

Item:
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Report to Partnership Meeting 5 February 2016

PARTNERSHIP

National Transport Strategy Refresh

Background

In late April 2015 Derek McKay MSP, Minister for Transport and the Islands, announced a refresh of Scotland's NTS, in partnership with CoSLA. This publication represents the result of the refresh exercise and supersedes the previous NTS, dated 2006. It recommends a fuller review of the NTS in the next Scottish Parliamentary term.

Transport Scotland were supported in the development of the RTS refresh by a Stakeholder Group with representation from CoSLA, SCOTS, Regional Transport Partnerships, STUC, Transform Scotland, and Scottish Cities Alliance. HITRANS Partnership Director was one of two RTP lead officers on the group with his remit being specifically to ensure Highlands and Islands issues were represented.

The National Transport Strategy Refresh and associated documents are available on the Transport Scotland website and if this report is read in electronic format can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Summary

The National Transport Strategy (NTS) sets the long term vision for our transport policies. It was first published in 2006 after the Scottish Government [consulted](#) the public, interested individuals and a wide range of organisations on their views for the future of transport in Scotland. The NTS was refreshed in 2015 and recommended a fuller, collaborative review of the NTS in the next Scottish Parliamentary term.

Why do we need a National Transport Strategy?

Under [Scotland's Economic Strategy](#), the Scottish Government's overall purpose is to increase sustainable economic growth. A safe, efficient, effective and sustainable transport system, for both passengers and freight, remains one of the key enablers of such sustainable economic growth. It supports businesses in achieving their local, national and international objectives and improves the lives of individuals and communities by connecting them with their economic future.

The National Transport Strategy provides the framework for enhancing our transport system, in response to the main transport challenges that Scotland faces, which in turn contributes to improvement in our economic, environmental and social performance. In particular, the three Key Strategic Outcomes continue to be used as the guiding

principles at national, regional and local level when developing strategy and prioritising resources.

What does the National Transport Strategy do?

The NTS introduced three key strategic outcomes, which are:

- Improved journey times and connections between our cities and towns and our global markets to tackle congestion and lack of integration and connections in transport
- Reduced emissions to tackle climate change, air quality, health improvement
- Improved quality, accessibility and affordability of transport, to give choice of public transport, better quality services and value for money, or alternative to car

These outcomes feed directly into the [five Strategic Objectives](#), providing a basis on which to develop policies, decide how to invest resources to maximum effect, and measure the effect of our work.

Links to the refreshed NTS and its supporting documents can be found below:

- [National Transport Strategy – Main Document](#)
- [NTS Refresh – Record of Engagement and Consultation](#)
- [NTS Refresh – Table of Delivery Against 2006 Commitments](#)
- [NTS Refresh – Transport Statistics](#)

Delivery plan

The NTS Delivery Plan is a working document that sets out all of the planned actions Transport Scotland are taking within the context of the [National Performance Framework](#) to support the Purpose of the Scottish Government.

The Delivery Plan is periodically updated to reflect significant developments and track progress against planned actions towards delivering transport-related [National Outcomes](#) and meeting the objectives of the [National Transport Strategy](#).

A full version of the latest [NTS Delivery Plan](#) is available.

A table of Delivery Against 2006 NTS Commitments has been published alongside the “refreshed” NTS.

Carbon Account for Transport (CAT)

The Carbon Account for Transport meets a commitment contained in the published [National Transport Strategy](#).

It helps us to take decisions and develop actions to meet the targets in the [Climate Change \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#), by providing a structure for monitoring and reviewing our progress towards achieving the 'reduced emissions' Strategic Outcome for transport.

It does this by presenting, in one place, assessments of all Scottish Government transport policies and projects that are expected to have significant positive or negative impacts on overall carbon emissions. A full version of the [Carbon Account for Transport](#) is available by clicking on the underlined text if reading electronically.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Members are asked to note this report.

Risk	Impact	Comment
RTS delivery	✓	The NTS Refresh resets the links into the RTS and the HITRANS RTS refresh is linked to this process.
Policy	✓	The NTS sets out the important role the RTPs have to play in supporting the NTS strategic outcomes including our key role within Community Planning.
Financial	-	
Equality		The NTS has improved accessibility as one of the key strategic outcomes. It also seeks to address inequality.

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