

Report to Partnership Meeting 14 September 2018

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Active Travel Update

SUMMARY:

To provide Members with an update on current Active Travel policy, initiatives and funding.

Regional Active Travel Fund Proposal

Following the submission of initial draft proposals for a Regional Active Travel Fund to be established through the RTP, a meeting was held with Transport Scotland on the 3rd July to discuss the proposed schemes. It was identified over the course of the meeting that RTPs would have to follow the same criteria as those applied to funds distributed through other funding partners. It was also confirmed that match funding will be required at the same rate. This would mean that 100% funding would be made available for feasibility and design, with 50% for implementation.

There was some discussion with Transport Scotland regarding the type of schemes that would be considered, with Transport Scotland emphasising cross-boundary initiatives. It was noted that RTPs bring more to the table than purely cross-boundary solutions, with agreement that the RTPs can deliver regionally significant schemes within individual local authority boundaries that link to the Regional Transport Strategies.

It was agreed that the proposals would be re-sent within a proforma template and that each RTP would prioritise their proposals on the basis of the indicative allocations for total funding across all RTPs of £1 million and £2 million. Following the meeting, a proforma for the Active Travel Proposals was developed. Detailed proposals were submitted to Transport Scotland and are currently awaiting feedback. The RTP response for the proposed Regional Active Travel Fund was submitted on the 23rd August.

Active Travel Framework Model

Transport Scotland contacted the RTPs to advise of their proposals to create an Active Travel Framework Model.

The Model takes the existing Active Travel Vision and its 5 objectives and develops that to set out key long-term outcomes and key performance indicators and measures, as well as considering a range of supplementary measures.

It has been identified that the purpose of this work is twofold:

1. To help Transport Scotland clearly communicate to the public and stakeholders what they (collectively with councils) are aiming to deliver, how they are monitoring it and what is being achieved especially now there is greater investment available.
2. To form part of a clear monitoring and evaluation framework for Transport Scotland's £80 million investment.

The RTPs were invited to provide feedback and comment on the proposed framework model.

CNES Active Travel Strategy

HITRANS in partnership with the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar awarded Arup a tender to deliver an Active Travel strategy and policy for CnES. This work started at the end of March and is nearing completion.

The final CNES Active Travel Strategy, which will build upon the Stornoway Active Travel Audit and Regional Active Travel Strategy will include:

1. Active Travel Strategy (ATS) for CNES
2. Overview of Active Travel priorities within CNES area, including a focus on rural areas and links to transport integration.
3. Development of Active Travel Policy for CNES.
4. Include internal and external stakeholder engagement workshops to determine priorities and actions within the ATS. Within this an element to highlight key active travel corridors through Stornoway to enable an active travel map to be finalised (currently in development)
5. Focus on Stornoway as main town, looking at car parking capacity and links with active and sustainable travel, carrying out scoping of actual demands and usage, and proposing opportunities for park and stride, to encourage people from out of town to park on the periphery of the town, rather than in town centre. This includes completing surveys of existing car parking area, both on and off street in town centre.

Active Aviemore

HITRANS in partnership with Cairngorm National Park Authority (CNPA) and The Highland Council commissioned AECOM to undertake:

1. Community engagement, feasibility and concept design for active travel corridors to the transport interchange and other key sites in Aviemore.
2. Identify Options and priorities for improving the streetscape and environment of Grampian Road and Dalfaber Drive within the boundaries set out in the attached plan.
3. Full outline design for improvements to active travel corridors, streetscape, environment and links to the main transport interchange and retail areas of Grampian Road and also to the proposed new Hospital site of Dalfaber Drive.

This final report for this work has been produced, with a final client team meeting being held on the 25th September. CNPA have had initial discussions with Sustrans Community Links Officer regarding applying for 100% funding to deliver detailed options for the Active Aviemore scheme proposals.



Figure 8.33 Before and After – Visualisation – Option 3

An example of the segregation options for Grampian Road, which was part of the public consultation is highlighted above.

Accessing Inverness

HITRANS, in partnership with Highland Council, have been working on the Accessing Inverness project since September 2017. The project is considering options for improving active travel through the town centre in Inverness, linked to the Inverness Railway Station upgrade, with a focus on urban realm to improve the environment for pedestrians, cyclists and those with accessibility needs.

The original scope of the project focused on the three entrances into the railway station: Strothers Lane / Farraline park, Falcon Square and Station Square / Academy Street. The section of Academy Street included in the commission was extended to include the full length of the street as the project progressed so as to ensure that any final design considered the street as a whole.

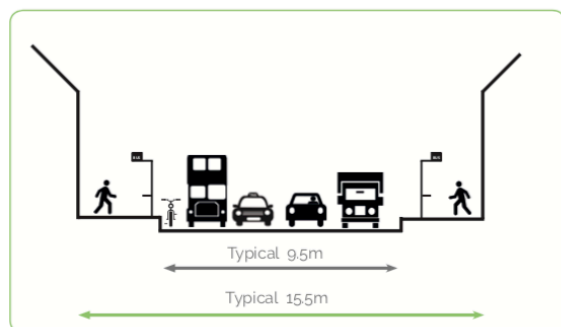
There has been successful engagement with BID, the local accessibility groups and active travel stakeholders. However, following feedback from Sustrans Scotland on the outline designs - which indicated that the preferred option did not satisfy the the Community Links Plus requirement for a 12 yr old to cycle safely and would result in any future applications not being successful for funding - public consultation was delayed. There have also been discussions regarding the links between this scheme and The Highland Council's £6.5M Inverness City Active Travel Network route options through the city centre.

Following subsequent meetings between HITRANS, The Highland Council, Sutrans and Civic Engineers, final outline designs will now be prepared with the intention to undertake public consultation during October 2018.

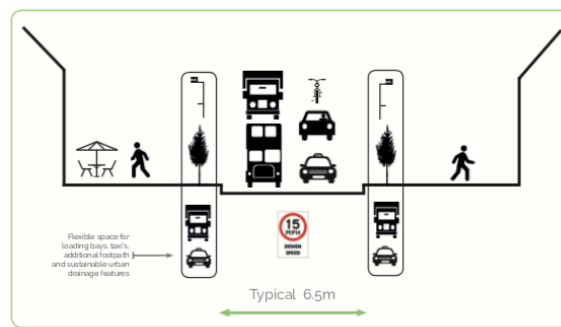
Have your say on making Academy street a great place to visit, live and work



Existing Layout



Proposed Layout



A visualisation of the proposed outline design which is currently being reviewed.

Moray Carshare LEADER

Moray Carshare have been successful in their application to Moray LEADER for £136,680.98 towards the expansion of their carshare scheme in Moray. An additional aspect of this project, which HITRANS funded £15,000 towards from the Active travel budget, is the development of an e-bike hire scheme. With an intervention rate of 70%, this means that the total budget for the e-bike scheme and storage units is £50,000.

This will enable 12 E- bikes and 6 shelters to be installed in:

- Elgin
- Aberlour
- Forres
- Findhorn x (2 shelters)
- Kinloss

HITRANS will support Moray Carshare in developing the e-bike aspect of the scheme, and look forward to seeing how the bikes are used.

Links to SPARA E-bike pilots

As part of the SPARA 2020 project 8 E-bikes have been funded to enable active travel journeys between Oban Airport and the town centre, and also in Barra between the Airport and Castlebay. The Active Travel budget has paid for the e-bike storage shelters in both locations (same model as Moray Carshare) and has also agreed to fund an additional shelter at Castlebay and the extension of the current e-bike scheme operated by Barra bikes in Castlebay. A similar expansion was offered to Oban Cycles and discussions are ongoing, as we want to ensure that the e-bike pilot at the airports doesn't affect local businesses and their capacity to rent out recreational / touring bikes within the area.

Sustrans 18/19 Grant

Following discussions with Sustrans Scotland, the £100,000 annual budget for active travel has been agreed for the 18/19 financial year. The active travel officer will develop a programme for spend, with regionally significant investment being prioritised, and will determine key projects with local officers which would benefit from additional funding, bearing in mind that this budget cannot be matched against other Transport Scotland funds.

Energy Savings Trust (EST) E-bike Grant: Round 1

EST announced Transport Scotland funding for 2 streams of E-bike grant:

- £100,000 available for communities, for applications up to £15,000 per application towards projects that will provide opportunities to trial ebikes.
- £700,000 available for local authorities, public sector agencies, colleges and universities to take lead on large scale adoption of e-bikes. £100,000 available per application, unless additional funding can be justified.
- 50% match funding required for both grant streams, from non Transport Scotland source, but 'in kind' funding match funding available for those applying for the community fund.

Timeline for funding:

| Date | Milestone |
|--------------------------|--|
| 22 June 2018 | eBike Grant Fund launch |
| June-July 2018 | Applications develop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants develop project proposals and applications • Applicant secures required match funding • Energy Saving Trust and Transport Scotland offer support e.g one-to-one sessions, teleconferences, webinars if required. |
| 17 August 2018 | Application deadline |
| August – September 2018 | Appraisal process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic eligibility checks carried out • Scoring completed • Assessment panel ratifies scoring |
| September – October 2018 | Award date – September/October 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant rejected or awarded funding • Further conditions accepted and/or due diligence completed if required • Applicant confirms required match funding • Project proceeds |
| March 2019 | Projects delivered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Saving Trust supports, provides quarterly reporting templates • Projects complete March 2019 • All eBike Grant Fund funds to be claimed |

HITRANS applications:

Inverness Smart Hubs

Utilising £150,000 of funding available within the smart cities ERDF programme, HITRANS in partnership with Highland are seeking to apply for £150,000 EST funding to provide a public facing docked e-bike scheme in Inverness, and key local areas within the region to enable active travel journeys by e-bike, which will feature smart technology that can allow payment, gps and monitoring usage of bikes as part of scheme.

INCLUSION Cairngorms.

Utilising £50,000 of funding available within the Horizon 2020 programme, HITRANS are seeking to apply for £50,000 of funding to provide a public facing docked e-bike scheme, which will provide e-bikes as part of the wider scope of the project, which focuses on inclusive transport, mobility as a service, and smart technology.

Note: HITRANS were advised by Transport Scotland to speak with Forth Environment Link, who have been successful with their partners in Falkirk, Clackmananshire and NHS Forth Valley in procuring a public facing e-bike docked scheme, as part of the LCTT round 1. In their procurement they will 100 e-bikes in 6-8 locations, at a cost of £350,000 including maintenance over the next 3 years. This is through Bewegen, a Canadian company with experience of delivering over 20 e-bike schemes worldwide. HITRANS have made contact with the 2 most competitive tenders for the Forth Valley work to see what may be possible within our region if successful with funding bids.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to note the report.

RTS Delivery

Impact - Positive

Comment – This work supports the RTS objectives and the monitoring of their implementation.

Policy

Impact - Positive

Comment – This work supports the development of our Active Travel policies.

Financial

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work is supported by the Sustrans active travel partnership funding, and Community Links applications.

Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment – HITRANS support for active travel helps eliminate the barriers to travel for all and removes a number of physical accessibility barriers.

Report by: Fiona McNally
Designation: Active travel Officer
Date: 3 September 2018