

Report to Partnership Meeting 13 November 2020

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Active Travel Update

Purpose of Report

To provide Members with an update on Active Travel projects in which HITRANS are currently involved.

REGIONAL ACTIVE TRAVEL BUDGET (Transport Scotland)

HITRANS has now allocated most of the £187k from Transport Scotland for projects under the following headings:

- **Bikes on Buses**

HITRANS are working with West Coast Motors to fund the capital cost of converting space on low floor buses for on board cycle carriage on Mull & Mid Argyll, with West Coast Motors covering installation. Potentially 7 buses will be covered.



- **Cycle Parking at Transport Interchanges**

Following bids from Partnership Advisors for funding to install cycle parking at transport interchanges and community hubs, bike stands and shelters will be installed on Orkney, Skye and in Moray.

- **Active Travel Masterplan Small Interventions**

The following projects will be taken forward under this budget heading, which is now fully allocated:

- Nairn Lochloy; HITRANS contribution to match developer contribution.
- Lochgilphead Active Travel & Accessibility: improving town centre for walking and cycling.

- **Active Travel Project Design**

The following design/small works projects are being taken forward in Orkney and Highland, and this budget is now fully allocated:

- Kirkwall Town Centre Accessibility; small works to remove barriers to active travel and improve accessibility - underway.
- Rose Street transport links; design work to improve access to bus and train station in Inverness - complete.
- Uig connectivity; additional design and community engagement for active travel routes in Uig, Skye – complete.

SUSTRANS PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

Within the £100k Sustrans Partnership Fund, the following projects are being taken forward:

- Wick and Thurso Active Travel Masterplan updates – final reports received.
- Elgin Active Travel Map – due to be printed in November.
- Inner Moray Firth Active Travel Masterplans – update active travel audits for towns within the IMF Development Plan area, including links between settlements. This may be spread across two financial years.
- Rural Spaces – funding for space and place-making interventions in rural settlements not covered by Highland Council's Spaces for People programme. Expression of interest received from Carrbridge Community Council which is being followed up with Highland Council.

OTHER PROJECTS

Inverness eBike Share Scheme – HIBIKE

The ebike share scheme for Inverness is progressing. Docking station sites at Inverness Station and Inverness Campus have been confirmed, with confirmation pending for a third site on the West side of the city. A website and app are under development;



they will look similar to [Forth Bike](#), which is also operated by Bewegen. Daily operations will be carried out by the social enterprise [Recyke-a-bike](#), based in Stirling, who will sub-contract to a local provider. An application is being prepared to the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places Open Fund to enable discounts and offers, and to promote the scheme within the city. Bikes are due to be installed in late November / early December with a (covid compliant) launch event before the end of the year.

Black Parks Active Travel Route, Fort William

The application submitted to Regeneration Capital Grant Fund for match funding was unsuccessful. An application for the bulk of funds (70%) has been made to Sustrans' Places for Everyone fund. If this is unsuccessful it should be possible to incorporate some of the funding required into next year's Transport Scotland budget for the lighting and to make the temporary closure to vehicles permanent, if match funding can be identified. Initial feedback from Sustrans suggested a need to consider segregation of pedestrians and cycles; this was not felt to be appropriate by HITRANS, given the size of Fort William and the open, rural nature of the route, and the application has been resubmitted to the 6th November deadline.

Fort William Wayfinding Strategy

Work is ongoing on Stage 2 of the comprehensive wayfinding strategy to cover the network of active travel routes in Fort William identified in the Active Travel Masterplan. This will include community engagement on the developing strategy.

Strategic Transport Integration

The Active Travel Officer is working with Sustrans' Transport Integration Officer to expand provision for the carriage of bikes in luggage lockers of Citylink buses to all routes serving the HITRANS area. The original pilot on North Highland routes has been delayed due to the current guidance not to travel by public transport.

Implementation of 2019/20 Projects

Most projects funded under the 2019/20 allocation and delayed by Covid-19 are now nearing completion.

Rural eBikes

Monitoring and evaluation of the rural eBikes pilot which made eBikes available in partnership with bike shops in Grantown, Aviemore and Fort William, is being carried out. Evaluation of the pilot will inform the scope of continuation of the pilot into 2021, which is likely to involve partnerships with GP practices promoting active health.

PROJECT IDEAS FOR 2021-22

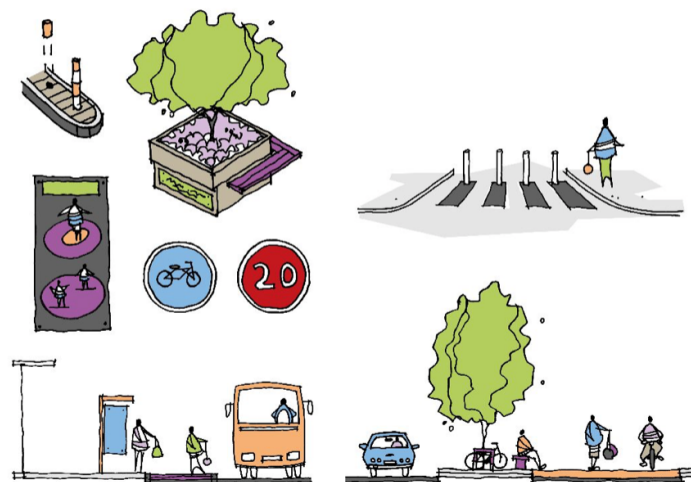
Members are invited to submit projects or work that HITRANS could fund from the Transport Scotland or Sustrans budgets in 2021-22; these should be discussed with the Active Travel Officer by the end of November in order for bids to be submitted to Transport Scotland in December.

HITRANS is keen to add value where we can to projects already planned, and funding can be matched against Local Authorities' Cycling, Walking, Safer Routes funding. With Local Authorities experiencing reduced capacity in both budgets and staffing, HITRANS propose opening up a portion of the Active Travel funding to be made directly to community anchor organisations (eg. Development Trusts, Community Councils) for small active travel interventions (up to £10k) that would improve the experience of walking and cycling for short local journeys. Any work on roadways would require working in partnership with the Local Authority roads team.

Projects could include:

- Speed limit reductions
- Traffic calming
- Footway widening
- Modal filters
- School streets / quiet streets

Discussion on this at the meeting is welcome.



Recommendation

Members are asked to note this report and consider opportunities for advancing projects within the Active Travel funding streams which will support HITRANS wider policy objectives and priorities.

Risk Register

RTS Delivery

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work supports both relevant RTS objectives and those of the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland and Active Travel Framework.

Policy

Impact – Positive

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

Financial

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work is supported by Transport Scotland's Regional Active Travel Grant Fund and Sustrans active travel partnership funding.

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: Vikki Trelfer

Designation: Active Travel Officer

Date: 30th October 2020