

Report to Partnership Meeting 7 November 2025

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

Purpose of Report

To update Board Members on delivery of the People and Place Programme funded by Transport Scotland, and other Active Travel projects in which HITRANS and our Partner Local Authorities are involved.

- **PEOPLE AND PLACE PROGRAMME 2025/26**

We're now halfway through our 2025-26 behaviour change programme for active and sustainable travel. At the end of Q2 we submitted a claim to Transport Scotland for just over £419,000.

We have bought in to the Urban Tide dashboard procured by SEStran to track and monitor the reach and impact of the programme; it can be viewed here: <https://usmart.io/org/peopleandplace/>. We have also been discussing options with other RTPs for using an online grant management platform to simplify the application process for our cycle parking and employer grants, and potentially also the Local Delivery Partner agreements. This will help to reduce the admin burden on staff of running these grant programmes.

We are delivering or funding the following activities and projects under the five People & Place themes:

Active Schools & Young People

- Living Streets WOW and School Travel Tracker (Moray and Western Isles)
- Supporting Highland Council's Go For It! Programme
- Local Delivery Partners are supporting Bikeability with Learn To Ride and Bikeability 1 sessions, as well as bike loans and Dr Bike sessions linked to Bikeability 2 training.

Active Workplaces & Communities

- HITRANS Cycle Parking Programme – grants totalling £243,000 awarded.
- Sustainable Travel Grant for employers – grants totalling £83,000 awarded.
- Workplace engagement through TravelKnowHow.
- Local Delivery Partners – 9 organisations supported to deliver active travel activities across the region.

Accessibility & Inclusion

- HI-BIKE Inclusive Cycling Membership – currently 3 members with non-standard cycle loans.
- Access to Bikes fund – supported 10 projects to date.

Capacity & Capability

- 5 Local Officers; Orkney, Western Isles, Highland, Cairngorms National Park and Dunoon.

- Funding for Local Delivery Partners to attend conferences, run events and take up training opportunities.
- Regional Networking Event held in Orkney in October.

Sustainable Transport

- RTPI
- Moove Flexi
- Glenfinnan Saturday bus service
- Dufftown bike share
- Bus stop improvements in Orkney
- HI-BIKE

HI-BIKE has seen an increase in Monthly and Student Monthly memberships from Q1 to Q2, and the Day Pass which has replaced the 1hr pass has been popular, with almost 500 passes issued. The July price increase doesn't seem to have negatively affected memberships and no feedback has been received from users.

Memberships April to June:					
Annual	Monthly:	Student Monthly:	1hr Pass:	Pay Per Ride:	Explorer (3 hrs):
6	219	57	351	364	481
Total Active users:			971		
		Total Number of Trips	Distance Travelled (miles)		Average Distance (miles)
April		2,411	6,112		2.52
May		3,291	7,358		2.23
June		2,949	6,878		2.33
Total for Q1		8,651	20,348		
Memberships July to September:					
Annual	Monthly:	Student Monthly:	Day Pass:	Pay Per Ride:	Explorer (3 hrs):
4	321	101	499	574	205
Total Active users:			1,188		
		Total Number of Trips	Distance Travelled (miles)		Average Distance (miles)
July		3691	8,583		2.32
August		5268	11,514		2.19
September		5255	9,708		1.86
Total for Q2		14,214	29,805		

- **2024-25 Evaluation Report**

The evaluation report for the 2024-25 People & Place Programme is now available on the HITRANS website, and has received a positive response from Transport Scotland.

<https://hitrans.org.uk/projects/people-and-place-programme/>

- **PLANNING FOR 2026-27**

We've begun planning the 2026-27 People and Place Programme, working on the assumption that funding will be at a similar level to this year. The programme will be

structured around the four Transport Scotland themes of Active Schools & Young People, Active Workplaces & Communities, Accessibility & Inclusion and Sustainable Transport, with the theme of Capability and Capacity running through these. We will resources on projects and locations which meet the priorities outlined in the Behaviour Change Strategy for maximum impact:

- Where there is existing or planned active / sustainable travel infrastructure
- Settlements with Active Travel Masterplans & Travel to Work Areas
- Settlements with higher populations
- Areas with pockets of multiple deprivation
- Getting around within smaller towns & settlements, & public transport connections
- Road safety improvements in rural areas and smaller settlements

The timeframe for planning is:

- Engaging with LA & NP partners: 6th Oct – 17th Nov
- Internal team meeting: 13th November
- Initial proposals submitted to Transport Scotland by 19th December
- Final costed proposals submitted to Transport Scotland February 2026

Suggestions, feedback and reflections on Year 1 and 2 of the Programme are invited from Partnership Advisors.

- **CAPITAL PROJECTS: ACTIVE TRAVEL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND**

We have still had no response to our bid for 5 projects to the Tier 2 Active Travel Infrastructure Fund (ATIF), although Transport Scotland have been in contact regarding potential funding for island-based projects. We have proposed that some of the survey work relating to design of the Skye Cycleway project (Broadford to the Bridge) could be completed by 31st March. This will put the project in a strong position for completion of technical design in 2026, assuming funding is forthcoming from Transport Scotland, and construction in 2027-28.

- **OTHER PROJECTS**

Our Active Travel Advisory Group, is due to meet in November, with a focus on shaping the vision and aims of the HITRANS Regional Active Travel Strategy.

Members are asked to note the report.

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 through the People and Place Programme (2025-26).

Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment – HITRANS support for active travel helps eliminate the barriers to travel for all and makes walking, cycling and wheeling available to all, including by providing access to bikes.

Report by:	Vikki Trelfer
Designation:	Active Travel Team Leader
Date:	23rd October 2025