

Minute of Meeting held in the  
HITRANS Office, Inverness  
Airport on Friday 9 January  
2009 at 2.00pm.

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| PRESENT       | <p>Mr Duncan Macintyre (Chairman) – Argyll and Bute Council<br/>Mr John Laing (Vice-Chairman) – Highland Council<br/>Mr Jim Foubister – Orkney Islands Council<br/>Mr George McIntyre – Moray Council<br/>Mr Wilson Metcalfe<br/>Ms Louise Smith</p>  |
| IN ATTENDANCE | <p>Mr Dave Duthie – HITRANS<br/>Mr Ronald Robertson - HITRANS<br/>Mr Frank Roach – HITRANS<br/>Mr Sam MacNaughton – Highland Council<br/>Mr Howard Brindley – Orkney Islands Council<br/>Mr Donald Macrae – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar<br/>Mr Gordon Holland – Moray Council<br/>Mr Tony Jarvis – Highlands and Islands Enterprise<br/>Mr Gareth Williams - SCDI<br/>Mrs Moya Ingram – Argyll and Bute Council<br/>Mr Derek Mackay – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar<br/>Mr Brian Murphy – Highland Council<br/>Mr Martin Craigie – ZetTrans</p> |
| APOLOGIES     | <p>Mr Donald Manford – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar<br/>Mr Donald John Macsween – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar<br/>Mr Mike Mitchell – Highland Council<br/>Mr David Summers – Highlands and Islands Public Transport Forum<br/>Mr Douglas Forson – Scottish Government</p>  |

#### MINUTES

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| HITRANS         | 1 | The Minute of Meeting of 5 December 2008 was <b>approved</b> . |
| Matters Arising | 2 | There were no matters arising from the Minute.                 |

#### STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PROJECTS REVIEW

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| Implications of STPR for the Highlands and Islands | 3 | <p>The Partnership Director submitted a Report in relation to the Scottish Government's Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR). The Scottish Government intended the STPR to delivery a strategic transport network which would benefit the whole of Scotland and deliver the priorities set out in the Government's Economic Strategy, the National Planning Framework and the Scottish Climate Change Bill. The Report stated that the STPR had recommended a total of 29 transport packages which would enhance transport networks in key locations across the country. The Report highlighted the projects within HITRANS Regional Transport Strategy which had been included within the STPR and indicated that a number of projects, including A96 bypasses, upgrading of rail and road links on the A9 North, realignment of the A82, had not been included and it was unclear how projects that offered significant regional or local benefits could be taken forward by Regional Transport Partnerships and Local Authorities.</p> |
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Members commented on the STPR document.

**It was agreed that the Partership Director, in consultation with the Principal Advisors, would submit a draft position paper on the STPR for consideration at the February Meeting.**

## STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Road Transport Bio Fuels 4 With reference to item 7 of the Minute of Meeting of 5 December 2008, the Partnership Director updated Members on the consultation on the draft Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations (Amendment) Order 2009. Members discussed the implications of the Order and expressed concerns in relation to the practical implications of the introduction of bio fuels on transport users and fuel retailers in the Highlands and Islands.

**It was agreed that the Partnership Director, in consultation with the Principal Advisors, would submit a Report in relation to the further work on the distribution element of the Study to the February Meeting.**

## FINANCE

EU Funding – START Project 5 The Partnership Manager submitted a Report updating Members on progress with the START Project. The Report stated that the Project was a good fit with the horizontal themes of the Regional Transport Strategy and offered an opportunity to improve links to key transport hubs for the Highlands and Islands. The project budget for HITRANS share of the project was detailed in the Report.

**It was agreed to note the Report.**

## AOCB

East Coast Mainline 6 The Partnership Manager submitted a Report detailing a draft response to the Office of Rail Regulation consultation on East Coast Main line capacity.

**It was agreed to authorise Mr Frank Roach to respond to the consultation and the East Coast Main line capacity on behalf of HITRANS, with a copy of the response being forwarded to Highlands and Islands MPs.**