

Item:
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Report to Partnership Meeting 4 February 2022

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)

Update on progress of this year's projects:

Budget Heading	LA Area	Project	Status
Transport Integration	Argyll & Bute	Fund West Coast Motors install of bike racks in buses on routes in Mid-Argyll & Mull.	Completion March 22
	Highland	Cycle parking linked to public transport delivered in Lochaber and Caithness.	Completion March 22
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.	CnES complete; others due March 22
Active Travel Project Design	CnES, Highland	Design / feasibility work in: Uist (Sponish Bridge) Inverness Airport link Wick Fort William Portree	Due March Complete Complete Due March Due March

2021-22 Additional Funds Bid

RTPs have been invited to bid for additional funds within the 2021-22 financial year, for projects which can be delivered by by HITRANS or partners by the end of June 2022. HITRANS have submitted a bid for the following:

Project Outline	LA Area/s	Amount
Transport Integration - Ferry Delivery of AT improvements and placemaking on routes to ferry terminals at Uig, Tarbert and Lochmaddy. This will mitigate the negative impact on the active travel environment in these small communities with heavy traffic flows as ferry terminals are being	Highland CnES	£80,000

upgraded to accommodate larger vessels, leading to increased traffic.		
Ardrihaig Active Travel Masterplan Delivery Ardrihaig North Public Realm is being taken forward as part of the Tarbert and Lochgilphead Regeneration Fund programme; includes traffic calming on A83, improved walking and cycling infrastructure, cycle parking, new public realm spaces, and improved link between Ardrihaig waterfront and NCN 78. Funding represents 9% of total project cost and will enable the project to move to construction in 2022.	Argyll & Bute	£50,000
Transport Integration – Bus (brought forward from 2022-23 bid) Support carriage of bikes on buses in Outer Hebrides; Improve / expand Citylink Pilot in Highland; Cycle parking linked to public transport in Orkney	CnES Highland Orkney	£40,000
Bike Share Accessibility Addition of eTrikes to eBike share systems in Inverness and Fort William to provide adaptive bike option and cargo bike capacity.	Highland	£40,000
Inner Moray Firth Cycle Network – Project Design Develop designs for connecting links between communities identified in Inner Moray Firth Masterplans Network Plan	Highland	£50,000
	Total Bid:	£260,000

Proposals for 2022 – 23

Following consultation with partners regarding capacity to deliver and availability of match funding, our bid to Transport Scotland for 2022-23 funding was submitted in January. HITRANS are requesting just over a million pounds to assist partners in delivering active travel projects. More than half of this (£650,000) will enable partner Local Authorities to deliver or design projects identified in Active Travel Masterplans for which they have identified match funding, and to design projects ready for delivery as active travel budgets increase in the next few years. The budget is broken down as follows:

Active Travel Masterplan Delivery

These are smaller-scale projects or quick wins identified in Masterplans and Strategies which are deliverable within the financial year and have match funding identified. HITRANS funding will enable delivery of these projects to be accelerated.

1. Orkney: Your Kirkwall – Carness Path Phase 1 (match funding identified)
2. Argyll & Bute: Campbeltown Segregated Cycleways (match funding identified)
3. Moray: Elgin – Lossiemouth Path Improvements (match funding identified)

Active Travel Project Design

Detailed design of AT interventions and routes identified in HITRANS-funded Masterplans to prepare projects for delivery as AT budgets increase in subsequent years (both CWSR and Council capital programme funds will be available for delivery).

Transport Integration (may be brought forward under additional funds in early 2022)

1. Support carriage of bikes on buses in Outer Hebrides
2. Improve / expand Citylink bikes on buses pilot and work with Stagecoach on bike carriage solutions
3. Provision of cycle parking linked to public transport / hubs

Quiet Routes

Pilot Quiet Routes in rural areas based on community requests for safer routes; these would include shared use of carriageway on single track roads so would not be supported by the Places for Everyone fund but would offer safer active travel routes in rural communities using existing infrastructure, and would benefit sections of NCN which are currently on-road. Success of projects will be monitored and evaluated to inform further roll-out in future years.

Mobility Hubs

Build on our work on Mobility Hubs providing a streamlined approach to funding to support the delivery of the Active Travel components of Mobility Hubs through our EU funded projects.

Project	Bid to TS
AT Masterplan Delivery	£611,500
AT Project Design	£200,000
Quiet Routes	£ 60,000
Transport integration	£ 40,000
Mobility Hubs	£200,000
Total ask:	£1,111,500

SUSTRANS PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

Update on progress of this year's projects:

Budget Heading	LA Area	Project	Status
<i>Inner Moray Firth Active Travel Masterplans</i>	Highland	Active travel audits updated for towns within the IMF Development Plan area, including a network of links between settlements. These will be integrated into the Inner Moray Firth Development Plan in Spring 22.	Complete
<i>Rural Spaces</i>	Highland	£27,584 allocated for distribution to community-led initiatives to deliver small interventions or missing active travel links in rural areas. Four awards have been made to communities.	Due to complete March 22
<i>20-Minute Rural Communities</i>	Highland Orkney A&B	Nick Wright Planning commissioned for a piece of work examining 20-minute neighbourhoods in a rural context. Dounby on Orkney, Ullapool in Highland, and Tobermory on Mull will all be case study areas considered in the commission.	Due to complete March 22
Stornoway AT Masterplan	CnES	Arup commissioned to revisit active travel masterplan for Stornoway to form part of Active Travel Strategy Delivery Plan	Due to complete April 22

Proposals for 2022 – 23

Sustrans have indicated that the £100k Partnership Fund is likely to continue, subject to confirmation from Transport Scotland, and that projects meeting one or more of the following criteria will be favoured:

- Work at a regional scale
- Focus on strategic projects
- Co-ordinate or develop approaches across the region
- Give a strong foundation for LA's to deliver infrastructure projects
- Support Sustrans' strategic priorities (Paths for Everyone and Liveable Cities and Towns for Everyone) and RTP strategic priorities

In 2022-23 we are proposing to use the Partnership Fund to continue developing active travel masterplans, particularly for the Western Isles to complement their Active Travel Strategy, to support monitoring to provide baseline and usage data of routes across the HITRANS region, and to continue work on 20 Minute Communities in a Rural Context. The Active Travel Officer will discuss and develop opportunities with Partners over the coming months.

OTHER PROJECTS

HI-BIKE

The e-bike share scheme is performing well, with 182 active members by the end of November. The most popular stations for taking and returning bikes remain the Campus and Inverness Railway Station, and the three virtual docks have been well used, at Raigmore, Inverness Leisure and Eden Court. General statistics for the scheme are provided below.

	October	November	December	Total
Total distance (miles)	1,917	1,338	513	3,308
Total duration (hours)	434	308	83	825
Average distance per ride (miles)	3.82	2.56	2.34	2.9
Average duration per ride (minutes)	52	35	23	36.7
Total trips	502	522	219	1243
Total active members	134	182	184	-

Active Travel Strategies

We continue to support Highland and Moray Councils and CnES in the development of their Active Travel Strategies. The CnES Strategy was approved by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in December and work is underway to develop a Delivery Plan, including Active Travel Masterplans for the main settlements and community consultation. Moray Council's Active Travel Strategy is now out for public consultation.

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: 17th January 2022