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Report to Partnership Meeting 23 April 2021

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)

Breakdown of 2020-21 Spend:

Budget Heading	LA Area	Project	Spend
Bikes on Buses	Argyll & Bute	Bike racks fitted within 4 vehicles serving routes in Argyll and Mull. Cost of racks covered by HITRANS; cost of installation covered by West Coast Motors.	£12,000
Total:			£12,000
Cycle Parking at transport interchanges & community hubs	Highland	Cycle shelters on Skye & in Golspie; bike stands at stops on route between Arisaig & Morar; installed by Highland Council	£5,029
	Orkney	Cycle shelters at bus stops; installed by Orkney Islands Council	£9,028
	Moray	Cycle stands at central bus stops in Keith, Dufftown, Archiestown, Tomintoul & Rothes; 50% funded by Moray Council	£5,000
Total:			£21,007
Active Travel Masterplan Small Interventions	Argyll & Bute	Improvements to pedestrian facilities and accessibility in Colchester Sq / Argyll St plus cycle parking	£40,000
	Highland	Initial phase of works for active travel route in Nairn connecting Forres Rd (A96) with Lochloy Rd / housing.	£60,000
		Active Travel signage project in Nairn	£3,000
Total:			£103,000
Active Travel Project Design	Orkney	Design and implementation of small works in Kirkwall town centre to remove barriers to active travel and improve accessibility.	£16,755
	Highland	Design for AT improvements to access Inverness rail and bus stations	£11,425
		Design and community engagement work for Uig Connectivity project.	£6,000

		Design improvements to Whitechapel Road access to Wick Riverside Transport Hub.	£1,000
		Design element of Colchester Sq / Argyll St active travel and access improvements	£15,800
		Total:	£51,000

In 2020-21 HITRANS had £187k from Transport Scotland for projects, and £187,007 was spent as outlined above, with match funding from partners for Bikes on Buses, Cycle Parking, and Masterplan Small Interventions.

A bid of £381,000 for 2021-22 was submitted to Transport Scotland in January, and a decision on this is pending. Projects proposed in 2021-22 are as follows:

Budget Heading	LA Area	Proposal	Ask
Transport Integration	Argyll & Bute / various	Continue partnership with West Coast Motors to enable bikes to be carried on buses in rural areas. Cycle parking at bus stops.	£26,000
Active Travel Masterplan Interventions	Argyll & Bute CnES Highland Moray Orkney	Small works to carry out priority interventions identified in the HITRANS Active Travel Masterplans for settlements across the HITRANS area, to remove barriers to utility active travel.	£305,000
Active Travel Project Design	Various	Design and appraisal work to support Regional Active Travel Fund programme, particularly detailed design of small works to support the delivery of the Active Travel Masterplan Action Plan. (100% funding)	£50,000
Total Request:			£381,000

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND UNDERSPEND

Transport Scotland has allocated an additional £332,000 to HITRANS from funds unallocated at the end of the financial year. The following projects will be taken forward using this fund, to be completed by the end of June 2021:

1. Folding Bike Hire Kiosks to promote integration of cycling with public transport; to be located in Inverness, Oban and Elgin: £142,220
2. Wick Whitechapel Road access improvements – to improve accessibility and pedestrian priority on the road linking to the main bus stop in Wick: £20,000
3. Fort William to Glenfinnan Active Travel Route feasibility study – Aecom have been commissioned to carry out the feasibility study for a route which would form the first part of a Route to the Isles, and connect communities between Glenfinnan and Fort William with each other and with rail halts: £20,000
4. Inverness Airport to Dalcross Station Active Travel Link - Fairhursts have been appointed to design a 3 metre lit shared use path. Remaining budget will be used to construct as

much of the upgrade as possible with an application for funding to complete the upgrade submitted later this year: £150,000

SUSTRANS PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

The Sustrans Partnership Fund runs from June 2020 to May 2021; the following projects are complete:

- Wick and Thurso Active Travel Masterplan updates
- Elgin Active Travel Map

The project to bring 20mph, traffic calming and place-making features to Carrbridge, initiated by the Community council, will be complete in May.

Inner Moray Firth Active Travel Masterplans are being taken forward across two financial years, to update the active travel audits for towns within the IMF Development Plan area, including links between settlements. HITRANS and Highland Council are working with Arup to develop the Masterplans.

In 2021-22 we expect to receive a £100k grant from Sustrans again, with the intention of making half of the funding available to community anchor organisations to take on small projects to improve safety and active travel infrastructure within their communities, with up to £10k available per application, and a match funding requirement. Where interventions involve roads or speed limits, groups will be required to work with the relevant Local Authority.

OTHER PROJECTS

Inverness eBike Share Scheme – HIBIKE



Launch now planned for the end of May, when movement and mingling restrictions will hopefully have eased. The launch will precede Bike Week (31st May to 5th June).

Black Parks Active Travel Route, Fort William

Application to Lochaber Town Centre Fund for £15k was successful with match funding from HITRANS, and a contractor has been appointed for the initial stage of work to improve the footpath connecting Black Parks with the retail areas on the A82, and surfacing repairs on the Black Parks road at Old Inverlochy Castle. We expect to be granted funding from either Sustrans or Transport Scotland to also install lighting and improved signage on the route.

Rural eBikes

All three bike shops are continuing the partnership for another year under the EU-funded G-PaTRA / INCLUSION projects. Some bikes are currently on longer-term loan to key workers.

Active Travel Strategies

The Active Travel Officer is working with Highland Council to develop an active travel strategy for the region, and with Moray Council to refresh the 2006-2021 Active Travel Strategy.

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 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: 12th April 2021