



Report to Partnership Meeting 3 February 2017

PARTNERSHIP

National Transport Strategy

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on timelines and process following the announcement of a full collaborative review of the National Transport Strategy.

Background

The National Transport Strategy was refreshed in January 2016. It carried forward the vision, high level objectives and key strategic outcomes from the original strategy. These were:

Vision:

“An accessible Scotland with safe, integrated and reliable transport that supports economic growth, provides opportunities for all and is easy to use; a transport system that meets everyone’s needs, respects our environment and contributes to health; services recognised internationally for quality, technology and innovation, and for effective and well-maintained networks; a culture where transport providers and planners respond to the changing needs of businesses, communities and users, and where one ticket will get you anywhere”.

High Level Objectives:

- promote economic growth by building, enhancing managing and maintaining transport services, infrastructure and networks to maximise their efficiency;
- promote social inclusion by connecting remote and disadvantaged communities and increasing the accessibility of the transport network;
- protect our environment and improve health by building and investing in public transport and other types of efficient and sustainable transport which minimise emissions and consumption of resources and energy;
- improve safety of journeys by reducing accidents and enhancing the personal safety of pedestrians, drivers, passengers and staff; and
- improve integration by making journey planning and ticketing easier and working to ensure smooth connection between different forms of transport.

Key Strategic outcomes

- improved journey times and connections, to tackle congestion and lack of integration and connections in transport;
- reduced emissions, to tackle climate change, air quality, health improvement; and
- improved quality, accessibility and affordability, to give choice of public transport, better quality services and value for money, or alternative to car.

- The 2016 refresh assessed the vision, objectives and outcomes and concluded that the words from the original strategy were still appropriate. Whilst amendments may still be possible it is likely that the original words will substantially continue through to the review.

The 2016 NTS Refresh had as a key recommendation the need for a full, collaborative review of the NTS to be delivered in the next Scottish Parliamentary term. The Minister for Transport and the Islands, Humza Yousaf MSP, subsequently announced the inception of this full review of the NTS on Monday 22 August 2016.

National Transport Strategy Review (NTS2)

The main aim of the review of the NTS will be to build upon NTS 2006 and the refreshed NTS 2016 to produce and publish 'NTS2', setting the strategic direction for transport in Scotland for the next twenty years.

A key function of the successor National Transport Strategy ('NTS2') will be to establish a clearly defined set of strategic transport objectives to enable a subsequent full review of our Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) to take place. The scope will include transport connectivity within Scotland, with the UK, and internationally. Transport Scotland recognise that transport links within Scotland, and nationally and internationally, play a key part in attracting inward investment to Scotland.

Transport integration will be in scope and consideration will be given as to how the review looks at individual modes and how stakeholders will be engaged in the process. The review will set out the evidence base for future transport needs including identifying consistent or different needs between rural, coastal, islands, city, and urban areas.

The full NTS2 review will make recommendations on transport governance delivering on the recommendations in the Refresh that a full review should set out roles and responsibilities and propose modification if appropriate. It will also take forward recommendation 21 in the independent planning review 'Empowering planning to deliver great places' that there should be a review of transport governance to address the gap between key aspects of infrastructure and development planning. This focus of the work will be important from the RTP perspective and offers an opportunity for RTPs to make a positive case for what is already being achieved by RTPs within their regions and potential to develop the role of RTPs. The HITRANS RTS will help shape our input in this respect.

The timetable for delivery of NTS2 anticipates full scale engagement taking place in 2017 and 2018 with full scale public consultation scheduled to take place late in 2018 before a write up period into 2019 that will include publication of a consultation response document then the publication of NTS2 and its associated documents. A full review of the Strategic Transport Projects Review will follow on from publication of NTS2 and this will have its strategic context set through NTS2.

Transport Scotland / Scottish Government have committed to working with partners in taking forward NTS2. This will include formal engagement including through a NTS Partnership Group with representation from RTPs, CoSLA, SCOTS, Scottish Local Government Partnership, SCDI as well as user and business representatives. The remit of the NTS Partnership Group is listed below:

- To provide specialist stakeholder input and expertise into the development of the review led by the NTS Review Project Team
- To provide comment and challenge on the information and conclusions produced by the NTS Review working groups

- To provide feedback from within their respective organisations of on-going and/or future programmes/projects/strategies that may impact on the NTS review.
- To identify level of involvement in working groups which will take forward substantive elements of the NTS review work.
- To comment on draft documents produced as the review progresses either during meetings or by correspondence.

Officers will continue to update the Partnership Board as the NTS2 process progresses and there are likely to be a number of calls for evidence that HITRANS would expect to respond to as part of this process.

REGISTER

RTS Delivery

Impact - Positive

Comment – NTS2 will provide an opportunity to link national transport policy more closely with the RTS.

Policy

Impact – Positive

Comment – NTS 2 will have a key role in shaping the future policy direction on transport planning and how this will be developed in the future for specific projects through STPR2.

Financial

Impact – Neutral

Budget line and value – There are no financial commitments associated with the report.

Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment – NTS2 will include a focus on equality and accessibility.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

1. Note the report.

Report by: Ranald Robertson
Designation: Partnership Director
Date: 25th January 2017