

Report to Partnership Meeting 13 September 2019

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

INCLUSION, SCSP and eBike Grant Updates

Purpose of Report

To inform members of progress with key aspects of EU Horizon 2020 INCLUSION project and associated further development with project funding.

Summary

1. HITRANS are participating in a multi-partner EU funded research project, the project is on track to deliver key pilot project outcomes across the Cairngorms NPA and Gateway areas and contribute process learning evidence to the wider research project.
2. Have been advised that depending on grant conditions: £11k from Energy Saving Trust for delivery of 3 small scale e-bike pilots; have received £17,500 of match funding from Paths for All Smarter Choices Smarter Places Open Fund to further promote via STV the Thistle Assistance Card, we are hopeful of receiving £49,000 in match funding for a further STV based promotion of HiTravel Liftshare scheme and funds towards the development of a Hitrans wide shared mobility booking system developed via the CivTech Scotland programme.
3. Discussions continue with Scottish Enterprise and ACCIO the Catalonia development agency about the potential for a joint HITRANS and Catalonia based bid for the current £1m R&D fund to trail and develop innovation regarding mobility, healthcare and big data.
4. We are scheduled to have initial discussions following award of PfA SCSP funding with CivTech Scotland later this month regarding the development of a 5.0 challenge for 2020.

INCLUSION project

HITRANS have continued to collate baseline data for the INCLUSION project over the course of the Summer and identify funding to deliver interventions in the Cairngorms National Park (CNP) Pilot Lab as part of the project. The data baseline should be complete by the end of September and then will follow a period of 6 months where sustainable mobility interventions will be piloted in the CNP/Speyside Gateway area and evaluated in early 2020. HITRANS have sought external funding detailed in the following paragraphs to enable interventions over the next few months to be evaluated.

Energy Savings Trust (EST) E-Bike Grant Fund

HITRANS applied in June 2019 for match funding for 18 e-bikes to pilot the use of this form of shared mobility across the area. The aim would be to provide a clear pilot of e-bikes for

the INCLUSION project but also utilise matching funding from the G-PATRA project to deliver further e-bikes across the HITRANS area: Aberlour, Fort William and Aviemore, as initial pilot locations.

HITRANS received confirmation of an intention to award funding depending on a number of conditions being addressed in August 2019. At the point of writing the paper no grant award has been received. The Partnership Director has provided detailed information to EST and Transport Scotland in the hope of enabling release of the funding to complete the purchase of 18 VOLT e-bikes. This followed earlier responses provided by the INCLUSION project manager. The last comprehensive response provided by HITRANS was sent to EST on 23 August and it has been quite significant the amount of additional assurance required by EST compared to other TS managed funds e.g. SCSP via PfA, for the release of a smaller amount of match funding.

Paths for All (PfA) Smarter Choices Smarter Places (SCSP) Open Fund

HITRANS have applied and depending on final checks and signature of grant letters, have been awarded £17500 and £49000 of match funding for a marketing campaign for the Thistle Assistance Card (TAC) and HiTravel liftshare scheme and development of a HITRANS wide shared mobility booking system respectively. The proposal is that the funding for marketing will enable the delivery and evaluation of the interventions by STV and their market research Scotspulse across a number of mediums with the aim of increasing awareness of both the TAC and HiTravel schemes. The booking system will be developed by engaging in the CivTech Scotland programme 5.0 for 2020. This Scottish Government initiative, seeks to bring together public sector expertise and private sector creativity to solve real problems, develop new products and deliver better, faster and easier services for everyone. Given the potential focus of the proposed challenge around sustainable and multi-modal mobility, it might be that wider HITRANS partners may wish to become involved in the challenge process. We are having an initial scoping workshop with CivTech Scotland later this month and it could be scoped to address wider CPP outcomes at this early stage.

SE/ACCIO Research and Development Fund

In May 2019, Scottish Enterprise launched a call for applications to a £1m research and development fund they are working in partnership with the Catalonia Trade and Investment (ACCIO) agency. The focus of the fund was looking to promote joint R&D collaborations between Scottish and Catalanian companies that could develop innovations in the areas of healthcare, mobility or tech. Given HITRANS involvement with SMEs BusUp and Mosiac Factor through the INCLUSION project, we have sought to investigate over the summer possible partnerships to trail an innovative mobility product in the HITRANS area and provide a test bed for SMEs. We have had and continue to have positive discussions with various partners, albeit at present it looks likely that any project will be focussing on an application to a later Round of the fund, given the 10 October closing date. However, we will seek to continue to engage on this issue given the potential positive impact for the delivery of some of the RTS objectives.

RISK REGISTER

RTS Delivery
Impact - Positive
Policy
Impact - Positive
Financial
Impact – Will require match funding
Equality

Impact – Positive

Recommendations

1. Members and Advisors are asked to approve the report.

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Date:	2 nd September 2019