

Item:
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Report to Partnership Meeting 6 October 2022

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Active Travel Update

Purpose of Report

To provide Members with an update on Active Travel projects in which HITRANS are currently involved.

REGIONAL ACTIVE TRAVEL BUDGET (Transport Scotland)

HITRANS received additional funds earlier in the year from unallocated funds within the TS budget, and those projects are now complete or nearing completion:

Project Outline	LA Area/s	Spend
<i>Transport Integration - Ferry</i> Design/delivery of AT improvements and placemaking on routes to ferry terminals at Uig, Tarbert and Lochmaddy to improve the active travel environment alongside ferry terminal upgrades. Works at Uig and Lochmaddy will be incorporated into the existing contracts and designs for Tarbert can be implemented at a later date.	Highland CnES	£76,692
<i>Ardrihaig Active Travel Masterplan Delivery</i> Design is underway for the Ardrishaig North Public Realm project, part of the Tarbert and Lochgilphead Regeneration Fund programme. It includes traffic calming on A83, improved walking and cycling infrastructure, cycle parking, new public realm spaces, and improved link between Ardrishaig waterfront and NCN 78. Funding represents 9% of total project cost and will enable the project to move to construction this year.	Argyll & Bute	£50,000
<i>Bike Share Accessibility</i> Although it was not possible to incorporate eTrikes into the HI-BIKE eBike share system, four eTrikes are now available for trials and loans in Inverness and Fort William through Shopmobility Inverness and Lochaber Environmental Group. We are working on a way to make these more widely available at on-street locations alongside the eCargo bikes which are part of the MOVE project.	Highland	£39,176
<i>Inner Moray Firth Cycle Network – Project Design</i> Arup are working with HITRANS and Highland Council to develop a prioritised network plan for connecting communities within the Inner Moray Firth Development Plan area (see diagram below).	Highland	£41,493
	Total Spend:	£207,361

Inner Moray Firth Active Travel Network:

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HITRANS & The Highland Council

Inner Moray Firth Active Travel Network



This work forms the basis of Stages 0-1 of Sustrans' Places for Everyone Fund, which will enable Highland Council to submit a funding bid for Stage 2: Concept Design later this year for the first phase of the network delivery. A similar exercise is planned to develop a prioritised delivery plan for the Active Travel Masterplans across Highland.

2022-23 REGIONAL ACTIVE TRAVEL BUDGET

This financial year HITRANS has a budget of £1.1m from Transport Scotland, to support Active Travel projects across the region. Spend is broken down as follows:

	Project Outline	LA Area	Budget
1	Active Travel Masterplan Delivery		
	Barra Herring Walk – match funding offered for LUF bid to improve and extend traffic-free route through Castlebay, connecting with new Community Campus. If LUF bid unsuccessful, funds can be diverted to active travel improvements on North Street, Stornoway. Funds originally identified for Carness-Kirkwall path on Orkney, but governance timescales would not permit delivery this FY.	CnES	£120,000
	Campbeltown Segregated Cycleways – providing safe routes to schools & supplementing CWSR budget to enable delivery this FY.	Argyll & Bute	£461,500
	Belts Road, Elgin – monitoring of all modes to inform options appraisal for improvements to AT experience. NCN1 Garmouth – Spey Bay – Path accessibility improvements	Moray	£30,000

	Project Outline	LA Area	Budget
2	Active Travel Project Design Fort William Spine Route – design and delivery of “easy win” interventions to provide continuous active travel route from town centre to Corpach.	Highland	£100,000
	Projects TBC	Argyll & Bute	£100,000
3	Quiet Routes Working with consultant Sweco to identify interventions required to create “quiet routes” connecting communities to trip generators in rural areas. Quiet Routes are identified in STPR2 as a way of providing village-town active travel connections and long distance cycle networks. This pilot work will be able to inform future development of Quiet Routes in the region, including on the National Cycle Network.	Highland	£60,000
4	Transport Integration Supporting the carriage of bikes on buses across the region; working with Citylink and local transport operators to provide / expand carriage of bikes on buses, and facilities at public transport halts.	HITRANS Region	£40,000
5	Mobility Hubs Building on our EU-funded work to support the delivery of Active Travel components of Mobility Hubs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of HI-BIKE Inverness; 3 additional docks • eCargo bike addition to HI-BIKE Inverness & FW • Digital Booking and Mobility Hub Platform • Cycle Parking • Public Realm Improvements 	Highland	£200,000
Total Budget:			£1,111,500

2023-24 REGIONAL ACTIVE TRAVEL BUDGET

Transport Scotland requested outline grant proposals by the end of August, with first draft proposals due by 23rd September, second draft proposals by 25th November, and final proposals by 16th December for 2023/24 financial year. HITRANS has submitted the following as our outline proposal:

Programmes we wish to sustain:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital funding for AT Masterplan delivery (unless this increases substantially for LA's) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Summary: Top-up funding for CWSR to enable whole routes/projects to be delivered within a financial year – projects may be integral to, complementary, or additional to projects delivered through CWSR funds. • Monitoring to establish baseline data and measure modal shift <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Summary: funding to sustain/expand monitoring activity across region to provide baseline data for active travel and measure modal shift over time.
New initiatives or innovative ideas:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet Routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Summary: Develop a network of Quiet Routes within Local Authorities across the HITRANS region; Quiet Routes are a way of delivering active travel network connections in rural areas where segregated infrastructure is not feasible or

would be cost-prohibitive. These roads are an integral part of the transport network in rural communities, and are often the only way to access services, sites of interest, and recreational opportunities. HITRANS are running a small-scale pilot in 2022-23 and wish to take the knowledge and learning from this to work with partner LAs to develop a network of Quiet Routes connecting smaller settlements across the region.

- **Improving NCN – provision where NCN has been declassified, expanding network to new routes**
 - Summary: Potential linkages to the Quiet Routes project, working with Sustrans and other partners to improve declassified sections of the NCN (this includes the entire network in Orkney and the Western Isles, much of Argyll and Bute, and the route north from Inverness); also funding feasibility, design and delivery of new sections of NCN where opportunities exist for connecting rural communities with each other and with public transport links.

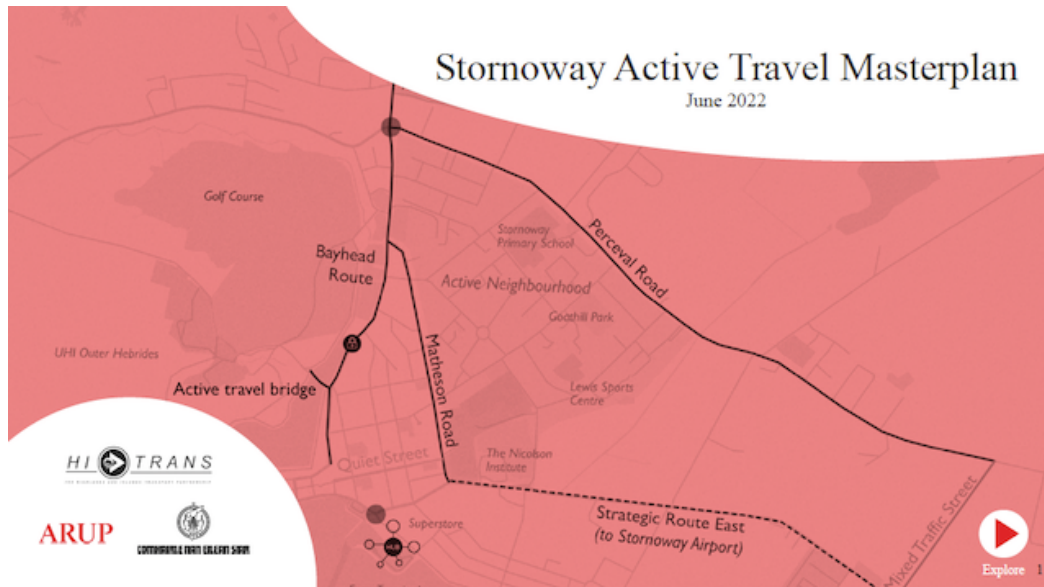
Programmes we would like to expand:

- **Public Transport Integration**
 - Summary: Improving active travel infrastructure to and at public transport halts, continuing to work with Operators to enable the carriage of bikes on buses, trains and ferries.
- **Mobility Hubs**
 - Summary: Expand our work on Mobility Hubs, bringing together public transport, shared transport and active travel and improving the public realm in our rural and urban communities.
- **Micro Mobility**
 - Summary: Expand availability of micro mobility solutions such as folding bike hire at transport interchanges, making it available to a wider range of people across the HITRANS region.
- **Network mapping / development / design / feasibility / delivery**
 - Summary: Expand support to Local Authority partners to develop network maps and delivery plans, providing funding for feasibility, design and delivery of active travel networks.
- **Active Travel Masterplans & Placemaking**
 - Summary: Expand support to Local Authority partners to develop and deliver active travel masterplans and placemaking interventions in key settlements across the region.

The Active Travel Officer will meet with Local Authority Officers in late September to further develop this outline into project proposals.

SUSTRANS PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

The Stornoway Active Travel Masterplan is now complete and incorporated into the Delivery Plan for the Outer Hebrides Active Travel Strategy. HITRANS are working with officers at CnES to progress this, and there may be an opportunity for joint-working with NHS Western Isles who are looking at ways to improve active travel access to their sites, including Stornoway Hospital.




HITRANS has £100,000 again this year from the Sustrans Partnership, and the following projects are being delivered with this funding:

Project Outline	LA Area/s	Budget
20 Minute Communities Ramboll commissioned to provide baseline data mapping for 20 Minute Communities in a Rural Context (see 20 Minute Communities report & presentation for detail)	Across Region	£25,000
Active Travel Masterplans Masterplans for main settlements in the Western Isles, to form part of the Active Travel Strategy Delivery Plan. Support for Ullapool Community Trust's Sustaining Choices project to develop a Sustainable Transport Plan.	CnES Highland	£17,000
Monitoring Funding for partner Local Authorities to support monitoring to provide baseline and usage data for planned / existing routes	Across Region	£58,000

OTHER PROJECTS

HI-BIKE INVERNESS

 HIBIKE	HEADLINE FIGURES		
	Number of Rides	Miles Travelled	Active Members
Oct-Dec 21	1,243	3,768	184
Jan-Mar 22	761	2,365	361
Apr-June 22	1,054	4,119	1,020
Totals to Date	3,058	10,252	1,020

HI-BIKE Inverness continues to perform well, with rides and membership picking up again in the summer months, despite still only having 3 docking stations and 3 virtual stations. The railway station remains the most popular pick-up point, and the Campus dock also continues to be well used. Raigmore Hospital sees the most activity of the three virtual stations, so it

will be good to have a charging station installed there later this year, through Highland Council's LCTT programme.

Three additional docking stations and 20 bikes will be added to the system in September, at Culloden Library, Hilton Community Centre and Charleston Community Complex, with a further three docks and 12 bikes in Spring 2023, likely to be at Milton of Leys, Smithton and Merkinch. It will be interesting to see membership and rides increase as the scheme expands into more residential areas of the City.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note this report and consider opportunities for advancing projects within the Active Travel funding streams in 2023-24 which will support HITRANS wider policy objectives and priorities.

Risk Register

RTS Delivery

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work supports both relevant RTS objectives and those of the Active Travel Framework.

Policy

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work supports the development of our Active Travel policies.

Financial

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work is supported by Transport Scotland's Regional Active Travel Grant Fund and Sustrans active travel partnership funding.

Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment – HITRANS support for active travel helps eliminate the barriers to travel for all and removes a number of physical accessibility barriers.

Report by: Vikki Trelfer

Designation: Active Travel Officer

Date: 1st September 2022