

Item:
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Report to Partnership Board Meeting 8th November 2024

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Inverness Masterplan – Bus / Car Park Feasibility Study

Purpose of Report

To seek the Board's approval for expenditure on a piece of work to identify options for the relocation/rebuilding of the bus station and car parks in the area of the Inverness Station Masterplan.

Inverness Station Masterplan

HITRANS has already commissioned two pieces of work to help with the development of the Masterplan. IDP have produced visuals (see below) on the proposed car park and bus station relocations which could be achieved in the medium term without alteration to rail platforms, signalling and track. None of this is abortive if/when the full scheme is implemented and allows the Boulevard to continue to Morrison's/Eastgate. We have also received a report from E-Rail to undertake a Strategic Property Review of the area around the station.

Network Rail have been investigating options for improving all three accesses to the station including the walking/wheeling route between the station and the current bus station, and ScotRail have just completed the installation of significant cycle parking at Platforms 6 and 1.

Park the Bus

We are now proposing to commission a feasibility study into the creation strategic multi-modal transport interchange that considers bus, rail, active travel and parking. The study should consider the potential options for accommodating facilities and accessing public transport.

Issues to be considered by mode:

Bus

- Understanding requirements for local bus, interurban and express services. Consider business case for inclusion of other tour coach operations.
- Ownership and management
- Size and shape for operational needs and passenger facilities – based on current and projected requirements
- Access and egress for different options into local and strategic road network
- PRM access
- Opportunities for improving placemaking and approach from trunk road / town centre

Detailed factors to be considered for all options

- Passenger facilities and access arrangements - Share with railway? etc
- Stances, floating, herringbone etc
- One way / two way
- Rail Replacement buses
- Cruise coach and other tourism
- Event demand
- Low emission zone / demand management
- Efficient access from Rose St roundabout/A82
- Bus length
- Foot access to Platform 7 and to rest of rail station
- Retail and servicing
- Staff facilities
- Future proofing – tech, AV

Car Parking

Options for the Rose Street multi-storey car park

- Replacement
- Relocation
- Access and egress to trunk road
- Pedestrian access and egress
- Capacity including an understanding of city centre capacity and demand
- Integration with bus / rail interchange
- EV charging infrastructure / provision
- Design
- Future proofing - solar, battery storage etc
- Consider temporary provision in event of reduced capacity during construction
- Opportunities for improving placemaking and approach from trunk road / town centre

Active Travel Hub

- Access arrangements to above facilities and rail station
- Parking provision for cyclists at above or dedicated hub

- HI-Bike provision and operation and maintenance
- Security

Budget, Timescale, Study Management

The budget proposed is £40k. We will seek funding from other partners. We intend to procure prior to Christmas for completion by March 2025.

The Client Group is envisaged to be HITRANS, Network Rail, Transport Scotland, The Highland Council.

The Steering Group is proposed to comprise HITRANS, Network Rail, Transport Scotland, ScotRail, The Highland Council, Bus Service Improvement Plan representatives, Inverness BID, Inverness Chamber of Commerce.

RISK REGISTER

RTS Delivery

Impact – Mode shift, integration, efficiency, road traffic reduction,

Policy

Impact – NTS2 and STPR2 compliant. Synergy with ICF Green Freeport. Key economy and regeneration outputs, including links to Inverness |Castle development.

Financial

Impact – The study will be funded by HITRANS and partners.

Equality

Impact – Accessibility to public transport for all.

Recommendation

1. Members are asked to approve the expenditure on this study.

Report by: Frank Roach
Designation: Partnership Manager, HITRANS
Date: 30 October 2024