

## **Report to Partnership Board Report to Partnership Meeting 25 November 2016**

### **EUROPEAN**

#### **Low Carbon Transport and Travel: Pre Application Support Funding (PASF)**

##### **Purpose of Report**

To provide Members with an update on work being undertaken within the HITRANS area for projects which have been awarded funding from Transport Scotland's Pre-Application Support Fund (PASF). The funding has been made available to help public, community, and third sector organisations develop ideas for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Low Carbon Travel and Transport (LCTT) Challenge Fund.

##### **Background**

Transport Scotland has been awarded up to £13.9m until the end of 2018 under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2014-2020 programme to deliver a Strategic Intervention.

As Lead Partner, they aim to deliver a Low Carbon Travel and Transport programme (LCTT) which consists of the following 3 operations:

- Active Travel Hubs - active travel hubs will provide focal points for cycling and walking routes. The specifics of each Hub will be tailored to the location and based upon need but will typically include bike library initiatives/bike hire, safe and secure facilities for personal bikes, bike repair/maintenance facilities, improved links to public transport, local path networks, travel information and associated outreach activity.
- Low Carbon Transport hubs will provide refuelling facilities for a range of alternative fuels and transport modes. We envisage that the locations and composition of these hubs will be determined by local circumstances and demand but typically are likely to include a mixture of low carbon vehicle refuelling infrastructure, such as electric vehicle charging points, hydrogen refuelling stations and gas refuelling facilities.
- National Smart Integrated Ticketing Scheme - the aim is to create a strategic and holistic approach to a National Smart Transport Card system acting as a catalyst for increased public transport use, reducing emissions and congestion from road transport as a result.

The overall LCTT programme aims by 2018 to:

- create 6 Low Carbon Travel and Transport Hubs – 2 anticipated within the H&I area.
- construct up to 53 km of cycle networks or walking paths
- increase the number of ULEV registration in Scotland by 50

The Pre-Application Support Fund (PASF) opened in July, and successful applications received funding of up to £10,000 to help develop ideas for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Low Carbon Travel and Transport (LCTT) Challenge Fund.

The LCTT Challenge Fund is anticipated to go live in November / December 2016 and will provide capital funding to support the development of 'hubs' which focus on active travel or low carbon transport (and associated path networks) or which offer an integrated approach to both.

The intervention rate for projects in the Highland and Islands area is 50% (40% in the Lowland and Upland area).

#### **PASF Projects in the HITRANS Area**

HITRANS was awarded £10,000 towards the feasibility and scoping of active travel hubs for each of the following projects / areas:

- Active Travel Argyll and Bute
  - This feasibility is focusing on the 5 CHORD towns (Campbeltown, Helensburgh, Oban, Rothesay and Dunoon) to look at opportunities for active travel hubs.
  - HITRANS have awarded this feasibility study to Ansons who have just delivered 4 workshops this month.
- Active Travel Lochaber
  - This feasibility will add to the work undertaken in Fort William during the Personalised Travel Planning (PTP) pilot in 2015. It will look at Active Travel hub locations, links to the National Cycle Network and local cycle networks, and also as to whether Lochaber would be best served with an area wide hub, or satellite hubs in outlying areas.
  - JMP consultants have been awarded the feasibility, and their workshop in Fort William took place on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **Other PASF studies taking place in the HITRANS area include:**

- Active Travel Inverness / Inverness the ElectrCITY
  - Highland Council were successful in receiving funding for two PASF studies. The first focusing on Active Travel in Inverness, again utilising the background PTP work, and their recent Community Links Plus application.
  - The second study looks at opportunities for developing a low carbon hub for the city by building on the success of the first fully electric bus fleet in Scotland by identifying how low carbon solutions could be applied to the taxi fleet or car clubs.
  - Urban Foresight have been appointed for both PASF studies. The workshops are taking place on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November.
- Elgin Active Travel Hub
  - Moray Council were successful in obtaining funding to look at the feasibility of an Active Travel Hub for Elgin. HITRANS have offered to liaise with Council officers for any workshop or support required.

An additional two PASF studies were awarded in our region, which HITRANS have to date had no involvement in:

- Hoy Green Transport Hub
  - The Island of Hoy Development Trust
- Uist Energy in Motion
  - Cothrom Ltd.

Transport Scotland have been keen to stress that project applications which have not benefited from the Pre Application Support Fund will still be considered for the Low Carbon Travel and Transport Challenge Fund which I expected to open for applications in December 2016.

### **Recommendation**

Advisors are invited to note the report and consider other opportunities to submit applications to the Low Carbon Travel and Transport Fund.

### **RISK REGISTER**

#### RTS Delivery

Impact - Positive

Comment – This work supports two key priority areas identified in the Regional Transport Strategy update.

#### Policy

Impact - Positive

Comment - This work supports the development of our Active Travel Policies H27a to H27d in the current RTS

#### Financial

Impact – Positive

Budget line and value – HITRANS have been awarded £10,00 to undertake the two feasibility studies in Lochaber and Argyll and Bute. Any application to the LCTT Challenge Fund will require 50% funding of the overall projects costs.

#### 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:** Fiona McInally  
**Designation:** Active Travel Officer  
**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016