

## FAQs

### Why is this Integrated Transport Plan needed?

There are a number of longstanding challenges impacting the strategic transport network in and around Fort William. The Scottish Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 included the following recommendation which this study will seek to address using the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG), a recognised approach to determining the transport related problems and opportunities within an area.

*Recommendation 32: Trunk road and motorway renewal for reliability, resilience and safety, specifically recommends continued and increased investment in the trunk road and motorway network over and above current maintenance levels to keep the network reliable and resilient for road users. Potential measures would include, but are not limited to, carriageway and structure schemes, strengthening of major bridges, removal of accessibility barriers and development of integrated transport plans for Fort William and the A90 Kingsway through Dundee.*

### Who is leading and funding the study?

The study is being led by HITRANS ([www.hitrans.org.uk](http://www.hitrans.org.uk)), in partnership with Transport Scotland, Highland Council, and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. Transport consultants AECOM/Stantec have been appointed to undertake the commission. Funding has been provided by HITRANS, Transport Scotland and the Highland Council.

### What stage is the work currently at?

The study commenced in summer 2025 and is anticipated to be completed by December 2026. As of early 2026, the process of identifying problems and opportunities, objectives and options for intervention is complete. The next step is to engage with businesses and the public on these options. Following engagement, options will be assessed using STAG (see '**How will options be assessed?**') and the feedback from engagement will be used to inform the 'Public Acceptability' element of the appraisal. A further phase of consultation will be planned later in 2026 to feed back to the public and stakeholders on the outcomes of the options appraisal.

### How can businesses and the community input to the process?

This will take place throughout March and April 2026. Updates and opportunities to participate will be shared on the Highland Council and HITRANS websites. Key engagement activities will include:

- An online survey, which will be supported by background information about the project and the options under consideration. This will be promoted via social media, a leaflet drop to all residential properties in the study area and within public venues (e.g. libraries and council buildings). A QR code will be included on promotional materials that will direct users to the relevant information about the project.
- An informal drop-in session will be held at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2026 open to all, to view designs and speak directly with the project team.

A dedicated email address has been set up for the study, which will allow stakeholders and members of the public to provide feedback directly to the project team - the email address is [FortWilliamITP@aecom.com](mailto:FortWilliamITP@aecom.com).

### What kind of options will be considered?

Options across all types of transport (excluding air) will be considered during the study, along with the ability of these options to address transport related problems affecting the town and surrounding areas. Options will include consideration of improvements for walking, wheeling and cycling, public transport (bus and rail), freight and road improvements. Some options will be packaged together where it is considered that options can work in synergy to achieve the desired Transport Planning Objectives.

### How will options be assessed?

Options will be assessed using the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) which is a recognised approach to determine the transport related problems and opportunities within an area, the objectives of any options considered and the performance of options against the objectives and the standard criteria of Environment, Climate Change, Health, Safety & Wellbeing, Economy, Equality & Accessibility, along with deliverability criteria. STAG includes consideration of cost vs. benefit. More information can be found at:

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/media/50895/scottish-transport-appraisal-guidance-managers-guide.pdf>

### When will the Integrated Transport Plan be complete?

A final Integrated Transport Plan is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2026.

## **What is the timescale for implementation of measures recommended as part of the Fort William Integrated Transport Plan?**

The study will identify a prioritised action plan with estimated timescales for implementing different options. The ITP is a long-term strategy and the timescale for implementation will depend on the outcomes of the study, funding availability, and prioritisation of projects. A timetable for the next stages of delivery will be developed as part of the study.

## **How much will it cost to implement interventions emerging from the Fort William Integrated Transport Plan and where will the funding come from?**

Cost and deliverability are elements of the appraisal. The study will identify a prioritised action plan with estimated costs for implementing different options. The study will outline the business case supporting the identified options, which is the first stage in securing funding for those options.

## **How will the Integrated Transport Plan interact with other initiatives ongoing within Fort William?**

The Client Delivery Group overseeing the consultants delivering the ITP is a partnership. Alongside the various engagement and consultation activities being undertaken as part of the ITP, this partnership will make sure that there is relevant information sharing and co-ordination with other organisations, projects and initiatives in the area e.g., the new hospital and work associated with [FW2040](#).

## **How will this affect local businesses and residents?**

The ITP aims to improve accessibility and reduce travel disruption, which should benefit both residents and businesses. Stakeholder and community input will be key to shaping outcomes.

## **I noticed some traffic surveys being undertaken in Fort William in August and November– is this linked to the Fort William Integrated Transport Plan?**

Surveys were undertaken throughout August and November 2025 to help inform our understanding of how traffic flows around the town at different times of day and year. This information will inform the modelling work that will in turn inform the appraisal of different options as part of the study.

## **There was a similar study done in 2018, what happened to that work?**

Fundamental changes have happened since the 2018 *Fort William Strategic Transport Study, Pre-Appraisal Case for Change*, most notably the Covid-19 pandemic. There have also been national policy and strategy changes, including the second National Transport Strategy and the second Strategic Transport Projects Review – which recommended this study be undertaken. We also now have up-to-date data from the latest census and traffic surveys. This current study has so far reviewed and updated the work undertaken in 2018 according to the latest information and in response to today's local priorities. The study is now progressing through the STAG process to a detailed appraisal of the options that have emerged to address the issues, and respond to the opportunities, identified.