

Item:
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Report to Partnership Meeting 11 November 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)

Projects are progressing as outlined below:

| | Project Outline | LA Area | Budget | Spend to Date |
|----------|--|----------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Active Travel Masterplan Delivery | | | |
| | Barra Herring Walk – Technical Design funding to progress project to construction stage pending successful LUF bid to improve and extend traffic-free route through Castlebay, connecting with new Community Campus. Design / Delivery of minor interventions identified in Active Travel Masterplans | CnES | £83,732 £36,000 | £0 |
| | Campbeltown Segregated Cycleways – providing safe routes to schools & supplementing CWSR budget to enable delivery this FY. | Argyll & Bute | £461,500 | £0 |
| | Belts Road, Elgin – monitoring of all modes to inform options appraisal for improvements to AT experience. Findhorn footway and accessibility improvements. Support for delivery of Moray Bike Bothy project in Elgin. | Moray | £30,000 | £0 |
| 2 | Active Travel Project Design | | | |
| | Fort William Spine Route – design and delivery of “easy win” interventions to provide continuous active travel route from town centre to Corpach. | Highland | £100,000 | £4,500 |
| | Islay – survey and ecology work for progression of North Islay Path upgrade; Tarbert – develop designs for initial proposals identified in Tarbert Town Active Travel Study. | Argyll & Bute | £100,000 | £0 |
| 3 | Quiet Routes | | | |
| | Working with consultant Sweco to identify interventions required to create “quiet routes” connecting communities to trip generators in rural areas. This pilot work will be able to inform future | Highland | £60,000 | £0 |

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|----------------------|--|----------------|-------------------|---------|
| | development of Quiet Routes in the region, including on the National Cycle Network. | | | |
| 4 | Transport Integration Supporting the carriage of bikes on buses across the region; working with Citylink and local transport operators to provide / expand carriage of bikes on buses, and facilities at public transport halts. | HITRANS Region | £40,000 | £1,088 |
| 5 | Mobility Hubs Building on our EU-funded work to support the delivery of Active Travel components of Mobility Hubs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 additional HI-BIKE docks in Inverness; • eCargo bike addition to HI-BIKE Inverness & FW • Integration of HI-BIKE to Go-Hi MaaS app • Cycle Parking • Public Realm Improvements | Highland | £200,000 | £46,255 |
| Total Budget: | | | £1,111,500 | |

2023-24 REGIONAL ACTIVE TRAVEL BUDGET

Revise this:

Transport Scotland requested draft proposals by 28th October which will be reviewed by Transport Scotland by 23rd November, and final proposals by 16th December. HITRANS has submitted the following as our outline proposal:

| Project & detail / benefit | Local Authority Area(s) | Proposed Budget |
|---|---|--|
| Active Travel Masterplan Delivery Capital funding for AT Masterplan delivery Funding to complement CWSR, enabling whole routes/projects to be delivered within a financial year – projects may be integral to, complementary, or additional to projects delivered through CWSR funds. AT Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of people choosing walking, cycling and wheeling in Scotland • High quality walking, cycling and wheeling infrastructure is available to all • Walking, cycling and wheeling is safer for all • Delivery of walking, cycling and wheeling is promoted and supported by a range of partners | Highland Moray Orkney Western Isles Argyll & Bute | £500,000 <i>(may reduce if Capital funding direct to LA's increases substantially)</i> |
| Monitoring Funding for installation of counters to establish baseline data and measure modal shift Sustain/expand monitoring activity across region to provide baseline data for active travel and measure modal shift over time. AT Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of walking, cycling and wheeling is promoted and supported by a range of partners | Highland Moray Orkney Western Isles Argyll & Bute | £150,000 <i>(If Sustrans Partnership Fund discontinued)</i> |

| Project & detail / benefit | Local Authority Area(s) | Proposed Budget |
|--|---|------------------------|
| <p>Public Transport Integration Improving active travel infrastructure to and at public transport halts, continuing to work with Operators to enable the carriage of bikes on buses, trains and ferries. AT Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of walking, cycling and wheeling is promoted and supported by a range of partners | Highland Moray Orkney Western Isles Argyll & Bute | £100,000 |
| <p>Mobility Hubs & Micro Mobility Expand our work on Mobility Hubs, bringing together public transport, shared transport and active travel, and improving the public realm in our rural and urban communities. Introducing micro mobility solutions such as folding bike hire at transport interchanges, making it available to a wider range of people across the HITRANS region. AT Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking, cycling and wheeling is available to all • Delivery of walking, cycling and wheeling is promoted and supported by a range of partners | Highland Moray Orkney Western Isles Argyll & Bute | £350,000 |
| <p>Active Travel Network Development Expand support to Local Authority partners to develop network maps, and delivery plans, providing funding for feasibility and design of active travel networks, and the removal of barriers to active travel where these represent straightforward quick wins. AT Outcomes: Delivery of walking, cycling and wheeling is promoted and supported by a range of partners</p> | Highland Moray Orkney Western Isles Argyll & Bute | £75,000 |
| <p>Active Travel Masterplans & Placemaking Expand support to Local Authority partners to develop and deliver active travel masterplans and placemaking interventions in key settlements across the region, to aid the development of 20 minute communities. AT Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of people choosing walking, cycling and wheeling in Scotland • High quality walking, cycling and wheeling infrastructure is available to all • Walking, cycling and wheeling is safer for all | Highland Moray Orkney Western Isles Argyll & Bute | £150,000 |
| <p>Quiet Routes Work with partner LA's to develop a network of Quiet Routes across the HITRANS region. Quiet Routes are a way of delivering active travel network connections in rural areas where segregated infrastructure is not feasible or would be cost-prohibitive. These roads are an integral part of the transport network in rural communities, and are often the only way to access services, sites of interest, and recreational opportunities. This will build on the Highland pilot in 2022-23, taking the knowledge and learning from</p> | Highland Moray Orkney Western Isles Argyll & Bute | £100,000 |

| | | |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| <p>this to work with partner LAs to develop a network of Quiet Routes connecting smaller settlements across the region.</p> <p>AT Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of people choosing walking, cycling and wheeling in Scotland • Walking, cycling and wheeling is safer for all | | |
| <p>Improving NCN – provision where NCN has been declassified, expanding network to new routes</p> <p>Potential linkages to the Quiet Routes project, working with Sustrans and other partners to improve declassified sections of the NCN (this includes the entire network in Orkney and the Western Isles, much of Argyll and Bute, and the route north from Inverness); also funding feasibility, and design of new sections of NCN where opportunities exist for connecting rural communities with each other and with public transport links.</p> <p>AT Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of people choosing walking, cycling and wheeling in Scotland • Walking, cycling and wheeling is safer for all | <p>Highland Moray Orkney Western Isles Argyll & Bute</p> | <p>£100,000</p> |
| <p>Path Improvement</p> <p>Supports Local Authorities and community partners to improve existing local paths within and between communities, improving the usability and accessibility of paths for more people. This will make it easier for people to choose active travel and public transport for everyday journeys, reduce inequalities, and improve access to greenspace and its benefits to mental health & wellbeing.</p> | <p>Highland Moray Orkney Western Isles Argyll & Bute</p> | <p>£125,000</p> |
| <p>Resource Support</p> <p>Project Management and specialist support (eg. GIS, data, procurement, etc) for HITRANS and on behalf of Partner Local Authorities.</p> | <p>Highland Moray Orkney Western Isles Argyll & Bute</p> | <p>£80,000</p> |
| <p>Total Proposals:</p> | | <p>£1,730,000</p> |

Early indications from Transport Scotland are that they are happy with the Quiet Routes and NCN proposals. Transport Scotland has written to SCOTS asking for a consistent approach for signage and putting forward preferred signage for Quiet Routes, which may require local authorities and RTPs to collaborate to help push this on.

SUSTRANS PARTNERSHIP FUNDING


Projects are progressing as outlined:

| Project Outline | LA Area/s | Budget | Spend to Date |
|--|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <p>20 Minute Communities Mapping Tool</p> <p>The tool is now live and can be accessed via the Corporate > Research > Active Travel page of the HITRANS website.</p> | <p>Across Region</p> | <p>£25,000</p> | <p>£25,000</p> |
| <p>Active Travel Masterplans</p> | <p>CnES</p> | <p>£17,000</p> | <p>£16,548</p> |

| | | | |
|---|---------------|---------|---------|
| Masterplans for main settlements in the Western Isles are due to be complete by the end of the year. Support provided to Ullapool Community Trust's Sustaining Choices project to develop a Sustainable Transport Plan. | Highland | | |
| Monitoring Funding for partner Local Authorities to support monitoring to provide baseline and usage data for planned / existing routes. | Across Region | £58,000 | £30,342 |

OTHER PROJECTS

HI-BIKE INVERNESS

|  HIBIKE | HEADLINE FIGURES | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | Number of Rides | Miles Travelled | Active Members |
| First Year Totals | 4,805 | 16,451 | 1,131 |

HI-BIKE was one year old in October! To celebrate, we've added three additional docking stations and 20 bikes, at Culloden Library, Hilton Community Centre and Charleston Community Complex. Opening Day events were held on 25th and 26th October which were well attended by people living or working locally.

Highland Council now have a new Project Manager to progress conversion of the three virtual stations at Raigmore Hospital, Eden Court Theatre and Inverness Leisure / Rugby Club through the LCTT funding awarded in 2018. All being well, these will be installed next Spring, along with our 3 new stations at Merkinch, Milton of Leys and Smithton, bringing our total to 12 stations and 92 bikes for Summer 2023, plus 10 longtail bikes which can carry cargo or children.

We are looking forward to seeing membership and rides increase as the scheme expands into more residential areas of the City.



Photo: New HI-BIKE dock at Charleston Academy Community Complex

Recommendation

Members are asked to note this report and consider opportunities for advancing projects within the Active Travel funding streams in 2023-24 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: 27th October 2022