

## **Report to Partnership Meeting 4 September 2015**

### **RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY**

#### **Bus Investment Fund – East Inverness & HI-Travel**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update Members on the implementation of the two Bus Investment Fund Projects for which HITRANS are the lead partner - East Inverness Bus Improvement Corridor and HI-Travel. Previous reports have included wider information about the objectives of the projects. This report focuses on the implementation of each project.

#### **East Inverness Bus Improvement Corridor**

Total budget for the East Inverness Bus Improvement Corridor project is £2,715,844. This included a contribution of £1.7million from Stagecoach North Scotland towards 12 new Euro 5 low floor vehicles which now operate in the city. Contributions of £107,922 from HITRANS and £200,000 from THC were used to secure £707,922 from the Scottish Governments Bus Investment Fund that extends to March 2015/16.

#### **Progress**

To date over £730,000 of new investment has already been committed including the following improvements;

- Installation of over 180 new bus stop flags and display cases with NFC and QR codes to be rolled out at these stops this autumn – These will enable passengers with smartphones to access real-time information for any stop via the Traveline Scotland App.
- New real-time displays at locations such as Academy St, Grant St, Millburn Rd and
- 18 new bus shelters including at Inverness retail park.
- Intelligent bus priority successfully trialled at two junctions on Millburn Rd
- Highland Council have awarded the contract for the redesign of the Tower Road / Barn Church Road junction which will include improved bus priority measures and improve the overall safety of the junction.

#### **2015/16 Implementation**

- New bus shelters at Inverness airport and either side of Falcon Square
- New real-time displays at Falcon Square, Inverness Rail Station and new Inverness Campus, UHI
- Roll out of intelligent bus priority at additional 10 junctions.
- Innovative marketing and monitoring of bus services in Inverness and Traveline Scotland
- Also looking to pilot deployment of AVL kits on emergency vehicles in the city to help ensure that they receive a green light at any junction with intelligent traffic light priority.

A current key focus is the ongoing development of the regions first Statutory Quality Partnership between HITRANS, The Highland Council and Stagecoach North Scotland. The SQP will encompass Inverness but with exemptions to ensure that any less frequent bus services will not be affected. Partners are currently looking to agree draft proposals in advance of wider consultation with other stakeholders including local bus operators, Transport Scotland, Confederation of Passenger Transport, Highland Council / HITRANS Members. Among the issues under consideration are a number of infrastructure improvements including a bus lane on Millburn Road.

## HI-Travel

<b>Bus Investment Fund: HITRANS iTravel Project</b>	
<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Partner match funding contributions</b>	
All Local Authorities – Bus Timetable Database Contract (saving on reduced license fees)	£20,000
Argyll & Bute Council	£15,000
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	£10,000
The Highland Council	£20,000
Moray Council	£15,000
Orkney Islands Council	£10,000
HITRANS (ITS, RTPI, Journeygenie and additional contribution towards materials / equipment for publicity)	£144,000
<b>Bus Investment Fund</b>	
Grant from Bus Investment Fund	£300,000
<b>Project total</b>	<b>£535,000</b>

## Progress

Julie Cromarty was appointed as Public Transport Information Officer at the end of January 2015 and has been working with member local authorities to roll out various improvements identified in the application including.

- 250 High Quality Information poles / displays / timetable cases. Priority locations / routes identified to date are Kirkwall, Stornoway, Oban, Fort William and the Service No 35 between Buckie and Portgordon.
- Poster display cases for bus shelters
- A new contract for the supply of 5 solar e-paper displays at key locations in Skye and Lochalsh including Kyle, Kyleakin, Broadford and Uig.
- 4 additional Solar Chronos units at busy stops within the Cairngorm National Park area.
- Supply of real-time displays at locations in Orkney (including Kirkwall Airport), Stornoway, Thurso and Elgin Bus Station.
- Maintenance and support for the JourneyGenie website.
- 5 new bus shelters for key interchanges
- Real-time display and Wifi hotspot in Portree Square
- Roll out of ticket machines with integrated Automatic Vehicle Location equipment.

HITRANS officers are currently in the process of finalising tender documents for procuring a new timetable database as the existing contract with Routewise which covers all HITRANS local authorities comes to an end this autumn. Procurement of a new framework for Real-time information will also take place in the autumn as the current framework contract only extends to the end of 2015.

There is still an element of the budget to be allocated so requests for improvements similar in nature to above will be considered.

**Recommendation**

Members are asked to:

1. Note the report
2. Consider specific opportunities for deploying that element of the HI-Travel budget still to be allocated.

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 HI-Travel proposal and match funding in support of member Local Authority applications is identified in the 2015/16 Research and Development and Delivery budget and was approved at the Partnership Meeting on 24.09.14. The Public Transport Information Officer is 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:** 25<sup>th</sup> August 2015