

Item:  
**14**



## Report to Partnership Meeting 17 September 2021

### RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

#### Active Travel Update

##### Purpose of Report

To provide Members with an update on Active Travel projects in which HITRANS are currently involved.

##### REGIONAL ACTIVE TRAVEL BUDGET (Transport Scotland)

HITRANS received an additional £332,220 to the Regional Active Travel Fund from Transport Scotland in March 2021, which enabled us to deliver the following four projects:

Folding Bike Hire Kiosks	Inverness, Elgin, Oban	Install Brompton Bike Hire Kiosks to facilitate integration of active travel with other forms of transport (installation delayed to Sept 2021)	£142,218
Wick Whitechapel Road access improvements	Wick, Highland	Improvements to junction of Whitechapel Road and High St to improve pedestrian access to bus stops	£20,358
Fort William – Glenfinnan feasibility study	Lochaber, Highland	Feasibility study for active travel link between Fort William and Glenfinnan	£19,644
Active Travel Link; Inverness Airport – Dalcross Station	Dalcross, Inverness	Construction of active travel connection between Inverness airport and new rail halt at Dalcross	£150,000

##### 2021-22 projects:

HITRANS has been awarded £381,000 for projects in 2021-22 financial year and the following projects are being taken forward:

Budget Heading	LA Area	Proposal	Budget
Transport Integration	Argyll & Bute / various	Continue partnership with West Coast Motors to enable bikes to be carried on buses in rural areas.	£12,000
		Cycle parking at bus stops.	£14,000
Active Travel Masterplan Interventions	Argyll & Bute CnES Highland Moray Orkney	Small works to carry out priority interventions identified in the HITRANS Active Travel Masterplans for settlements across the HITRANS area, to remove barriers to utility active travel.	£305,000
Active Travel Project Design	Various	Design and appraisal work to support Regional Active Travel Fund programme, particularly detailed design of small works to support the delivery of the Active Travel Masterplan Action Plan. (100% funding)	£50,000

## SUSTRANS PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

Projects will be delivered under three headings this financial year:

### *Inner Moray Firth Active Travel Masterplans*

Updating the active travel audits for towns within the IMF Development Plan area, including a network of links between settlements. Community engagement was carried out using the CommonPlace platform during June and July, and responses are have been assimilated by Arup into the draft reports.

### *Rural Spaces*

Half of the Sustrans Partnership fund has been allocated for distribution to community-led initiatives to deliver 'Spaces for People' type interventions or missing active travel links in rural areas. Guidance and application forms have been circulated via the Development Trusts Association and other contacts. So far only one award has been made, to Rogart Development Trust, towards the cost of path improvements and pedestrian bridge replacement in the small settlement of Rogart in Sutherland. Additional applications are being considered.

### *20-Minute Rural Neighbourhoods*

The remainder of the Sustrans Partnership funding will be used to commission a piece of work examining 20-minute neighbourhoods in a rural context; please see separate report for more detail. The HITRANS commission will be informed by a recent piece of work by the ClimateXChange network entitled "20 Minute Neighbourhoods in a Scottish Context".

<https://www.climateexchange.org.uk/research/projects/20-minute-neighbourhoods-in-a-scottish-context/>

## OTHER PROJECTS

### *HIBIKE - Inverness eBike Share Scheme*



The much delayed launch of HI-Bike will now go ahead on 1<sup>st</sup> October, with a soft launch and initial trials and offers followed by an event on 29<sup>th</sup> October to promote low carbon transport ahead of COP26.

We are also working with Highland Council to expand the scheme using Low Carbon Travel & Transport funding, and HITRANS has funding from the EU-funded eHUBS project to install additional docks to bring the total up to 9 docks and 80 bikes spread across the City. A sister project is being set up in Fort William by Lochaber Environmental Group which will also be operated by Bewegen.

### *Black Parks Active Travel Route, Fort William*

Improvements have been made to the connecting path between Inverlochy and the A82 retail centre with funding from Lochaber Town Centre Fund and HITRANS, and the Black Parks Road alongside Old Inverlochy Castle has been resurfaced to give a smooth passage onward to Stramash nursery, Highland Soap Co and the High School. The next phase of the project will see lighting installed along the route this financial year. Unfortunately the two bollards restricting vehicular access along the route were vandalized in May; these have been replaced with more robust retractable bollards.



### *Active Travel Strategies*

The Active Travel Officer continues to work with Highland and Moray Councils to develop Active Travel Strategies, and an Active Travel Strategy has been drafted with Comhraile nan Eilean Siar.

### *Embedded Officer Posts*

Orkney Islands Council now has a Sustrans-funded Embedded Officer post, and Moray Council and the Cairngorms National Park Authority have also now been offered Embedded Officer posts

## **Recommendation**

Members are asked to note this report and consider opportunities for advancing projects within the Active Travel funding streams which will support HITRANS wider policy objectives and priorities.

## **Risk Register**

### RTS Delivery

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work supports both relevant RTS objectives and those of the Active Travel Framework.

### Policy

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work supports the development of our Active Travel policies.

### Financial

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work is supported by Transport Scotland's Regional Active Travel Grant Fund and Sustrans active travel partnership funding.

### 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:** Vikki Trelfer

**Designation:** Active Travel Officer

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021