

Item:
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Report to Partnership Meeting 22 April 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)

2021-22 Additional Funds

HITRANS were awarded additional funds at the end of the 2021-22 financial year, for projects which can be delivered by HITRANS or partners by the end of June 2022. The following projects were taken forward, to be complete by the end of June:

Project Outline	LA Area/s	Amount
Transport Integration - Ferry Design / 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 upgraded to accommodate larger vessels, leading to increased traffic.	Highland CnES	£80,000
Ardrishaig Active Travel Masterplan Delivery Ardrishaig North Public Realm is being taken forward by Argyll & Bute Council 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 Ardrishaig waterfront and NCN 78.	Argyll & Bute	£50,000
Bike Share Accessibility Introduction of eTrikes to Inverness and Fort William to complement eBike share systems, providing adaptive bike option.	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

2021 Highlights

Funding from Transport Scotland, HITRANS and the Town Centre Regeneration Fund enabled improvements to be made to a key active travel route through Black Parks in Fort William. The road runs parallel to the railway line between Inverlochy and Soldiers Bridge, providing a traffic-free route between Fort William town centre, the High School, Caol and Corpach.

Improvements include:

- Closing the route to vehicles
- Surfacing improvements
- Widening and improving the footpath connecting Inverlochry with the A82 retail park
- Street lighting



2022 – 23 Projects

HITRANS has been awarded £1.1M to assist partners in delivering active travel projects this financial year. The majority of this funding will be used to 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. Projects are grouped under five headings:

Active Travel Masterplan Delivery

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. Projects in Orkney, Argyll and Bute and Moray will be supported.

Active Travel Project Design

Detailed design of active travel interventions and routes identified in Masterplans to prepare projects for delivery as active travel budgets increase in subsequent years. Projects in Highland and Argyll and Bute will be supported.

Transport Integration

1. Support carriage of bikes on buses in HITRANS region
2. Work with Citylink to expand bikes on buses pilot and introduce bike reservations to online booking system. Work with other operators 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.

SUSTRANS PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

2021 Highlights:

Working closely with Council Officers in Highland, Arup have created Active Travel Masterplans for the main settlements within the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan area. These will be adopted into the LDP with the intention of using developer contributions and Capital Programme funds to deliver the recommended interventions.



The £100k Partnership Fund to RTPs continues this year, with the following projects planned:

Project	Description	Budget
20 Minute Neighbourhoods Baselineing	Ramboll have been commissioned for data gathering and analysis using their 20 minute neighbourhood tool, adapted to HISTRANS data, and will produce a web-based tool for mapping 20 minute neighbourhoods in the HISTRANS region.	£25,000
Active Travel Masterplans	Focus on developing Masterplans for the main communities on each island in the Western Isles to form part of the Active Travel Strategy Delivery Plan.	£30-50,000
Monitoring	Fund to support LA partners to expand monitoring of active travel routes.	£25-45,000
	Total:	£100,000

OTHER PROJECTS

HI-BIKE Inverness

The e-bike share scheme continues to perform well, with over 700 rides in the first quarter of 2022, and an additional 50 bikes and 6 docking stations due to be added to the scheme this summer. A sister scheme, HI-BIKE Fort William, launched in April - led by Lochaber Environmental Group.



Active on Trunk Roads

The Active Travel Officer is working on a report to which will support the case for improvements to active travel infrastructure on Trunk Roads, where the road presents a barrier to active travel. This will assist the Trunk Roads team at Transport Scotland to prioritise routes for improvement.

Mountain Bike World Championships

Opportunities for legacy funding connected to the Mountainbike World Championships next year are being explored; it is hoped that the Fort William Wayfinding Strategy can be delivered through this, and improvements to active travel routes between Torlundy, Nevis Range and Spean Bridge.

FUTURE ACTIVE TRAVEL BUDGET INCREASE

With a commitment from Scottish Government to increase funding for active travel to at least 10% of the total transport budget by 2024, Members are asked to reflect on what additional staffing resources might be required to take advantage of this increased budget to deliver active travel projects in their Local Authority area.

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: 6th April 2022