

Report to Partnership Meeting 15 April 2016

EUROPEAN PROJECTS

EU InterReg (North Sea Region) Project Application:

COMBI (Commuting by Bike as a full alternative Rural regions)

SUMMARY:

HITRANS has submitted an application as one of members of the COMBI (Commuting by bike as a full alternative in rural regions) project under the EU InterReg VB North Sea Region Programme. The original COMBI project application was unsuccessful in the First Call but was invited to reapply to the Second Call for applications in March 2016.

COMBI (Commuting by bike as a full alternative in rural regions)

The Steering Committee rejected the original Full Application for the COMBI project at its meeting on 10/11/2015 but with a recommendation to reapply in the second call under Programme Priority 4 - Promoting green transport and mobility.

HITRANS officers have subsequently worked with project partners to refine the project objectives and address the weaknesses of the original application in order to submit a revised application in March 2016. If successful, the project would run for 3 years with an expected start date of September 2016.

The project has partners from the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Belgium and also Aberdeenshire Council. The Lead Partner is Provincie Drenthe from the Netherlands.

The total value of the project inclusive of ERDF grant is 5.5 Million Euros of which HITRANS has outlined projects for a value of 1.2 million Euros including interventions across the following 3 Work Packages;

Bikehavioural Change

- HI-Travel Personal Travel Planning toolkit, maps, and cycle parking facilities.

Utilise PTP toolkit, along with the development of active travel maps to enable SME's and other employers to encourage and promote active travel as part of everyday journeys. Work will compliment and enable expansion of recent SCSP work across all 5 HITRANS member local authorities

Intention is for scheme to also provide opportunities for public sector bodies or SME's to apply for grant funding to install bike shelters and/or shower facilities at key employment sites to help encourage modal shift.

- (E)bike club pilots

Develop two (E)bike pilots current locations are identified as Papa Westray where scheme would be integrated with island ferry and air services and one in the Moray Firth.

- The Final Mile: Integrating Bikes and Buses

Establish bike racks and / or trailers on key bus routes for active travel, where local commuters have to cycle a distance to reach a strategic bus link or require a bus for the first and / or final mile of their commute on commuter corridors where traditional infrastructure solutions do not provide cost effective solutions.

Additionally, this pilot will trial integrated bus / cycle shelter provision, to ensure bikes are located in a safe environment while utilising public transport. This will encourage people to cycle longer to reach their link to public transport into the main settlements.

Bike to the Future: Infrastructural and Technological Innovations (HITRANS Work Package Lead)

- Innovative approaches to encouraging cycle commuting in rural areas

Undertake 3 separate pilots trialling different sustainable lighting infrastructure at three locations within the Highlands and Islands with the objective of enabling people in rural areas to commute throughout the year.

Bicycle Barometer: Making the most of cycling data

- Using cycling data to help deliver change

Collaborate with Lead partner Drenthe to develop and implement a new open source data platform for commuting cyclists of all abilities with a view to monitoring where, when, why and how often they cycle. Use this data as a tool to help prioritise spend of active travel budgets.

Enhance current data collection of active travel network

Monitoring and evaluation of other workstreams.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to note the report and consider opportunities which the COMBI project may present if successful in being awarded EU InterReg funding.

Risk	impact	Comment
RTS delivery	√	The Research and Development Programme is the key mechanism by which HITRANS promotes delivery of the Transport Strategy for the Highlands and Islands
Policy	√	COMBI supports several Active Travel priorities within the RTS
Financial	√	The application will be considered in August 2016, with the projects expected to run between 2016-2019 if successful

Equality	√	Actions within the COMBI project are aimed at improving active travel opportunities across the HITRANS region
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