

Report to Partnership Meeting 4 April 2014

Research and Development

Bus Investment Fund

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members on the £2.7million East Inverness Bus Improvement Corridor project that was recently successful in receiving a grant from the Bus Investment Fund.

Background

The Scottish Government Bus Investment Fund aims to enable the development of projects which have the potential to deliver improvements in bus services and infrastructure through partnership working between local transport authorities, bus operators and others. The fund is expected to run for at least another two years, providing up to £3m/year. Projects are required to be sustainable in the long term and self-funded (or funded by partners) from the end of the project period.

East Inverness Bus Improvement Corridor

The £2.7 million project seeks to develop a Quality Partnership between HITRANS, The Highland Council and Stagecoach North Scotland to improve local bus services in East Inverness through a series of information, infrastructure and service enhancements.

The project was awarded funding on 31st December 2013 and will run until 31st March 2016. The Transport Minister attended the launch of the project at the new Inverness Campus, UHI site on 28th February. The Campus is one of the many key destinations which will benefit from the proposed enhancements.

In the first 3 months of the project, Stagecoach has already deployed fifteen new vehicles on two of their busiest city services. This exceeds the original twelve proposed in the application and will make the fleet of vehicles operating in Inverness among the youngest of any city in Scotland.

The project will also see £1million of new investment into improving the infrastructure and provision of information on Inverness' bus network. Over £400,000 of this spend has already been allocated and significant improvements should start to become visible over the next 2 months. Appendix A provides details of the funding allocation.

The focus of the project in 2014/15 and 2015/16 will be to deploy strategic bus priority at up to 13 signalised junctions in the city. The intention is to achieve this predominantly through wireless communication between the Real-time information system deployed on the city bus fleet and the traffic signals rather than through expensive on street infrastructure improvements. It is anticipated that the proposed solution adopted will also provide widespread WiFi access for passengers.

Bus Shelter and Bus Stop Information Improvements



Example of one of the 15 shelters to be replaced



Examples of the new shelters and 180 new bus stops poles / and display cases to be installed in the next two months. This will result in the provision of bus timetable information at every bus stop within the project area and real-time information displays at up to 30 of the busiest locations. In addition, each display will have a map of the bus network and QR or NFC codes which will enable any smartphone user to obtain real-time information via the Traveline Scotland App.

Bus Investment Fund 2014/15

As reported at the last Partnership meeting in February, Transport Scotland has indicated that there will be a further round of the Bus Investment fund next financial year with grant funding likely to be restricted to two years. Members are encouraged to consider potential projects. HITRANS are currently exploring the potential of co-ordinating a HITRANS wide proposal to invest in a number of strategic bus services including the Elgin – Aviemore and Oban – Fort William links which were not progressed beyond the initial application stage in the first round.

Consideration is also being given to extending the Inverness project to cover the entire city bus network.

Risk	Impact	Comment
RTS delivery	√	This work supports several strategic objectives of the RTS.
Policy	√	This work supports the development of Policies H29, H30 and H33 as set out in the RTS Delivery Plan
Financial	-	Funding is identified in the 2013/14 and draft 2014/15 Business Plan. The resource of a Partnership Manager for one day per week for the duration of the project has been identified.
Equality	-	Improvement of public transport services helps reduce social exclusion by improving access to employment and services

Report by: Neil MacRae
Background Papers: East Inverness Bus Improvement Corridor Project Overview
Designation: Partnership Manager
Date: 25th March 2014

Appendix A**Bus Investment Fund - East Inverness Bus Improvement Corridor 2013/14**

Subject Area	Sub Area	Funding	Total
Bus Stop Infrastructure	Supply & Installation of 180 No Bus stop pole/flags/displays		£89,280
	New/Upgraded shelters		
	15 purchased under THC shelter Framework		
	Kessock Rd opp Craigton Avenue	£3,211.00	
	Tomatin Rd opp shops	£7,843.00	
	Milton Crescent	£2,788.00	
	Millburn Road at Diriebught Rd	£4,335.00	
	Millburn Road at King Duncans Rd	£3,589.00	
	Raigmore Est at Shops	£4,335.00	
	Chattan Avenue	£3,985.00	
	opp Ashton Crescent	£5,085.00	
	Old Perth Road o/s Petrol Station	£3,730.00	
	plus TM	£744.00	
	Barn Church Road opp Smithton Road	£4,935.00	
	Barn Church Road at Smithton Rd	£5,085.00	
	Barn Church Road at Moray Park Avenue	£4,335.00	
	Smithton opp Shops	£5,085.00	
	Culloden Road	£3,493.00	
	Culloden Road	£3,493.00	
	Additional large bespoke shelters for key interchanges		
	Young St	£7,250	
	Inverness Airport	£15,000	
	Inverness Retail Park	£15,000	
	Total		£103,321.00
Real-time Information	TFT's / Displays		
	Including new bespoke displays for key interchanges, Interactive at stop displays with Audio function and 4x 3 line flag displays		£49,000
	2xlarge TFT's for Inverness Bus Station		
	Inform software package		£5,000
	Power supply and Communications		£4,000
	Siri feed from RSL		£4,000
	Final Quarter Inverness Real-time system support		£10,000

Traffic Light Priority		
	VixAcis	
	Config at 12 Junctions	£18,000
	Software XML Gateway	£21,000
	Annual License Fee	£500
	Imtech	
	TMS Upgrade	£59,315
	TMS Web Based GUI	£10,000
	On Street Signal & Controller Upgrades	£25,000
	Aecom	
	Traffic modelling and design Millburn Road	£9,857.28
	Survey and design at Barn Church Road	£19,253.04
Information, Marketing and Monitoring		
	High Spec Printer for TT Displays	£4,467
	PR for Press Launch of BIF	£80
	Survey & Monitoring of services & infrastructure	£1,500
	Bus Stop Audit	£1,000
	SQL Development	£15,844
	WiFi @ Inverness Bus Station	£906
	Total Allocation	£451,324

Bus Investment Fund 2013: East Inverness Bus Improvement Corridor					
Project Overview					
Partner	Total Project Funding over 3 years				
Stagecoach in North Scotland	£1,700,000				
The Highland Council	£200,000				
HITRANS	£100,000				
Total	£2,000,000				
Transport Scotland BIF Grant	£700,000				
Project Proposal Total	£2,700,000				
Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
Stagecoach in North Scotland	£1,700,000	Stagecoach in North Scotland	Staff Resource	Stagecoach in North Scotland	Staff Resource
The Highland Council	staff resource	The Highland Council	£100,000 + staff resource	The Highland Council	£100,000 + staff resource
HITRANS	£35000 + staff resource	HITRANS	£35000 + staff resource	HITRANS	£30000 + staff resource
Total	£35,000	Total	£135,000	Total	£130,000
Transport Scotland BIF Grant	£365,000	Transport Scotland BIF Grant	£155,000	Transport Scotland BIF Grant	£180,000
Year 1 total spend	£2,100,000*	Year 2 total spend	£290000*	Year 3 total spend	£310,000*

* The proposed project timeline summarised here reflects a commitment by the project partners to hit the ground running and implement a significant amount of the on-street infrastructure and information improvements early in the project. However, there is scope to increase or reduce the amount of Bus Investment grant sought to accommodate a revised profiling of the project.