

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE Enterprise Planning and Infrastructure
DATE 31 January 2012
DIRECTOR Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT Strategic and Local Transportation Projects Update
REPORT NUMBER: EPI/12/039.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the progress to date on various strategic transportation projects within Aberdeen City and the wider area. These strategic and local transportation projects flow from the development of the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) produced by Nestrans, and the Council's own Local Transport Strategy (LTS).

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Members:

1. note the contents of this report;
2. approve the attendance of an Elected Member at the CARE North (Carbon Responsible Transport Strategies) Final Conference in Bremen;
4. note the recommendations of the feasibility reports for on-street ticketing and on-street public bike hire;
5. instruct officers to prepare a draft response to the 2012 Rail Consultation to be agreed by the Convenor and Vice Convenor of this Committee prior to submission by the deadline of 20th February 2012;
6. as per the decision of the SDPA of 15 December 2011, ratify the approval of the Supplementary Planning Guidance for the Strategic Transport Fund as described in Section 11 of this report and;
7. endorse development through Nestrans as outlined in Section 12 of the report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The projects mentioned are being funded through various budgets including Nestrans. Details are included in the relevant sections. There are no implications for approved PBB options.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Active Travel and Air Quality

1 Cycle Demonstration Project

1.1 The Greenbrae Cycle Project Action Plan was approved by this Committee at its meeting in September 2011 and officers are now in a position to commence physical construction in the area, as described within the Action Plan, funded by Nestrans. This financial year, the following works are scheduled to take place (Please refer to appendix 2 of this report, 5 maps of the Greenbrae area for the following locations).

- A new path will be constructed through the grounds of Greenbrae School (Link 1); and
- A series of dropped kerbs will be installed throughout the area to improve travel conditions for all users (Links 4, 17, 18, 19 and 20).

1.2 Therefore, before March 2012, 6 out of the 20 links proposed within the Action Plan will have been completed. The legal process has also commenced to convert a number of pavements in the area to shared use (Links 2, 5 and 7), while officers are currently in discussion with residents about priority links for next year.

2 Give Me Cycle Space Campaign

2.1 Aberdeen City Council has successfully applied to work with Cycling Scotland on their Give Me Cycle Space campaign based around a number of primary and secondary schools in Aberdeen. This is a social marketing campaign using a mix of media (billboard and radio adverts, lamp post banners, ad bikes and chalk stencilling) to create awareness about children cycling to school and to bring it into the forefront of drivers' and parents' minds when they are driving around schools. The expected outcome is a simple but crucial change in driving behaviour, which is to give child (and all) cyclists plenty of space when passing them on the road. This also helps to reassure parents who are worried about their child's safety when cycling on-road, as they can see that action is being taken to address this issue. Although Cycling Scotland is the main funding provider for the campaign, Cycling Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) has also made a contribution.

2.2 The campaign will run in the summer school term.

3 Aberdeen – Blackburn (A96 Corridor) cycle path construction Phase 1 Haudagain and Auchmill Road sections.

3.1 The detailed design work has now been completed for the infrastructure improvements required along the proposed route. These

works have been forwarded to BEAR the appointed operator for the trunk road network in the north east.

- 3.2 It is anticipated that works will begin on site early in the New Year for completion by the end of March.
- 3.3 These works will provide improved footway conditions for all users and will upgrade crossing points to include the correct dropped kerbs and tactile paving.
- 3.4 The necessary Traffic Regulation Orders will be promoted and consulted on by Aberdeen City Council and Transport Scotland in the near future and, all being well and subject to available funding, implementation of a shared use cycle and pedestrian way can be undertaken in 2012/13.

4 CARE North (Carbon Responsible Transport Strategies)

- 4.1 Aberdeen City Council is a Partner in a three year European Union (EU) Interreg IVB CARE North (Carbon Responsible Transport Strategies for the North Sea Region (NSR)) project. The brief is to 'develop innovative carbon reduction strategies for urban transport to maintain and improve accessibility in a more carbon responsible way, and to make the NSR a leader in carbon-efficient accessibility'. Our Partners for the project include the City of Bremen, City of Malmo, City of Göteborg, METRO (West Yorkshire Integrated Transport), the Province of Fryslân, Nestrans and The Robert Gordon University.
- 4.2 The work being undertaken by the project is wide ranging and includes:
 - Low Emission Zone feasibility study (further detail below)
 - On street bus ticketing (further detail below)
 - On street public bicycle hire (further detail below)
 - Car Clubs (appointment of Operator approved at Finance and Resources on 6th December 2011. Launch planned in early April 2012)
 - Transport Masterplan for the City Centre to fit in with the Supplementary Guidance Masterplan for the City Centre
 - Electric charging points
 - Freight movement and efficiency
 - Idling strategy
 - Public awareness and events as part of Getabout
- 4.3 Low Emission Zone Feasibility Study
 - 4.3.1 Recommendation - delay until DEFRA report published.
- 4.4 On Street Bus Ticketing Feasibility Study
 - 4.4.1 Not to be progressed - other more effective ways to reduce emissions for buses such as bus lanes and filters. (Details to be expanded further in the final report)
- 4.5 On-street Bicycle Hire Feasibility Study

- 4.5.1 A report prepared by Transport Planning International and HourBike Ltd was undertaken to establish whether a Bike Sharing Scheme (ie something similar to 'Boris's Bikes') might be feasible in Aberdeen. The general premise being that if bicycles were readily accessible to residents who don't own/ cannot afford to own/ have nowhere to store bikes, and visitors to the City then this would reduce the use of cars for short trips, at the same time as reducing emissions and improving health of the users.
- 4.5.2 Although the Study is confident that a scheme could be set up and would be used in certain locations (City Centre, Duthie Park, Hazelhead, Aberdeen University, the Beach) there are concerns about the appropriateness of the immediate cycling environment and that Aberdeen does not have enough of a cycling culture to make the scheme financially viable.
- 4.5.3 It is therefore proposed that a scheme is not introduced in the immediate future, but is revisited after a number of major cycling infrastructure projects have been completed (such as Donside, A96 to Kintore, and the River Dee route to Robert Gordon University).
- 4.6 Part of the remit for taking part in the Programme is to attend and present any findings at a Final Conference. CARE North's Final Conference will be the Lead Partners home City of Bremen. Unfortunately the dates for the conference have not yet been finalised however it will cover two days and start the week beginning Tuesday 20th March 2012. To demonstrate the Council's commitment and support for the project it is requested that an Elected Member attend with officers working on the project.

Public Transport

5 Night Time Buses Update

- 5.1 Following the implementation of the night bus flags in October, further promotion was carried out on the run up to Christmas, and beer mats highlighting night buses and taxis were distributed to pubs within the City Centre in December 2011.
- 5.2 The remaining work to be done on this scheme is the installation of lit signs in night bus stops within the City Centre. Due to ongoing discussions over electrical feeds, there has been a delay to progressing this, although the scheme is still anticipated to be completed by the end of this financial year.

6 Night Time Taxi Ranks

- 6.1 A taxi demand survey was instructed by the Licensing Committee to establish the current position with regard to potential significant unmet demand for taxi services, in order that it could meet its obligations in terms of Section 10(3) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

The survey was carried out in early November and was reported to the Licensing Committee at its meeting of 23 November 2011.

- 6.2 The Executive Summary of the report is available at the following link <http://councilcommittees/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=17071>.
- 6.3 The survey report draws a number of conclusions regarding the operation of the existing taxi ranks and the Licensing Committee has instructed officers to review the recommendations made and to report back to the Committee early in 2012 with their conclusions.
- 6.4 Issues were highlighted within the report in relation to the night time taxi ranks including the confusion caused by the revised times and signage at the Bridge Street taxi rank. This is a part time rank which previously operated between midnight and 6am. The recent changes to the night time ranks i.e. 4 ranks on Union Street operating between midnight and 5am alongside the closure of all side ranks during those hours, has left the Bridge Street rank open for one hour only (5am – 6am). As this is currently causing confusion for customers and drivers it is recommended that an early resolution is sought, hence this matter will be reported through the Various Small Scale Traffic Management and Development Associated Proposals report to this Committee.
- 6.5 The survey report also recommends the relocation of the Bridge Street night time taxi rank onto Union Street, however this will be reviewed alongside the remaining recommendations and the results reported to Licensing Committee as instructed.
- 6.6 Officers will advise this Committee of any further recommendations that are to be taken forward in due course.

Major Projects

7 Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route

- 7.1 In 2010 legal challenges were submitted to the Court of Session challenging the decision of the Scottish Ministers to proceed with the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route. In August 2011 the Court of Session announced its decision to refuse these legal challenges. An appeal against this decision has subsequently been lodged by objectors to the Inner House of the Court of Session. This appeal was heard over a 4 day period beginning from 13th December, with news to follow of the decision in early 2012. It is intended to include the A96 Park & choose and the 3rd Don crossing project into the contract.

Rail

8 Rail Overcrowding Surveys

- 8.1 As included within the September 2011 Strategic and Local Transportation Projects report to this committee, it was highlighted that concerns were expressed to Network Rail from both Aberdeen City

Council and NESTRANS on the draft Scotland Rail Utilisation Strategy in relation to the lack of attention to addressing the issues of overcrowding on trains in the North East.

- 8.2 A Nestrans commissioned survey into rail overcrowding was carried out to establish the extent of overcrowding and this can be downloaded from the following link,

<http://www.nestrans.org.uk/rail-overcrowding-study,-nov-2011.html>

- 8.3 It concludes that around a quarter of peak hour trains between Inverurie and Stonehaven experience overcrowding (where there are more passengers than seats available), with a maximum loading of 114% experienced. A further quarter of peak hour trains are more than 75% full and passengers are likely to have to stand.

9 Rail Service Changes

ScotRail has announced the following changes to services in and around the North East from 12th December 2011.

- Additional carriages for the 17:18 Aberdeen–Inverness service, providing 124 more seats (seven carriages will operate between Aberdeen and Inverurie, five for the rest of the journey);
- Three other trains will operate four carriages instead of two (the 09:03 Inverness-Aberdeen, 11:59 Aberdeen-Inverness, and 14:27 Inverness-Aberdeen);
- The 09:41 Glasgow-Aberdeen will call additionally on Sundays at Laurencekirk and Stonehaven (it already does Mondays-Fridays); and
- The 21:05 Aberdeen-Edinburgh will call additionally Mondays-Saturdays at Laurencekirk, thus giving a later last train back from Aberdeen on Saturday nights.

- 9.1 These alterations are all welcome additions to local rail services.

10 Rail Franchise Consultation

- 10.1 In 2014, both the current contract for rail passenger services (ScotRail) and the funding arrangements for Network Rail in Scotland are due to come to an end and new arrangements have to be put in place. Transport Scotland has therefore published a consultation document and commenced a series of consultation events, inviting dialogue with those affected and interested in the future of Scotland's rail services. This consultation is a crucial part of Transport Scotland's considerations.

- 10.2 A consultation meeting was arranged by Nestrans and the City Council at the request of Transport Scotland. The purpose of the meeting was to allow Transport Scotland to consult on views regarding the renewal of the rail franchise in 2014. This consultation event consisted of two parts, a technical session in the morning attended by officers from Nestrans, the two Councils and ACSEF, and an invited session in the

afternoon where MSPs, Nestrans Board Members (including City Council Members) and NETCF (North East Transport Consultative Forum) members were invited.

10.3 There are a number of key points highlighted below which may form the basis of a submission by Aberdeen City Council. These comments and other key issues are currently being discussed with colleagues in Aberdeenshire Council and Nestrans to try and ensure consistent responses from authorities across the region:

- That maintaining through trains between the north east and London are critical both for economic/business and for leisure trips. The possibility of requiring all passengers to change trains at Edinburgh is unacceptable, would inconvenience many travellers, harm economic and tourism potential, create severe capacity issues and limit travel choice to/from the north east. Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government should insist on the Department for Transport's commitment to dual-purpose rolling stock being commissioned as soon as practical.
- That maintaining an overnight Sleeper service between Aberdeen and London is a priority. The Sleeper provides an important link and the Scottish Government should commit to its long-term future whether as part of, or as separate from, the new franchise.
- The possibility of splitting the franchise into Economic and Social parts of the railway causes concern. There are many uncertainties around this possibility which are unresolved such as what parts of the network would be considered "economic", particularly if that may include some parts of routes?
- That there is a need for further development of rail potential in and around the north east. Stopping patterns, stations and pathing in this area all suffer from significant under-investment and lack of priority within the planning of railway infrastructure and services. Commitment is required to improve track, signalling, rolling stock and stations to fulfil the potential of the railways in the north east.
- Fare structuring needs to be reconsidered to ensure that services are operated efficiently and fairly.

10.4 It is unlikely that a full draft response will be available for this Committee. However, as the consultation closes on 20th February 2012, it is recommended that officers complete a draft response on the basis of the above for agreement by the Convenor and Vice Convenor of this Committee, taking on board any further issues that Members of this Committee may raise and submit the City Council's response by no later than the consultation deadline.

Further information on this rail consultation can be found through the following link.

www.transportscotland.gov.uk/strategy-and-research/publications-and-consultations/j203179-00.htm

Other

11. Strategic Transport Fund - Supplementary Planning Guidance

11.1 The Strategic Development Plan Authority (SDPA) have recently undertaken consultation on draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on a new Strategic Transport Fund, which was included as an appendix on the last EP and I committee report in November and agreed by the Council's Finance and Resources Committee in December 2011. The outcomes of consultation on the draft policy were reported back to the SDPA on 15th December 2011. At that meeting, it was proposed that the SPG be taken forward to adoption but that a number of amendments are made to it in response to the consultation. The amendments are of a relatively minor nature however they do serve to clarify and improve the text of the document.

11.2 The amendments can be found as appendix 3 to this report and the latest SDPA report from 15th December 2011 can be found at the following link.

www.aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk/AboutUs/SDPAMeetings.asp

NESTRANS

12. Nestrans Progress and Programmes

12.1 The Nestrans Board met on the 5th October and a copy of the minute is available within this report in appendix A. The minutes of the latest Nestrans Board meeting on the 8th December are to be approved at their next meeting and will be provided in a report to follow.

12.2 NESTRANS Capital Programme 2011/12

The capital programme expenditure for 2011/12 was approved at the NESTRANS Board meeting on 20th April 2011 and details of the programme are listed below, totalling approximately £1.3m.

12.2.1 Active Travel

Core Paths

Surveys carried out in June, July and September 2011.
Work awarded to contractors in August, September and October 2011.

Path 6 – Seaton Park drainage and resurfacing – Completed Nov 2011

Path 27 – Den of Maidenraig path upgrade – Works started Sept 2011 and were completed in Nov 2011

Path 55 – Cults Primary Link path upgrade – Works start Jan 2012 expected completion date Feb 2012

Path 78 – Coastal path upgrade – Works started Sept 2011 and were completed in November 2011

Path 56 – Hazlehead path upgrade - Works started Sept 2011 and were completed in November 2011

Path 26 – Grandholm path bridge replacement – Works started in December 2011 due to be completed in March 2012

Promotional Signage and Leaflets is to be completed by March 2012.

Aberdeen to Blackburn Cycle Route

Costings and prioritisation of works are continuing with implementation of improvements due by March 2012.

Cycle Demonstration Project

Refer to section 1.

12.2.2 Public Transport

Bus Punctuality Improvement Plan - Buchan / King Street Bus Lane Construction

Work started on site July 2011 and the bus lane was operational in late August 2011.

Holburn Street Bus Lane Time Changes

Traffic Regulation Order process completed. Signage has to be altered to include change of bus lane times. Work expected to be completed late December 2011 / early January 2012.

Links Road / Beach Boulevard Junction Improvements

Moving back the existing stop line, relocating traffic signal loops and amending signal timings at this junction. Purchase order to be issued to contractor to carry out this work. This work has been held up due to other work commitments however works are to be completed February 2012.

Jesmond Drive / Scotstown Road Junction Widening

Widen the bell mouth on the South / West side of the junction to allow buses to manoeuvre into Jesmond Drive without blocking both lanes on the approach to the junction. The work was completed on 16th December 2011.

12.2.3 Strategic Road Capacity Improvements

Contribution to 3rd Don Crossing

The Public Inquiry commenced on 29 November 2011. Specimen Design to be carried out in December 2011 to June 2012.

Guild Street / Wapping Street Signals

Provide a link cable to implement SCOOT at this junction to improve both vehicular and pedestrian flow. Work expected to start on site late January / early February for 2 weeks.

12.2.4 Strategic Road Safety Improvements

Kingswells Roundabout Toucan Crossing

Installation of toucan crossing and footpath links over C89C north arm of Kingswells roundabout to assist cyclist and pedestrians along A944 corridor. Design completed. Councillors and the local Community Council have been consulted. This went out for tender in late November 2011 with work to commence on site January 2012 for three weeks.

Riverside Drive Variable Message Sign

Initially a safety barrier was to be installed at this location however a more beneficial alternative safety scheme in the form of two permanent variable message signs have been installed, including the text “slow down” with the a traffic sign image indicating a sharp bend underneath the railway bridge.

12.2.5 Strategic Road Prioritised Maintenance

A944 Skene Road – Allocation £230,000

Resurfacing works to be carried out on a section of the A944 Skene Road. Works were completed on site 15th October 2011.

12.2.6 Rail

Access for All

Accessibility improvements to rail stations in the North East have been agreed with Network Rail with work expected to be complete by March 2012 at Huntly, Inch, Inverurie, Stonehaven and Portlethen train stations. The current programme of works is as follows:

Huntly to be completed by 10 January 2012

Inch to be completed by 13 January 2012

Inverurie to be completed by 16 January 2012

Laurencekirk to be completed by 19 January 2012

Portlethen to be completed by 25 January 2012

Stonehaven to be completed by 6 February 2012.

12.3 **NESTRANS Revenue Programme 2011/12**

The schemes identified and agreed for the Nestrans 2011/12 revenue programme are listed below, totalling £330,500.

12.3.3 Bus Action Plan

Bus link improvements to Anderson Drive

Final report of previous modelling received 02/08/11. Review of report has been completed resulting in further refinement to identify an optimum solution to improve public transport movements on and across Anderson Drive once the AWPR is in place. The initial junctions being investigated are the traffic signal junctions with Great Western Road, Mid Stocket Road, Westburn Road and Ashgrove Road. Further work has been commissioned for MVA and SIAS

5 IMPACT

The contents of this report link to the Community Plan vision of creating a ‘sustainable City with an integrated transport system that is accessible to all’.

All of the projects and strategies referred to in this report will contribute to delivery of the transport aims of Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking – **‘Improve Aberdeen’s transport infrastructure addressing other**

pinch points Work to improve public transport encourage cycling and walking’.

The projects identified in this report will also assist in the delivery of actions identified in the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA), in particular the delivery of both Local and Regional Transport Strategies which will contribute directly and indirectly to 14 out of the 15 National Outcomes described in Aberdeen City Council’s 2009/10 SOA.

The Local Transport Strategy (LTS) and Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) from which the transportation schemes within this report are an integral part have been subject to Equalities & Human Rights Impact Assessments.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

All background papers are referenced within the main body of the report.

7 REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Appendix 1

NORTH EAST SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP
Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board
Aberdeen, 5th October, 2011

Present:- Councillor Yuill, Chairperson; and Councillors Boulton and Dean (Aberdeen City Council); Councillors Argyle, Clark, Robertson and Webster (Aberdeenshire Council); Mr. Derek Provan and Mr. David Sullivan; and Dr. Margaret Bochel (Adviser to the Board).

In Attendance:- Derick Murray, Rab Dickson and Kirsty Morrison (Nestrans Office); Steven Archer and Tom Buchan (Aberdeenshire Council); David Jennings (Strategic Development Planning Team); and Martin Allan (Aberdeen City Council).

Apologies:- Eddie Anderson and Jennifer Crow

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be found at:-
<http://www.nestrans.org.uk/46/board-meetings.html>

1. INFORMAL WORKSHOP SESSION

The Chair informed the Board that the Director wished to hold a brief informal workshop session at the end of the meeting to discuss National Transport Investment in the Aberdeen City and Shire area.

2. LETTER FROM COUNCILLOR KEVIN STEWART, MSP

The Chair explained that Councillor Kevin Stewart, MSP, former Chair of the Board had written to the Director thanking the Board for their co-operation in the last four years and explaining that he had found the role of Chair as a rewarding and fulfilling one. Councillor Stewart, MSP, explained that he would continue to liaise with the Board in his new role as MSP for Aberdeen Central and looked forward to working with the Board in the future and wished Councillor Yuill all the best in his position as Chair to the Board.

The Board then heard the Chair thank Councillor Kevin Stewart, MSP for his kind words.

The Board resolved:-

to concur with the remarks of the Chair.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 24 AUGUST, 2011

The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 24 August, 2011.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to amend the spelling of the Chair's name, as detailed at article 1 to the minute;
- (ii) to note that the Director would continue to liaise with other agencies regarding the use of the car parks and the traffic flow at Union Square and would either submit a report to the next Board meeting if the Board are required to take action in relation to this issue or a report would be submitted to the Board for its information at its next meeting; and
- (iii) to otherwise approve the minute.

4. ADVISER TO THE BOARD

With reference to article 1 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 24 August, 2011, the Chair explained that Aberdeenshire Council had nominated Stephen Archer, Director of Infrastructure Services as their Adviser elect and he further explained that the Board now required to consider this nomination.

The Board resolved:-

to appoint Stephen Archer as one of the Advisers to the Board.

5. LIAISON BETWEEN REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS (RTPS) AND THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS

With reference to article 4(A) of the minute of meeting of the Board of 24 August, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided an update on liaison with other Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs) and the Scottish Government and others.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note that the North Sea Commission had agreed to support the peripheral regions in the UK in their campaign to have greater access to London and connectivity through the hub airport at Heathrow (as detailed in article 6 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 24 August, 2011); and
- (ii) to note the details contained in the report.

6. DELIVERING IDENTIFIED PROJECTS THROUGH A STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND

Reference was made to the meeting of the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority of 23 September, 2011, whereat the Authority considered a report to seek approval to undertake consultation on draft supplementary guidance on a Strategic Transport Fund and resolved to approve the guidance; to receive a further report detailing the responses received to the consultation process; and to forward the report to the Board for their consideration.

Appended to the report was the draft document entitled "Delivering Identified Projects through a Strategic Transport Fund" which will enable the development allowances in the Structure Plan to be delivered and will provide a clear and transparent mechanism that provides some certainty to the development industry. The report explained that given the specialist nature of the supplementary guidance, the existing awareness of it within the development industry and the need for quick progress so that it can be applied to new sites coming forward through the two Local Development Plans, it was proposed to run a six week consultation between 7 October to 18 November, 2011.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to welcome the supplementary guidance; and
- (ii) to otherwise note the report.

7. BRIDGE OF DEE ROUNDABOUT - SHORT TERM SLIP LANE

With reference to article 4(A) of the minute of meeting of the Board of 8 June, 2011, the Board had before it a report which advised members of the results of an investigation into a short-term measure to provide a segregated left-turn lane from Great Southern Road to the A90(T) Stonehaven Road at the southern roundabout adjacent to the Bridge of Dee.

The report identified two short-term options and provided a summary of them and the results of the modelling done on them.

The report concluded that whilst both options showed an improvement in journey times from Great Southern Road to Stonehaven Road as a result of the introduction of a segregated left-turn slip lane, neither were effective in improving journey times through the roundabout as a whole and therefore there would be no overall benefit in implementing a slip lane within the constraints of the existing carriageways, as a low cost short-term measure in advance of the long-term solution currently being investigated through the Bridge of Dee study.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note and approve the principle of the findings within the draft modelling report to allow it to be finalised; and
- (b) agree that the options investigated do not provide benefit across the roundabout as a whole and should not be progressed as an interim short-term measure.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations contained in the report.

8. HEALTH AND TRANSPORT - AUDIT SCOTLAND REPORT UPDATE

With reference to article 7(B) of the minute of meeting of the Board of 24 August, 2011, the Board had before it a response prepared by the Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group to Audit Scotland's report entitled "Transport for Health and Social Care" published in August, 2011.

The report outlined the key recommendations contained in the Audit Scotland report and further explained that the Grampian Health and Transport Action Plan had set out clear direction in relation to some of the key messages and recommendations within the Audit Scotland report including an integrated transport and booking system hub.

The Board then heard the Director provide further information on the integrated shared services approach whilst explaining that the Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group were the right forum to take this work forward whilst Nestrans was a facilitator to bring all the agencies together. He provided further information on a project undertaken by Aberdeen University which had received European funding and explained that he would approach the University to see if a pilot project relating to integrated shared services and specifically the integrated booking systems hub could be piloted using the University's European funding.

The Board then discussed the importance of ensuring that all agencies were fully committed to this process not just from the representatives on the Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group but at their Board level as well.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note that the Director would submit a report to the next meeting which would review the action taken so far by the Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group and would provide an update on the pilot project with Aberdeen University; and
- (ii) to otherwise note the report.

9. FREIGHT FORUM AND FREIGHT ACTION PLAN UPDATE

With reference to article 5(A) of the minute of meeting of the Board of 30 October, 2009, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided information and updates on progress in relation to freight matters.

The report explained that there has been significant progress on the majority of the actions identified in the Freight Action Plan, and it is an opportune moment to consider the areas which are now priorities for the next three year period and it is proposed that an updated Action Plan be progressed.

The report provided updates on various projects related to the Freight Action Plan. The report explained that Aberdeenshire Council have expressed an interest in becoming involved in a further European project, Green Corridors in the North Sea region (GreCor) and in particular, one aspect would be consideration of the potential for an extended logistics hub which could lead on from the previous StratMos work on distribution centres. The report explained that involvement in this project would enable Nestrans and Aberdeenshire Council funding to be matched by European funding to continue the work of the Freight Action Plan.

The report explained that a sum of £10,000 would be set aside from the Nestrans Revenue Budget to enable continued involvement and support for the Freight Forum and further development of the Freight Action Plan and additionally recommended that a sum of £25,000 per year for the next three years be allowed for involvement in the GreCor European Project if a bid by Aberdeenshire Council for European funding is successful.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the contents of the report;
- (b) endorse the work of the Freight Forum and agree to continued involvement in leading this area of work;
- (c) agree to the principle of developing a second Freight Action Plan (FAP2);
- (d) agree to provide a sum of £10,000 from the Nestrans Revenue Budget to enable FAP2 to be developed and delivered and to investigate the possibilities for inclusion in a European project; and
- (e) provisionally allocate a sum of £25,000 in each of the next three years which would be required if Aberdeenshire are successful in their funding bid for the European Project GreCor.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to commend BAA for completing the runway extension at Aberdeen Airport ahead of schedule;
- (ii) to note that officers would check whether Aberdeen Harbour Board were to be involved in GreCor; and
- (iii) to approve the recommendations contained in the report.

10. PROGRESS REPORT

With reference to article 7(A) of the minute of meeting of the Board of 24 August, 2011, the Board had before it a progress chart summarising the work in the three Sub-Strategies of the Regional Transport Strategy as at 27 September, 2011.

The Board resolved:-

to note the report.

11. PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

With reference to article 7(B) of the minute of meeting of the Board of 24 August, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director which summarised and advised on two recent publications by the Scottish Government and which outlined areas of particular interest to the Nestrans geographical area. The two publications were:-

- the Government Economic Strategy
- the Scottish Spending Review 2011 and Draft Budget 2012-13

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the report

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note that the leaders of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils would be meeting with Keith Brown, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure on 1 November, 2011 to discuss the progress in relation to the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route and the “basketing” of all the planned strategic transportation projects in the North East into one procurement contract;
- (ii) to note that if any member of the Board or officer of the Board had any issues they wished the leaders of the Councils to raise with the Minister then they should contact the leaders accordingly; and
- (iii) to otherwise note the report.

12. BUDGET MATTERS

With reference to article 9(A) of the minute of meeting of the Board of 24 August, 2011, the Board had before it a report from its financial adviser which provided an update on spend and programming of the Partnership’s 2011/2012 budget and also provided a forecast outturn.

The report explained that works on the A90(S) Park and Choose Facility will not be able to be progressed this year and it is proposed that £66,000 of the £79,000 approved budget be allocated as an additional contribution to the Peterhead Cycle demonstration project and this will increase the current budget for this project from £132,000 to £198,000. The report explained that the remainder of the Park and Choose budget will be used to develop the planning application for the project. The report further explained that the Ellon Road resurfacing project

that was completed recently has come in under budget and it is now proposed to use the underspend of £70,000 to extend the resurfacing on the A944 Skene road project which will begin shortly.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note the monitoring position and forecast as detailed in the report; and
- (ii) to agree to the proposed budget virement detailed in the report.

13. INFORMATION BULLETIN

With reference to article 10 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 24 August, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided information and updates for the Board on a number of matters not requiring a decision.

The report provided updates on the current position of the following projects/issues:-

- amendment to the Board's Constitution to implement audit recommendations
- letter from Transport Scotland regarding Route Utilisation Strategy
- Aviation campaign
- bus update/bus lane
- Bus Quality Partnership
- Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route
- Boris' Bikes
- High Speed Rail update
- National Travel Awards
- Nestrans Press releases

The report had appended to it a letter sent from the Director to Transport Scotland welcoming their further actions on the Aberdeen to central belt journey times and overcrowding but highlighting that the journey times savings claimed (10 minutes) had not been identified by the timetable analysis and which also asked Transport Scotland for a meeting with the Chair to allow for a discussion to emphasise the importance of these issues to the Regional Transport Strategy.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to request that the Director forward the suggestion of the Board regarding entering dialogue with the two local bus companies to establish a dedicated ticket to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary that would be cheaper than standard tickets to a future meeting of Local Authorities Bus Operators Forum (LABOF) and report back to the Board; and
- (ii) to otherwise note the report.

14. CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

With reference to article 11 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 24 August, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director summarising recent and forthcoming conferences of interest to the Partnership along with presentations by Nestrans and its partners.

The Board resolved:-

to note the details.

15. PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

With reference to article 12 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 24 August, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director detailing pending business and information on reports to be submitted to future Board meetings.

The Board resolved:-
to note the report.

16. FUTURE MEETINGS ARRANGEMENTS

The Board had before it proposed dates for meetings of the Board in 2012 as follows:-

15 February;
18 April;
20 June; 8
22 August;
10 October; and
12 December (all meetings to be held at Woodhill House at 2.00pm).

The Board resolved:-
to approve the proposed dates for meetings of the Board in 2012.

- **IAN YUILL, Chairperson.**

Appendix 2 – Cycling Demonstration Project Maps