

Item:  
**18**



## Report to Partnership Meeting 12 November 2021

### EUROPEAN PROJECTS

#### EU Funding Consolidated Update

##### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members on HITRANS involvement in European funded projects. This includes programmes Interreg North Sea Region, Interreg VA Cross Border, Interreg North West Europe and European Commission Connect 2020. Feedback is welcome on additional information that might be helpful to include in the projects log.

##### OVERVIEW

HITRANS is currently involved in eight ongoing European projects, as well as providing support to the Low Carbon Travel & Transport (LCTT) projects. The Appendix includes details on all projects including status, timelines, description of main activities, a Gantt Chart showing involvement into 2023 and a consolidated budgets table. Amounts have been converted into GBP using the European Commission's official monthly exchange rate. As of October 2021, HITRANS total budget for European projects is £5,067,857.

##### KEY UPDATES

As part of the Interreg North Sea Region Call 12 for project extensions, HITRANS will be launching a demand responsive transport pilot for G-PaTRA. Progress so far has included going out to tender on Public Contract Scotland and submissions are now being reviewed ahead of interviews that will be scheduled for later this month with shortlisted suppliers. G-PaTRA will contribute €190,000 towards this project.

Our eCargo bikes project for **MOVE** is progressing well across Inverness, Oban, and Orkney. The first set of trials are now coming to an end – surveys have been developed and are being shared with users to evaluate the trials.

Our **eHUBS** project is making good progress, identifying sites in & around Inverness that will see the expansion of the HI-BIKE scheme and the introduction of electric car club vehicles, shared e-cargo bikes, charge point installations and real time information upgrades in 2022. Match funding for the expansion of HI-BIKE has been received from the EST eBike Grant Fund, and an application has also been submitted to EST for support towards the shareable eCargo bikes.

For the **PAV** project, we have now received bids for the AV vehicle at Inverness Campus with trials due to launch Spring 2022. A contract award will be made by the middle of November, at which point the procurement for the AV operator will be launched.

Also in PAV, we have commissioned More Work Less Carbon (MWLC) to operate an autonomous vehicle pilot in Orkney to trial small electric AVs for logistics uses, working in partnership with Orkney Islands Council and Orkney Research & Innovation Campus (ORIC). The photo below shows the vehicle operating autonomously around the grounds of Stromness Campus.



The project will provide an opportunity for familiarisation with innovative technologies, promotion of uptake of electric vehicles, and collection of data on impact and benefits of AVs for emission free and safe transport of goods.

The vehicles were delivered in October and an open day was held at ORIC on 14<sup>th</sup> October, offering members of the public an opportunity to see the vehicles in operation and ask questions to MWLC. The initial pilot locations are at ORIC in Stromness and at Papa Westray Community School.

First uses of the vehicles are being defined, and we are working with Orkney Islands Council to plan for future public road trials, developing a RAMS and Memorandum of Understanding based on guidance received from Milton Keynes trials and the Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles team. Further open days will be held once routes are in operation as well as additional in-person training with MWLC.



## PROJECT APPLICATIONS

HITRANS were involved in two project applications in October – a Horizon Europe project titled RURALITIES, and an Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic project titled Sustainable Arctic and Peripheral Biking Tourism (SUB).

The SUB project is part of the NPA Bridging Call, the last call of the NPA 2014-2020 programme designed to build a pipeline for future main projects in the forthcoming 2021-2027 programme. The project is led by the Local Federation of East Lapland and involves partners from Finland, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Ireland, and Scotland, plus an associated partner in Norway. The project aims to identify novel solutions and best practices in the field of sustainable biking tourism around the NPA area, with 65% funding from ERDF. Application outcomes are expected December 2021.

The RURALITIES project focuses on climate smart and knowledge-based rural expertise and training centres, with HITRANS leading a pilot in Scotland focusing on further development of the smart transport planning tool developed between RGU and HITRANS. The development will see the tool embody Mobility as a Service in the mapping of travel times and accessibility. We also plan to expand our MaaS offering by enabling smaller organisations and community groups use of the app to provide booking methods for various forms of transport, such as local bike shops offering e-bike and e-cargo bike hire, providing a more comprehensive offering of transport across the region, particularly in rural areas, and assist with learning on how to implement similar schemes elsewhere. The project attracts an intervention rate of 100%. Application outcomes are expected early 2022.

## RISK REGISTER

### RTS Delivery

Impact – Positive

Comment – HITRANS EU project work supports several RTS objectives, particularly in the field of low carbon transport.

### Policy

Impact – Positive

Comment – HITRANS EU project work supports broader policy work in a variety of ways, including making areas better connected and rural areas more accessible, and conducting research to assist with policy development.

### Financial

Impact – Positive

Budget line and value – HITRANS EU projects bring large investments to the area at attractive intervention rates, ranging from 50%-100%.

### Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment – A large proportion of EU project work is targeted at improving the availability and accessibility of transport services in the HITRANS area, such as increasing the number of publicly available charge points, trialling new transport services in rural areas and introducing low carbon transport services.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Members are asked to:-

1. Note the report.

**Report by:** Jayne Golding  
**Designation:** Projects and Policy Manager  
**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

# HITRANS European Projects Log

## *Approved Projects*

Project Title	Description	Programme	Status	Timeline	HITRANS Activities	Lead
Smart Cities	50/50 partnership with The Highland Council to deliver the Smart Cities programme for Inverness	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Ongoing Phase 1 & Phase 2	2018-2021 (extended to June 2023)	<p><b>Smart Cities Projects:</b></p> <p><b>Phase 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>(Completed)</i> Supply &amp; Install of Smart Bus Stop Units: Successful installation of 250 smart bus stop units with QR codes</li> <li>- <i>(Completed)</i> RTPI Procurement: Improvement of real time passenger travel information in the HITRANS area</li> <li>- <i>(Ongoing)</i> Fair Exchange: project to create additional capacity, improved resilience &amp; better maintenance access on the Kyle railway line between Strathcarron &amp; Kyle, with the project funding a new Token Exchange Point near Stromferry. Site meetings have been held to determine the scope of the physical works, informing the Network Rail investment panel along with estimates for the signalling design and software changes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Phase 2 Projects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>(Ongoing)</i> Vehicle Management System (VMS) &amp; Ferry Information Signs: Procurement was launched in December 2020 for phase one of the project – 3 new ferry information signs in Skye. The procurement was finalised in March and an inception meeting held in April. The work is currently ongoing to install the 3 new signs, and Part 2 of the project looking at connected in-car technologies will begin from November.</li> </ul>	NM/JG

<b>G-PaTRA</b>	<p>Green Passenger Transport in Rural Areas</p> <p>HITRANS are project partners working with lead partner RGU to accelerate the use of zero emission vehicles and vessels in public transport</p>	<p>Interreg North Sea Region (NSR)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Oct 2017 - June 2021 (extended to Jun 2023)</p>	<p><b>WP3 Accelerating the use of zero emission vehicles and vessels:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HITRANS is piloting an electric bus in rural Morayshire with Moray Council for 30 months – services started Jan 2019</li> <li>- Match funding was received from SCSP to launch the service &amp; develop marketing materials – ended Nov 2019</li> <li>- An evaluation of the pilot &amp; associated carbon reduction emissions is being completed using results from a metric spreadsheet, capturing passenger numbers, total KM travelled, charge point use and any operational issues</li> <li>- Due to Covid-19 the route served by the electric bus service was suspended for a period, with the bus instead being used on the Kingston service which it performed well on – it has since resumed its original route</li> <li>- The final report on the business case for battery-powered trains from Wick-Thurso has been produced and is available on the HITRANS website</li> <li>- The project will contribute funds towards a study on hydrogen for rail, in the lead up to COP26</li> <li>- The e-bike pilots launched in Jan 2020 in Aviemore, Grantown-on-Spey and Fort William – the project was paused for a period due to Covid-19, but the e-bikes were offered to key workers as a means of transportation and proved extremely popular</li> <li>- The e-bikes are now more widely available again for use by residents and visitors, with the intention to focus on wellbeing by advertising the bikes through local partners, including GP practices</li> <li>- Additional project budget and extension time has enabled us to launch DRT pilots across the region – tenders currently being assessed</li> </ul>	<p>JC/JG</p>
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<p><b>MOVE</b></p>	<p>Mobility Opportunities Valuable to Everybody</p> <p>Focuses on co-creation to deliver unusual transport combinations</p> <p>NHS Highland are also project partners</p>	<p>Interreg North Sea Region (NSR)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Sept 2018 – Aug 2021 (extended to Feb 22)</p>	<p><b>Implement co-creation pilot to develop new sustainable and durable mobility solutions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HITRANS is working with partner councils to deliver pilots addressing social exclusion by improving accessibility and low carbon travel opportunities into main population centres from rural and peri-urban areas</li> <li>- The Highland Council is running a pilot in Sleat, Isle of Skye, using an electric people carrier</li> <li>- Due to Covid-19 and the inability to run a shared passenger transport scheme, the vehicle was instead used to transport goods around the community which was well received</li> <li>- The installation of a charge point for the Sleat vehicle has now been completed</li> <li>- The Ferintosh community bus pilot launched in June 2021, complementing the scheduled peak services operated by Stagecoach, and will be run by an electric bus later this year</li> <li>- E-Cargo bike trials are underway in Inverness, Oban and Orkney, running until the end of the project in Feb 2022</li> <li>- Evaluations are being compiled from each organisation using the bikes to understand the carbon emission reductions, potential cost savings and other impacts from using an e-cargo bike instead of a car/van for deliveries etc.</li> </ul>	<p>NM/JG/JC</p>
<p><b>Stronger Combined</b></p>	<p>Combined Mobility in the rural public transport system to build sustainable rural public services in symbiosis with private mobility providers &amp; citizens</p> <p>IBI Group are a sub-partner of HITRANS in this project</p>	<p>Interreg North Sea Region (NSR)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Jan 2019 – Dec 2022</p>	<p><b>WP3 Opening up traffic data as the basis for attraction of third party providing simplified, transnational booking and ticketing of trips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HITRANS role is to explore data requirements &amp; framework for the development of combined mobility – exploring how open data could support visualisation of route planning, travel &amp; payment information in a digital format</li> </ul> <p><b>WP4 Iterative innovation process to develop validated service models:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HITRANS will run an innovation process to design a new combined mobility service for tourists and locals – an</li> </ul>	<p>RR/RF</p>

					<p>application was submitted to the MaaS Investment Fund in August 2019 to progress this aim, approved in Dec 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An e-bike share scheme (HI-BIKE) has launched with 3 hubs with 30 e-bikes across Inverness for residents and visitors</li> <li>- The Go-Hi application launched in June 2021 offering the first mobility as a service project in the area</li> </ul>	
<b>PAV</b>	Planning for autonomous vehicles by local authorities	Interreg North Sea Region (NSR)	Ongoing	Sept 2019 – Sept 2022 (expected to receive an extension to March 23)	<p><b>WP1 Project Management:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HITRANS is lead partner with a proportion of budget being contracted out for project management services</li> <li>- The contract for project management &amp; communications support was awarded in 2020 to Bax Innovation Consulting following public procurement</li> </ul> <p><b>WP4 Pilot Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HITRANS is running a passenger AV pilot at Inverness Campus and has held meetings with HIE and The Highland Council to agree permissions and requirements</li> <li>- Procurement has launched for the autonomous vehicle provider, anticipated to be awarded by middle of November</li> <li>- The procurement for the AV operator will launch shortly after the award of the AV provider</li> <li>- Also running a micro-AV trial in Orkney to test the technology in a logistics setting – vehicles arrived in October and an open day was held with the public on 14<sup>th</sup> October at ORIC in Stromness</li> </ul>	JG/RR
<b>FASTER</b>	Project between NI, Ireland & Scotland to install EV rapid charge points in the Interreg VA programme area	Interreg VA – Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)	Ongoing	Sept 2020 – May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The project will install 73 EV rapid charge points across the Interreg VA programme area of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland to increase the number of publicly accessible rapid charge points</li> <li>- HITRANS will install 24 rapid charge points (or more if budget allows) across the HITRANS proportion of the Interreg VA programme area</li> <li>- HITRANS appointed a FASTER Project Officer in March 2021 to lead our involvement in the project</li> </ul>	GR/JG/ NM

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Site selection work is progressing well, working with the University of Strathclyde, Transport Scotland, and each local authority to create a shortlist of 8 sites per location</li> <li>- HITRANS is working closely with each LA on all site selections, including land ownership agreements where needed</li> <li>- Draft procurement documentation is due by the middle of November to be reviewed by all project partners and local authorities</li> </ul>	
<b>LCTT</b>	<p>Low Carbon Travel &amp; Transport Hubs</p> <p>HITRANS are contributing £15k each year to each scheme for The Highland Council, Moray Council and Orkney Islands Council to deliver low carbon travel &amp; transport hubs</p>	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Ongoing	2018-2021 (extended)	<p><b>Inverness Low Carbon and Active Travel Hubs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Low Carbon Hub will be located within the Rose Street multi-storey carpark, establishing an EV charging hub with 13 multi-use EV charge points capable of further expansion, and will trial innovative energy supply sources and storage that can act as a catalyst for encouraging the transition to ultra-low emission vehicles across the Highlands. Work to implement the new chargers is progressing with contracts documents currently being prepared.</li> <li>- Following a workshop with Active Travel partners, revised proposals for the Active Travel Hub element of the project have been approved. The new proposals seek to adopt a more City-wide approach to Active Travel with a series of mini hubs complementing other Active travel development in the city.</li> <li>- The proposals for Raigmore Hospital will see radically improved cycle parking facilities for both staff and visitors along with improved public transport information and waiting facilities as well as the inclusion of an e-bike hire docking station (NHS Highland are a project partner and also provided match funding).</li> </ul> <p><b>Orkney LCTT – Stromness Multi Modal Low Carbon &amp; Active Travel Hub:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Stromness Multi Modal Low Carbon and Active Travel Hub will provide a combination of transport decarbonising initiatives covering ferries, buses, cars and bicycles,</li> </ul>	NM/VT

					<p>utilising surplus electricity from Orkney’s renewable wind and tidal energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Stromness Ferry terminal has been chosen as it is where several modes of transport come together, with the mainland ferry sitting for up to 16 hours a day on diesel engines, and opportunity to electrify the arterial Stromness to Kirkwall bus route</li> <li>- The project has been severely delayed through the COVID-19 lockdown with limited progress in recent months.</li> <li>- Site installation works for the new MV Hamnavoe shore power connection stopped in March, after the installation of the new SSE substation. Works are due to start back on site in September with commissioning of the shore power system expected to take place in October.</li> <li>- Electric Bus charge point was installed in Dec 2019 with the public charge points due to be installed in October</li> <li>- The original design for the cycle hub has been reviewed by OIC with details re-submitted to address comments raised by building standards.</li> </ul> <p><b>Moray LCTT – Speyside Low Carbon Hub and Speyside Way Active Travel Path Development:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Speyside Low Carbon Hub project includes the installation of EV charge points, incorporating 2 rapid chargers, one of which will be dedicated for charging public transport buses, and a fast charger for dedicated use of the local car club to support the introduction of a car &amp; e-bike club for the Speyside area</li> <li>- The hub will also include open cycle storage and bike repair stations at strategic points on the Speyside Way, close to vehicle parking locations to encourage park &amp; ride for those not confident to undertake longer journeys by bike</li> <li>- All the path upgrade works to improve the Speyside Way between Craigellachie and Carron have been completed. This provides a much higher quality route to encourage local commuting by bicycle.</li> <li>- Installation of additional rapid chargers are pending an upgrade of the local substation by SSE. Once this has been</li> </ul>	
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					<p>completed a local car club will expand to operate from Aberlour, and will include e-bike hire in the offering, making Aberlour a real low carbon hub for Speyside.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An application for additional funding to extend the path upgrade to Cragganmore at the western end of Moray has also been made to LCTT.</li> </ul>	
<b>Ride-2-Autonomy</b>	A project to test autonomous mobility as part of the Smart Urban Mobility initiative	European Commission's Connect 2020 Programme	Approved March 2021 – Started April 2021	April 2021-Oct 2022	<p><b>Autonomous Mobility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HITRANS role within the project will be to test autonomous vehicles for viability and learning, building on the PAV pilot at Inverness Campus</li> <li>- Focus on stakeholder engagement and behaviour change</li> </ul>	RR/JG
<b>eHUBS</b>	<p>Develop electric mobility hubs in cities</p> <p>An existing project that HITRANS were invited to join – the project has already had success launching eHUBS across different cities in Europe</p>	Interreg North West Europe (NWE)	Approved March 2021 – Started April 2021	April 2021-March 2023	<p><b>Implement eHUBS in &amp; around Inverness:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HITRANS main activities in the project will be to implement shared e-bike hires, e-cargo bikes, electric car clubs and Mobility as a Service</li> <li>- The hubs will be launched June 2022</li> <li>- Early meetings have taken place to agree locations and discuss land agreements/permissions required for the hubs, and procurement will be launched later this year</li> <li>- Match funding has been secured from EST eBike Grant Fund for the expansion of HI-BIKE, and an application has been submitted for the shareable eCargo bikes element</li> </ul>	JG/RR

## EU Projects – Budgets

Status	Project Title	Programme	HITRANS Budget	Intervention Rate	HITRANS Contribution	Leads
<b>Approved</b>	Smart Cities (Phase 1&2)	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	£1,000,000	50-70%	£400,000	NM/JG
	G-PaTRA	Interreg North Sea Region (NSR)	€ 699,874	50%	€ 349,937	JC/JG
	MOVE	Interreg North Sea Region (NSR)	€ 349,412	50%	€ 174,706	NM/JG
	Stronger Combined	Interreg North Sea Region (NSR)	€ 352,851	50%	€ 176,426	RR/RF
	PAV	Interreg North Sea Region (NSR)	€ 930,030	50%	€ 465,015	JG/RR
	FASTER	Interreg VA SEUPB Cross-Border Programme	€ 1,675,703	85%	€ 251,355	GR/JG/NM
	LCTT	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	£135,000	n/a	£135,000	NM/VT
	Ride2Autonomy	European Commission Connect 2020	€ 85,000	70%	€ 25,500	RR/JG
	eHUBS	Interreg North West Europe (NWE)	€ 456,783	60%	€ 182,713	JG/RR
	<b>TOTAL £</b>	<b>Exchange Rate Oct 2021</b>	<b>£5,067,857</b>		<b>£1,940,263</b>	

# EU Projects Gantt Chart

	2017				2018				2019				2020				2021				2022				2023					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4														
<b>Ongoing</b>																														
Smart Cities																				Dec								Jun		
G-PaTRA																		Jun										Jun		
MOVE																		Aug			Feb									
Str. Combined																				Dec						Dec				
PAV																							Sep			Mar	Jun			
LCTT																				Dec										
FASTER																												May		
R2A																								Oct						
eHUBS																												Sep		
<b>Previous</b>																														
SPARA																														
INCLUSION																														

NB:

	Original project duration
	Project extensions
	Possible further extensions