

Item:
8



Report to Partnership Meeting 11 November 2022

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Inverness Airport Station

Purpose of the Report

To provide the Board with what should be the final report on progress on Inverness Airport (Dalcross) station.

Project Timeline

1998 Approach to HIAL to suggest new terminal beside the railway

2005 Presentation to HIAL Board on Dalcross Station

2006 Room for Growth Highland Rail Study considered new station at Dalcross and Inverness-Elgin commuter services

2006 Engineering Pre-Feasibility for Inverness Airport Station- Scott Wilson

2006 Business Case Appraisal

2007 Planning permission granted to HITRANS for single platform station

2008 Feasibility Study for Twin Platform Station and Passing Loop at Inverness Airport, Dalcross- Scott Wilson

2008 HITRANS Regional Transport Strategy published, featuring the airport station

2008 Transport Scotland's Strategic Transport Projects Review STPR features Strategic Park and Ride at Dalcross

2013 Network Rail Control Period 5 blueprint for 2014-19 includes the project

2013 HITRANS restarts planning application process

2014 Binns Technical Report on the station

2015 Transport assessment (AECOM)

2016 Business Case (Systra) predicts 400k pax in 2075

2016 Planning permission awarded

2017 Funding shortfall of £1.3m in a £5.5m project. Minister Humza Yousaf then approved Transport Scotland taking the lead in the project.

2020 Planning permission awarded (again), this time for two platforms and a passing loop

2021 Work begins on £14m airport station

2022 Station opens??



The station has 64 car parking spaces with 10 electric charging facilities, four disabled spaces and cycle parking. There is a new access road to the station for motorists and access to both platforms for pedestrians and cyclists.

Inverness Airport will deliver improved travel links to the growing Inverness Airport Business Park and the new town of Tornagrain.

This is particularly important as we continue to pursue a green recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The project will deliver a two-platform station on the Aberdeen-Inverness line with step-free access, via a footbridge with lifts. Work also includes creation of a passing-loop and the closure of Petty Level crossing.

The station will be served by all Aberdeen-Elgin-Inverness trains, and a half-hourly bus service connecting with the airport.

HITRANS has additionally funded the 800m walking/cycling illuminated route to the terminal.

Trackwork has also been installed which will provide West Fraser (formerly Norbord) with the capability to create a railfreight terminal at Morayhill.

RISK REGISTER

RTS Delivery

Impact – RTS compliant, connectivity to islands and UK and the world

Policy

Impact – Mode shift, aviation decarbonisation

Financial

Impact – Fully funded by government

Equality

Impact – Improved access to network

Recommendation

1. Members and Advisors are recommended to note the report, and visit the station.

Report by: Frank Roach
Designation: Partnership Manager
Date: 3 November 2022