

Report to Partnership Meeting 5 October 2012

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

National Projects Programmes

Purpose of Report

To update Members on progress on the on-going commitments made by the Scottish Government to deliver major transport projects within the Highlands and Islands.

Detail

The Highlands and Islands Transport Strategy and related Delivery Plan include a number of aspirations for improvements to the national transport network serving the region which have subsequently been taken forward as commitments by Scottish Ministers. This report provides Members with the updated position with regard to delivery of these commitments. As with all programme commitments these have to be adjusted to reflect anticipated and existing budgetary and project delivery constraints and it is therefore likely that further iterations of the programme, will have to be reported to the Board at relevant points in the future.

The table below summarises the current status of these national projects

Project	Strategic Transport Projects Review 2009	Infrastructure Investment Plan Dec 2011	Current Position
Targeted programme of Measures to Improve Road Standards between Glasgow and Oban/Fort William (A82)	included	2017- 2025 £200-250m, Beyond 2017 as funding becomes available.	
A9 Upgrading from Dunblane to Inverness	included	2017 – 2025, £1,500m-3,000m, Phased programme of schemes from 2017 onwards.	The improvements will begin by 2015-16, rather than 2017-18, with an enhancement of the Kinraig to Dalraddy overtaking lane south of Aviemore
Rail Enhancements on the Highland Main line between Perth and Inverness	1 of 4 priorities	2014-2025 £250m-£600m, Phased programme over period to 2025	Infrastructure improvements to support an hourly service, efficient freight operations and journey time reductions of around 10 mins (2014 – 2019). The aims to deliver journey

			time improvements of around 35 minutes and an hourly service in phases up until 2025. Work is underway to develop phase 2 of the project to support journey time reductions for passenger services and better respond to demand from freight customers. This may include passing loops and improvements to track, bridges and tunnels. Phase 1 of the scheme which was completed earlier this year delivered two extra trains each way and there will be journey time improvements on some services from December 2012
Upgrade A96 to Dual Carriageway between Inverness and Nairn	included	2017 - 2030, dualling of full length, phased programme of schemes from 2017 onwards.	
Rail Service Enhancements between Aberdeen and Inverness	1 Of 4 priorities	2015-2030 £200m-£250m, Phased programme over period 2015 onwards	New stations at Dalcross and Kintore by 2019, with Phase 1 of the project delivering enhanced commuter services into both cities and working with station promoters to enable them to deliver Kintore and Dalcross railway stations
Ferry and harbour projects		2011 – 2022 £400m	

Recommendation

1. Members are asked to note the report.

Risk	Impact	Comment
RTS delivery	√	Completion of national transport projects on routes serving the region are critical to delivery of the RTS
Policy	√	HITRANS should continue to promote the case for these improvements and work closely with Transport Scotland to support their delivery.
Financial	-	
Equality	√	Improving rail services and the reliability of coach services to and within the region help meet equality aims.

Report by:
Designation:
Date:

Dave Duthie
Partnership Director
25th September 2012