

Item:
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Report to Partnership Meeting 26 April 2024

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Rail Round Up

Purpose of Report

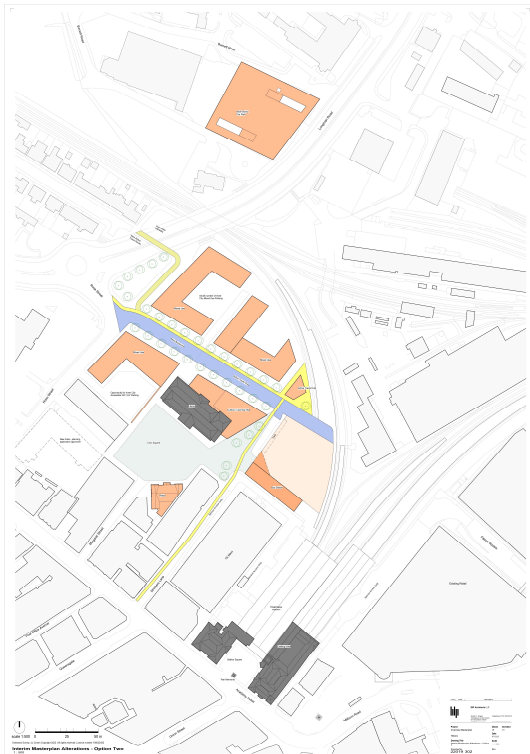
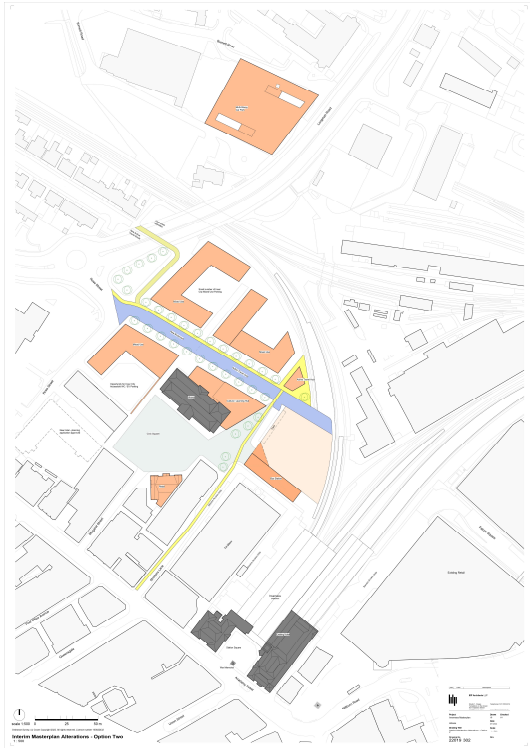
To inform the Board on topical rail matters.

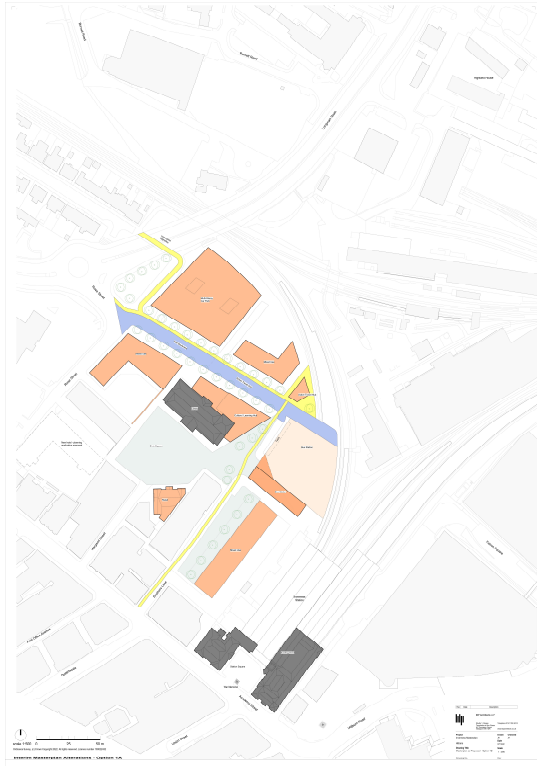
West Highland Charter Trains

The Jacobite resumed on 15 April 2024. This was two weeks later than planned after the safety regulator Office of Road and Rail would not grant an exemption for hinged-door vehicles without Central Door Locking. Alternative compliant stock has now been deployed, currently just one service per day. Meanwhile Locomotive Services Ltd ran the West Highlander charter on Mon 8th and Tues 9th on the Royal Scotsman path and announced a further service on 19th April.

Inverness Station Masterplan

HITRANS has commissioned two pieces of work to help with the development of the Masterplan. IDP have produced visuals (see below) on the proposed car park and bus station relocations which could be achieved in the medium term without alteration to rail platforms, signalling and track. None of this is abortive if/when the full scheme is implemented and allows the Boulevard to continue to Morrison's/Eastgate. We have also appointed E-Rail to undertake a Strategic Property Review of the area around the station.





Station Links

HITRANS and The Highland Council along with Network Rail are considering a bid for ATIF funding to improve accessibility for wheeling, walking and cycling between Inverness rail and bus stations, and between Oban rail station and ferry terminal. Feasibility and design work to assist this bid will be funded by THC and by HITRANS through the People and Place programme 2024-25, with proposed construction in 2025-26.

Altnabreac

Trains continue to not call at the remote request stop pending a resolution to the dispute over access and ownership at the station.

Open Access

First-owned OA Operator Lumo has applied add Glasgow to its Edinburgh-Kings Cross services. Meanwhile, Grand Union has the go-ahead for 4 trains per day Stirling-Euston via Whifflet from 2025 and is proposing 5 trains per day Cardiff-Edinburgh.

RISK REGISTER

RTS Delivery

Impact – Mode shift, integration, economy

Policy

Impact – Decarbonisation, transport efficiency.

Financial

Impact – Nil to HITRANS currently

Equality

Impact – Access to the network for all

Recommendation

1. Members are asked to note the report.

Report by: Frank Roach
Designation: Partnership Manager
Date: 16 April 2024