Item: 11

Report to Partnership Advisors 06 November 2026

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

Purpose of Report

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

- **PEOPLE AND PLACE PROGRAMME**

Q2 Activity

The second quarter of our People & Place Programme has seen good progress across all streams of work.

Workplace Infrastructure Grants
The eight projects funded through our Workplaces Grant are progressing well. The Knoydart Trust's e-cargo bike project has generated exceptional community engagement, with a range of activities delivered to promote their use, including a live storytelling series, community film and talk, business trials and staff training, and four Dr Bike sessions. They made an Instagram reel about their inspiring journey to cycle their e-cargo bikes from the shop in Edinburgh to Inverie.

Access to Bikes
The Access to Bikes fund, which helps organisations, schools and community groups provide bikes and equipment that make it easier for people to cycle, has had 3 successful applications in Q2. This includes eBikes for Dufftown Community Association and a battery for an eCargo bike at Bernie Daycare Centre. An adapted wheelchair bike for Elgin High School, funded in Q1, has been very well used already, and two support assistants have been trained to use it with students. The bike has also been taken on two test routes to see how accessible they are for a silver DofE expedition route.

Community Cycle Parking Grant
The ten projects funded through our Community Cycle Parking grant are also seeing good progress with installation. The Bernera Community Centre bike stands have been getting well used and have supported an increase in local cycling, with a successful bike servicing session attended by 12 residents and 13 bikes serviced, alongside cycling safety resources, two residents purchasing second-hand bikes, and growing numbers cycling to the community centre.

Local Delivery Partners
Local delivery partners are reporting busy Q2s, with high demand for refurbished cycles, led rides and Bikeability delivery before Winter arrives. The SPIN Project, based in Kingussie and covering Strathspey, have been delivering puncture repair workshops with P6 and 7 pupils in local primary schools, with 4 having received workshops and a further 3 scheduled. Sessions so far have engaged

108 pupils and have been met with enthusiasm from teaching staff. They work in small groups of up to 12, with pupils learning how to use a bike pump, how to remove and refit a tyre and how to repair a punctured inner tube. In their programme's second year, SPIN report a noticeable retention of knowledge and skills to be seen in P7 pupils who remember the previous year's workshops, and they display more confidence and independence when attempting puncture repair for a second time.

Go For It Travel Tracker
The development of the Go For It schools travel tracker has seen some barriers this quarter and a delayed start in schools due to sign off requirements from local authorities, but we expect to be able to do a roll out in Western Isles and Moray after the October half-term.

- **CAPITAL PROJECTS: ACTIVE TRAVEL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (ATIF / Islands Programme)**

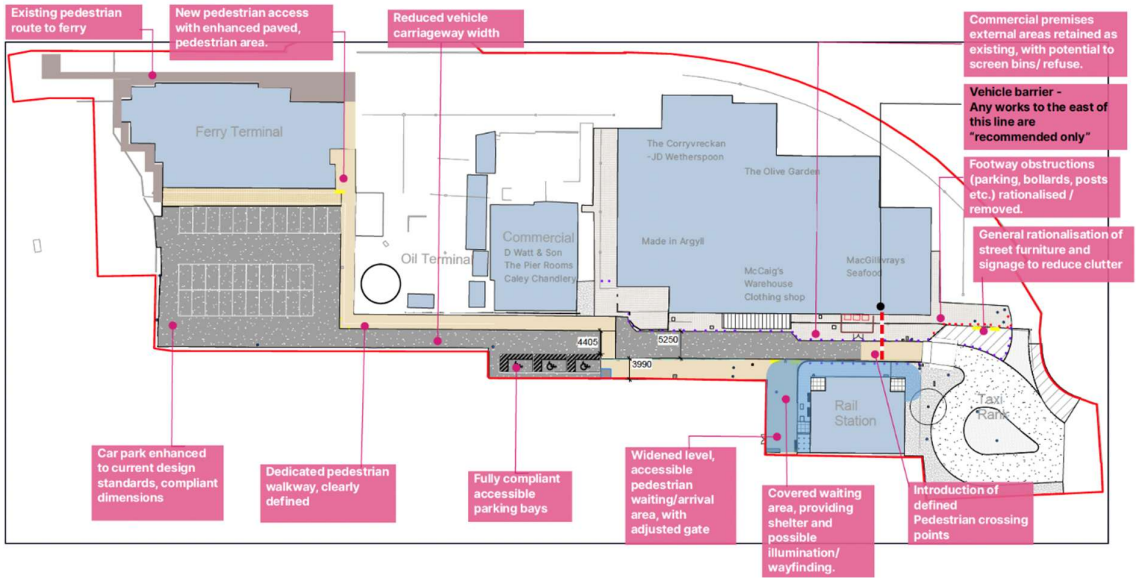
Funding was awarded in September to take forward the following projects within the financial year.

Skye Cycle Way
Stage 4 Technical design is underway for Phase 1 of the route from Kyleakin roundabout to Breakish. We have procured Sweco to take forward the design via the Scotland Excel framework and a contract has been awarded for Ground Investigation Works following procurement via Public Contracts Scotland.

Lochbroom Links
Due to the contracted delivery period to the end of the financial year it is only possible to take forward Stage 1 feasibility for the entire route from Ardmair to Braemore Junction and no Stage 2 design. We have procured Sweco through the Scotland Excel Framework as they are already familiar with the project, having been commissioned by Lochbroom & Ullapool Community Trust to carry out Stage 0 work through *Places for Everyone*.

Oban Interchange
Taking the preferred proposal to tender ready stage by December for construction in 2027-28.

Lochmaddy Active Travel
Supporting CnES to take forward Priority No. 4 (Lochmaddy Loop) as identified in the Lochmaddy Active Travel Plan. The includes feasibility and detailed designs to take the project through to construction ready - RIBA Stage 4.



Oban Interchange Proposal

- **OTHER PROJECTS**

Active Travel Advisory Groups

The Fort William Active Travel group was postponed to the end of October, and the next HITRANS Active Travel Advisory Group is to be arranged, with a focus on the revised 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 (2026-27) and Active Travel Infrastructure Fund.

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: **19th October 2026**