

Report to Partnership Meeting 28 November 2014

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Bus Investment Fund – HITRANS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members on HITRANS Bus Investment Fund projects including the shared services ITravel project which was among those projects awarded funding by the Scottish Government in the latest round announced in November 2014.

The report also provides an update on the implementation of the East Inverness Bus Improvement Corridor project which was awarded grant funding in the initial round of the Bus Investment Fund last year. Cumulatively, these two projects amount to £1,000,000 of grant funding from the Bus Investment Fund over the three years 2013/14 – 2015/16.

HITRANS ITravel Project 2014/15 – 2015/16

Transport Scotland advised HITRANS that its application for its ITravel project was successful in being awarded £300,000 from the Scottish Government Bus Investment Fund. The project which was developed in partnership with Local Authority colleagues, is to build on the shared services proposal that will establish a new post with the responsibility for co-ordinating the provision of public transport information across the HITRANS area and in so doing improve the quantity and quality of public transport information available to the public.

The table below provides a summary of the funding contributions.

Bus Investment Fund: HITRANS iTravel Project		
Funding Source	2014/15	2015/16
Partner match funding contributions		
All Local Authorities – Bus Timetable Database Contract (saving on reduced license fees)	£10,000	£10,000
Argyll & Bute Council	£7,500	£7,500
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	£5,000	£5,000
The Highland Council	£10,000	£10,000
Moray Council	£7,500	£7,500
Orkney Islands Council	£5,000	£5,000
HITRANS (ITS, RTPI, JourneyGenie and additional contribution towards materials / equipment for publicity)	£72,000	£72,000

Bus Investment Fund		
Grant contribution sought from Bus Investment Fund	£150,000	150,000
Project total *While the match funding is fixed there is an opportunity to vary the BIF grant fund allocation between 2014/15 & 2015/16 as required	267,500*	267,500*

The table below outlines the areas where investment in infrastructure to support the shared services approach would be made both on the ground and in the passenger information systems. The new Public Transport Information Officer will be responsible for implementing these improvements and an early task of the officer will be to agree the specific locations where these new facilities can best be implemented.

iTravel Bus Investment Fund Improvements to Information and Infrastructure	2014/15	2015/16
Renewable Energy Powered Passenger Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ePaper Displays at c5 locations in an area with a high seasonal increase in footfall driven by tourism such as key interchanges in Skye and Lochalsh Solar CHRONOS units to add to existing Aviemore and Grantown units with other units at new locations within the Cairngorms National Park area. 	£22,500	£22,500
Vix and Moray Real time Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To include new displays at key interchanges such as Portree Square, Kirkwall Airport, Stornoway Bus Station and other key interchanges; JMW screen reconfiguration to accept Stagecoach AVL real time output 	£50,000	£50,000
Ticketeer Linked Real-time information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deployment of RTI through Ticketeer with Shiel buses with screen deployment and possible increase in WCM Ticketeer coverage 	£10,000	£10,000
High Quality Bus Stop poles / display cases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An additional 150 to 200 bus stop systems across the region with a focus on locations used as timing points. 	£37,500	£37,500
Bus Shelters / Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New or upgraded waiting facilities at key interchanges 	£45,000	£45,000
Bus Stop Information Display Case Refurbishment / Renewal	£5,000	£5,000
Total	£170,000	£170,000

East Inverness Bus Improvement Corridor 2013/14 – 2015/16

The East Inverness Bus Improvement Corridor project was initially successful in securing £700,000 in grant funding from the Scottish Governments Bus Investment Fund that extends to March 2015/16.

Transport Scotland subsequently agreed to increase the grant award by a further £7,922 to match fund the development of a Statutory Quality Partnership (SQP) for Inverness as part of the project. Development of the draft SQP has subsequently been awarded to AECOM through the Highlands and Islands Consultancy Framework.

The Table below lists elements of work committed by 31st March 2013/14.

Item	Amount (£)
Bus Shelters	
Bus Shelters Ltd - Kessock Rd opp Craigton Avenue	£3,211.00
Bus Shelters Ltd - Tomatin Rd opp shops	£7,843.00
Bus Shelters Ltd - Milton Crescent	£2,788.00
Bus Shelters Ltd - Millburn Road at Diriebught Rd	£4,335.00
Bus Shelters Ltd - Millburn Road at King Duncans Rd	£3,589.00
Bus Shelters Ltd - Raigmore Est at Shops	£4,335.00
Bus Shelters Ltd - Chattan Avenue	£4,335.00
Bus Shelters Ltd – opp Ashton Crescent	£5,085.00
Bus Shelters Ltd - Old Perth Road o/s Petrol Station	£4,474.00
Bus Shelters Ltd - Barn Church Road opp Smithton Road	£4,935.00
Bus Shelters Ltd - Barn Church Road at Smithton Rd	£5,085.00
Bus Shelters Ltd - Barn Church Road at Moray Park Avenue	£4,335.00
Bus Shelters Ltd - Smithton opp Shops	£5,085.00
Bus Shelters Ltd - Culloden Road	£3,493.00
Bus Shelters Ltd - Culloden Road	£3,493.00
Pass-Tech Solutions – Bus shelter, Inverness Retail Park	£5,768.59
At Stop Infrastructure	
Trueform - 180 poles, bumper feet, cases and infill strips	£50,940
Trueform - 180 bus stop installations	£26,100
Trueform - 180 profiled flags	£12,240
Trueform – Shelter, Young St	£7,250
Real-Time Information	
Vix Acis – Realtime info displays	£22,668.44
RSL – Siri feed to Real-time System	£3,000
Final Quarter Inverness Real-time system support	£10,000
Bus Priority Software Upgrade, Modelling, Junction Design and Implementation	
Vix Acis – TLP Priority software and configuration at 21 signalised junctions within Inverness	£38,000
ImTech – Instation Upgrade, Web Based GUI and Junction Upgrades	£121,000
Aecom – bus lane modelling on Millburn Road	9,607.28
Aecom – Junction survey & design Barn Church Rd / Tower Rd	19,253.04
THC - Power supply and Communications at locations for Real-time information displays	£2,850
Information, Marketing and Monitoring	

High Spec Printer for TT Displays	£4,467
PR for Press Launch of BIF	£80
Survey & monitoring of services & infrastructure	£1,568.50
Bus Stop Audit	£1,254.60
WiFi @ Inverness Bus Station	£996
TOTAL*	£403,464.45

The focus for the project over the next few months is to trial the bus priority at two pilot junctions on Millburn Road with a view to then rolling out the technology at up to 21 junctions in Inverness.

Work is also underway in delivering a number of other elements of the project earmarked for this financial year including the roll out of NFC's at the 180 new bus stop displays; the development of a marketing strategy to boost patronage and usage of Traveline Scotland; install of bespoke bus shelters and information displays at Falcon Square, Inverness.

In addition a consultant has been commissioned to undertake a pilot Accessibility Review at several of the key bus services and transport interchanges with the project area including Inverness rail and bus stations and Inverness Airport. The aim of the pilot study is to help develop a template which could be used elsewhere across the Highlands and Islands to help enhance passenger travel experience for Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRMs).

Recommendation

1. Note the report
2. Consider specific opportunities presented by the improvements identified for the ITravel project in the Table on Page 2 of this report.

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 to support the HITRANS iTravel proposal and match funding in support of member Local Authority applications is identified in the 2014/15 Research and Development and Delivery budget and was approved at the Partnership Meeting on 24.09.14. The Public Transport Information Officer will be the Lead officer with responsibility for implementing the project.
Equality	√	Improvement of public transport services helps reduce social exclusion by improving access to employment and services

Report by: Neil MacRae
Designation: Partnership Manager
Date: 19th November 2014