partnership is asked to approve a contribution of £10,000 towards the study, which will be led by SEStran as the proposed facility lies within their area.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with the Chief Officers Liaison Group and the Treasurer, who are in agreement with the proposals.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The costs of developing the submitted RTS, with consultancy support, have been met from Scottish Executive grant allocations for this purpose, totalling £265,000 in 2006/07. Additional consultancy costs incurred in undertaking new work required on SEA Appropriate Appraisal post-strategy submission, amounting to £3,400, are being from the 2007/08 budget of £320,000 for RTS development.
- 5.2 It is envisaged that the 2007/08 programme of RTS development work will be largely delivered through procurement of consultancy support. Consultancy support costs, currently amounting to £5,000, will be met from slippage in the approved budget for Staffing.
- 5.3 It is proposed that the contribution of £10,000 towards the costs of undertaking a STAG Level 2 appraisal of a Tay Bridge South Park & Choose scheme are met from the approved contingency of £25,000 in the 2007/08 RTS Development Budget. In the event that this contingency is required to meet costs associated with the Partnership's own 2007/08 RTS development programme, this contribution will be met from projected slippage in the Core Staffing Budget.

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NOTE

Background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report :-

TACTRAN Regional Transport Strategy

Motorcycling in Scotland – Guidance for Roads Authorities (July 2007)

Report to Partnership on 19 June 2007 - Regional Transport Strategy : Progress Update