

Report to Partnership Meeting 7 February 2020

EUROPEAN PROJECTS

EU Funding Consolidated Update

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members on HITRANS involvement in European funded projects. This includes programmes Horizon 2020, Interreg North Sea Region (NSR) and Interreg VA Cross Border Programme. Feedback is welcome on additional information that might be helpful to include in the attached projects log.

OVERVIEW

The Appendix includes details on all European projects HITRANS is involved in, including current status, timelines and a description of main activities. At present, HITRANS is involved in eight European projects following the recent approval of the FASTER project. The tables in the Appendix are colour coded to show approved projects in green and rejected/in development projects in red. There is also a table consolidating all project budgets in GBP and a Gantt Chart showing involvement up to early 2023.

UPDATE

Since the last update to the Board the main change is the FASTER project having been approved by the Interreg VA Steering Committee on 14th January 2020. The project will install 73 publicly accessible rapid charge points across Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland with the aim of increasing the number of EV car registrations. HITRANS will be responsible for installing approximately 24 rapid charge points across our proportion of the Interreg VA programme area. We are currently awaiting the Grant Offer Letter before the project officially commences.

The other main change has been the SUV project being renamed to PAV (Planning for Autonomous Vehicles) as it was agreed with the partnership SUV was a misleading name for a project focusing on autonomous vehicles.

On the back of several successful applications to Paths for All Smarter Choices Smarter Places (SCSP) and EST E-Bikes Fund, HITRANS has commenced an e-bike pilot project in Aviemore, Grantown and Fort William to support our work in G-PaTRA and INCLUSION (more information in the Active Travel Update).

To support our involvement in EU projects, HITRANS has recruited a Business Support Assistant to help with the administration and preparation of claims, reporting and project progress, due to start in March. Now that the FASTER project has also been approved, we will be hiring two further staff members – a FASTER Project Officer and Project Administrator.

PROJECT BUDGETS

Total amounts have been converted into GBP using monthly exchange rates from InForEuro: the European Commission's official monthly accounting rates for the euro. Now that the FASTER project has been approved, HITRANS total budget for European projects is £3,958,236.

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 Officer
Date: 29th January 2020

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 proposals are in progress	2018-2020	<p>Smart Cities Projects:</p> <p>Phase 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>(Completed)</i> Supply & Install of Smart Bus Stop Units: Successful installation of approx. 250 smart bus stop units with QR codes - <i>(Ongoing)</i> RTPI Procurement: Improvement of real time passenger travel information in the HITRANS area – Tender was launched on PCS in October and an award was made in December following supplier interviews - <i>(Ongoing)</i> Wireless Mesh Procurement: initial procurement awarded by THC Summer 2019 – street related works started Aug 2019 - <i>(Ongoing)</i> Fair Exchange (previously titled Press N’ Ride): project to create additional capacity, improved resilience & better maintenance access on the Kyle railway line between Strathcarron & Kyle, with the project funding a new Token Exchange Point near Stromferry <p>Phase 2 Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>(In development)</i> Vehicle Management System (VMS) & Ferry Information Signs: progress is being made on the proposal for approx. £500k VMS project (plus £150k-200k for ferry information signs) 	NM/JG

G-PaTRA	Green Passenger Transport in Rural Areas HITRANS are project partners working with lead partner RGU to accelerate the use of zero emission vehicles and vessels in public transport	Interreg North Sea Region (NSR)	Ongoing	Oct 2017 - June 2021	WP3 Accelerating the use of zero emission vehicles and vessels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HITRANS are piloting an electric bus in rural Morayshire with Moray Council for 30 months – services started in January 2019 - Match funding was received from SCSP to launch the service and develop marketing materials – ended Nov 2019 - An evaluation of the pilot & associated carbon reduction emissions will be completed using results from a metric spreadsheet capturing passenger numbers, total KM travelled, charge point usage and any operational issues - The electric bus was involved in an accident July 2019 so was off road for several months while being repaired, but is now back to fully operational - A draft report has been produced on the business case for battery-powered trains from Wick-Thurso, with discussions ongoing with the consultant, train builders and other stakeholders to finalise the report - The business case for hydrogen ferries will be completed in 2020 - Additional budget has been assigned to HITRANS for e-bike pilot projects in Aviemore, Grantown & Fort William, launching early 2020 	JC/JG
INCLUSION	Inclusive mobility solutions across European prioritised areas	Horizon 2020	Ongoing	Oct 2017 – Oct 2020	WP4 Innovation Pilot Lab: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HITRANS appointed an INCLUSION PM in 2019 that allowed for progress on pilot projects and resulted in several successful funding applications, including EST e-bike fund and SCSP Thistle Assistance Cards marketing - The e-bikes pilot will run until Summer 2020 in CNP - Discussions ongoing with car club operators to expand services into CNP - Ongoing research with MaaS Scotland, TS and other stakeholders on MaaS opportunities in CNP - Cairngorms Connected project conducting user-centred research to understand transport needs & co-create ideas for new mobility services 	JG/RR

<p>MOVE</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</p>	<p>Implement co-creation pilot to develop new sustainable and durable mobility solutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HITRANS are 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 - The Highland Council are running a pilot in Sleat, Isle of Skye, and have placed an order for an electric people carrier expected to arrive Spring 2020. There are long delivery times for electric people carriers so the pilot is initially starting using a conventional vehicle – this will also allow for useful comparison between the two vehicles at evaluation stage - Another pilot project is under development - The installation of charge points for the project is being conducted between HITRANS and THC 	<p>NM/JC/JG</p>
<p>LCTT</p>	<p>Low Carbon Travel & 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 & transport hubs</p>	<p>European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>2018-2020</p>	<p>Inverness LCTT – Hubs at Raigmore & Rose Street:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Inverness Low Carbon and Active Travel Hub will be located within the Rose Street multi-storey carpark. The hub will establish 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 - The project will also develop an Active Travel Hub to provide walking and cycling advice, bike hire, cycling workshop and support outreach programmes. - A secondary multi-modal hub will be located at Raigmore Hospital, providing a large bike hub for staff and patients, EV rapid charge points, e-car club and provide improved public transport facilities and information <p>Orkney LCTT – Stromness Multi Modal Low Carbon & Active Travel Hub:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Stromness Multi Modal Low Carbon and Active Travel Hub will provide a combination of transport decarbonising initiatives covering ferries, buses, cars and bicycles, utilising surplus electricity from Orkney’s renewable wind 	<p>NM/VT</p>

					<p>and tidal energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 <p>Moray LCTT – Speyside Low Carbon Hub and Speyside Way Active Travel Path Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 & e-bike club for the Speyside area - 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 & ride for those not confident to undertake longer journeys by bicycle 	
Stronger Combined	<p>Combined Mobility in the rural public transport system to build sustainable rural public services in symbiosis with private mobility providers & citizens</p> <p>IBI Group are a sub-partner of HITRANS in this project</p>	Interreg North Sea Region (NSR)	Ongoing	Jan 2019 – Dec 2021	<p>WP3 Opening up traffic data as the basis for attraction of third party providing simplified, transnational booking and ticketing of trips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HITRANS role is to explore data requirements & framework for the development of combined mobility – exploring how open data could support visualisation of route planning, travel & payment information in a digital format <p>WP4 Iterative innovation process to develop validated service models:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HITRANS will run an innovation process to design a new combined mobility service for tourists and locals – an application was submitted to the MaaS Investment Fund in August 2019 to progress this aim, which was approved in of Dec 2019 - HITRANS will explore needs, incentives & marketing strategies related to integration of local ride-sharing schemes and public transport operations 	NM/JG

PAV (formerly SUV)	Planning for autonomous vehicles by local authorities	Interreg North Sea Region (NSR)	Ongoing	September 2019 – September 2022	<p>WP1 Project Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HITRANS are lead partner with a large proportion of budget to be contracted out for project management services - The procurement documents for this contract are currently being developed, due to go out early 2020 <p>WP4 Pilot Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HITRANS will run an autonomous vehicle pilot – potentially a shuttle service between the new rail station at Inverness Airport, the airport terminal and Tornagrain - An alternative pilot might be an autonomous shuttle for passengers at Scrabster Ferry Terminal 	RR/JG
FASTER	Project between NI, Ireland & Scotland to install EV rapid charge points in the Interreg VA programme area	Interreg VA – Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)	Approved January 2020	Mar 2020 – Mar 2023	<p>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, and subsequently increase the number of EV car registrations.</p> <p>HITRANS will install 24 rapid charge points (or more if budget allows) across the HITRANS proportion of the Interreg VA programme area.</p>	JG/NM

Rejected / In Development Projects

Project Title	Description	Programme	Status	Timeline	HITRANS Activities	Lead
CAV4	Connected and autonomous vehicles 4: piloting passenger services The Lighthouse Project	Innovate UK	Application rejected Nov 2018, but if another round opens up will be resubmitted		Autonomous vehicle pilot project at Inverness Airport-Inverness Rail Station-Tornagrain	RR/JG

EU Projects – Budgets

Status	Project Title	Programme	HITRANS Budget	Intervention Rate	HITRANS Contribution	Lead
Approved	Smart Cities	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	£500,000	70%	£150,000	NM/JG
	G-PaTRA	Interreg North Sea Region (NSR)	€ 509,874	50%	€ 254,937	JC/JG
	INCLUSION	Horizon 2020	€ 166,438	100%	€ 0	JG/RR
	MOVE	Interreg North Sea Region (NSR)	€ 349,412	50%	€ 174,706	NM/JC/JG
	Stronger Combined	Interreg North Sea Region (NSR)	€ 352,851	50%	€ 176,426	JG/RR
	PAV (SUV)	Interreg North Sea Region (NSR)	€ 845,868	50%	€ 422,934	RR/JG
	LCTT	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	£135,000	n/a	£135,000	NM/VT
	FASTER	Interreg VA SEUPB Cross-Border Programme	€1,675,703	85%	€251,355	JG/NM
	TOTAL £	Exchange rate Jan 2020	£3,958,236		£1,375,967	
Rejected / In Development	CAV4	Innovate UK	£500,000	100%	£0	RR/JG
	TOTAL £		£500,000		£0	

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	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
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