

Projects & EU Exit Update

1. Introduction

- 1.1** The report provides the Members of the Board with an update on the current status and progress of the various projects SEStran is involved in and covers the latest position on the EU exit process.

2. Real-Time Passenger Information (RTPI)

- 2.1** On 25th September 2018, SEStran held an RTPI Project meeting at the WYG Offices in Edinburgh. In attendance were representatives from Stagecoach East Scotland, City of Edinburgh Council, First Buses Edinburgh, Travelline Scotland, Borders Buses, Borders Council, INEO, and WYG.
- 2.2** First Bus East are in the process of integrating their buses back into the SEStran/INEO system on a temporary basis, until their new system is fully operational.
- 2.3** INEO is exploring whether a separate SIRI feed can be implemented into the Ticketer system.
- 2.4** SEStran, Borders Buses and Scottish Borders Council are working jointly to improve quality/accuracy of the information provided at the Galashiels Interchange.
- 2.5** The City of Edinburgh Council is finalising the preparation for a new content management system (CMS). The Procurement Team of the CEC have determined that a NEC Contract tender should be issued within the next couple of months. It is hoped to have the new system operating early in the new financial year. Bustracker SEStran will be integrated with the new CMS.

3. Regional Cycle Network Grant Scheme (RCNGS)

- 3.1** SEStran has made three successful bids to Community Links funding, to access further investment in feasibility studies for the Region's cycle network. A tender was posted in August with a successful bid from AECOM Ltd., who commenced work in September 2018.
- 3.2** The three routes being studied are: Winchburgh – Edinburgh Airport, Buckhaven – Kirkcaldy, and The Wisp – Sheriffhall Roundabout. All three studies qualify for 100% funding from Community Links, with AECOM bidding a total of £90,248.93.

4. Regional Active Travel Development Fund – Transport Scotland

- 4.1** Following the approval of the Minister and Transport Scotland for a total £1 million fund across the 7 RTPs, with a respective allocation of £200,200 to

SEStran, final proposals have now been signed off. All project proposals will be completed by June 2019.

- 4.2** SEStran in collaboration with Tactran, Falkirk and Stirling Council officers will investigate feasibility for an active travel route along the A9 route from Larbert to Plean (SEStran-Tactran border) and onto Stirling. This study will look to make connections to Forth Valley Hospital, and wider active travel links in Larbert. Officers are looking to gather pertinent information regarding the route and meeting with Tactran, Falkirk and Stirling officers to discuss the route, timescales, and procurement options.
- 4.3** SEStran in collaboration with Midlothian Council will investigate feasibility for an active travel route along the A701 between Straiton and Gowkley Moss. This study will complement ongoing work associated with the South East Scotland City Deal. Officers are looking to gather pertinent information regarding the route and discuss timescales and procurement options.
- 4.4** SEStran in support of East Lothian Council will investigate further design associated with previous feasibility studies in Musselburgh, Tranent, and North Berwick. Utilising Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) the project will create accurate 3D models to inform further stages of design and consultation. The proposed project cost is £ 150, 000, with £ 40, 000 match from East Lothian Council.
- 4.5** SEStran will offer a grant of £ 110, 000 to East Lothian Council for the completion of this LiDAR design work.

5. GO e-Bike

- 5.1** In addition to the first four e-Bike hubs (currently operating in Fife, West Lothian and Falkirk), SEStran was awarded £300,000 in funding by the Low Carbon Travel and Transport (LCTT) Challenge Fund to expand on the GO e-Bike project. SEStran is currently in the process of selecting 6 more hubs across the region.
- 5.2** SEStran is collaborating with Social Bite Village¹ in Edinburgh and Tweeddale Youth Action in Peebles² to develop two new hub sites and are making progress in terms of requirements and commitment to the project. The Social Bite Village hub will work with homeless people and focus on helping alleviate transport poverty and facilitate better access to work. The Tweeddale Youth Action group is a community-focused youth social enterprise. The hub will provide an e-bike library for the local community, provide training in bike maintenance for young people to gain qualifications and develop a social enterprise with young people using e-cargo bikes.
- 5.3** The Social Village has specified the parameters of their hub and are now awaiting procurement of assets. Tweeddale Youth Action were invited to

¹ <http://social-bite.co.uk/the-social-bite-village/>.

² <http://tweeddaleyouth.co.uk/>.

West Lothian Bike Library to learn from a similar scheme and answer some queries they had raised at inception. They will be refining their hub requirements before procuring assets.

- 5.4 SEStran has published tenders for the two first GO e-Bike hubs with anticipated award of contract in December.

6. EU projects - update

- 6.1 **SHARE-North³** focuses on shared mobility modes and their potential to address sustainable transport challenges in the North Sea region. This includes developing, implementing, promoting and assessing car sharing, bike sharing, ride sharing and other forms of shared mobility in urban and rural areas and employment clusters. The planned living labs integrate modern technology with activities to support changes in mobility behaviour. The objectives include: resource efficiency, improving accessibility (including non-traditional target groups), increased efficiency in the use of transport infrastructure, reduction of space consumption for transport, and improving quality of life and low carbon transport.
- 6.2 From Wednesday 10th until Friday 12th October 2018, SEStran hosted the 7th full partner meeting in Edinburgh. Each project partner provided an update of the recent activities and achievements in a short presentation.
- 6.3 To build on the successes of the project, the project partners jointly submitted an application for a project extension. The Steering Committee will review the extension application and communicate their decision mid-December 2018.
- 6.4 On Friday morning the project partners attended the Integrated Mobility Forum, organised by SEStran. The project leader and one of the project partners presented at the forum. The next project meeting will be in Bremen, Germany and is provisionally scheduled for 2-4 April 2019.
- 6.5 **REGIO-MOB⁴** aims to promote “learning, sharing of knowledge and transferring best practices between the participating regional and local authorities to design and implement regional mobility plans (or Regional Transport Strategies) bearing in mind the stakeholders with regional relevance and contributing to the sustainable growth of Europe”.
- 6.6 As part of the Action Plan, SEStran has employed Sustrans to carry out two Active Travel Audits for the SEStran region based on the PASTA methodology of active mobility as developed by the Italian lead project partner, ANCI Lazio. The two audit reports will assess levels of active travel and measure the health benefits before and after the implementation of the e-bike sharing scheme GO e-Bike.

³ <http://sestran.gov.uk/projects/share-north/>.

⁴ <http://sestran.gov.uk/projects/regio-mob/>.

- 6.7** As part of the monitoring activities, SEStran reported the delay in the first active travel audit carried out by Sustrans. SEStran received the final version of the first audit report by Sustrans in November and has recently had a meeting with their officers to discuss the report.
- 6.8** **SURFLOGH**⁵ aims to improve the role of logistics hubs in the network of urban logistics in the North Sea Region. By introducing city labs, a transnational platform is created to promote innovation in city logistics. These platforms will bring together different actors to exchange knowledge, work on innovative pilot projects and implement results within policy strategies and the urban logistics system.
- 6.9** SEStran's main role in the project is to work together with Edinburgh Napier University Transport Research Institute (TRI) to develop business cases for environmentally friendly transport. It is also working with local small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) to trial deliveries of goods by cargo-bikes, in and around the city of Edinburgh. Zedify (formerly Outspoken Delivery) has been identified as pilot delivery partner to deliver the e-cargo bike pilot scheme.
- 6.10** The last project partner meeting was held during the SURFLOGH Start Conference as part of the Let's Gro Festival in Groningen, from 31st Oct until 2nd Nov 2018. The conference was attended by three SEStran officers, along with two Members of the SEStran Board, Cllr Colin Davidson (Fife) and Cllr Russell Imrie (Midlothian) and two representatives from Zedify.
- 6.11** During the project partner meeting, SEStran provided the project partners with an update on recent activities. Together with Edinburgh Napier University TRI, SEStran presented the business case for urban freight hubs they are developing together as part of one of the workpackages, and received valuable input from the other project partners.
- 6.12** All project partners and their guests visited a consolidation centre outside Groningen, where one of the project partners is working on a pilot as part of the SURFLOGH project. This was followed by a visit to Groningen Airport where drones are being tested to explore the potential role of unmanned aviation in sustainable freight logistics.
- 6.13** As part of the SURFLOGH Start Conference⁶, SEStran lead a workshop on the opportunities for electric cargo bikes in city logistics together with Jos Sluijsmans, cycling consultant for Fietsendiensten.nl in the Netherlands. The workshop was attended by multiple project partners and their guests, as well as some members of the wider public.

7. Proposed projects

⁵ <http://sestran.gov.uk/projects/surflogh/>.

⁶ <https://northsearegion.eu/surflogh/news/what-a-great-start/>.

7.1 PURSUITS: In September 2018, the project partners submitted the second stage proposal for the Pursuits project under the EU Horizon 2020 programme. The project is aimed at developing knowledge, tools and practices for integrating new mobility and distribution forms in land-use and transport planning in metropolitan areas to improve quality of life, reduce the environmental impact and strengthen competitiveness and regional economic performance. SEStran is now awaiting feedback.

8. Further Initiatives

8.1 ECOMM – 29th until 31st May 2019: The European Conference on Mobility Management will be hosted by SEStran in Edinburgh from 29th until 31st May 2019. The overall theme of the conference will be Mobility Management: Improving Lives and Communities. SEStran has sent out a call for papers.

8.2 Hate Crime Charter: SEStran is involved in a working group, along with Transport Scotland, Police Scotland and Disability Equality Scotland, to develop a regional hate crime charter on public transport. This group was formed following the agreement by West Lothian, Clackmannanshire and Fife Councils to pilot this charter. The working group has now held two consultative events in both Kirkcaldy and Alloa, and is set to host a final event in West Lothian, on the 13th December. The group is also looking at dates in January discuss the next stages of the project, which could include a separate session with transport providers to discuss the charter in more depth.

8.3 Can do & Thistle Card App: SEStran has been working with Scottish Enterprise Can Do to develop an intermodal journey planner and Thistle Card App, which will make it easier for people to use the Card when using public transport.

8.4 On 16th November 2018, SEStran announced the launch of a new £150,000 fund that seeks to identify and understand in detail the challenges faced by disabled people when travelling. The first step is to explore the extent to which such challenges affect people's travel plans and their choice of mode of transport. The project aims to develop a door to door journey planning solution that helps alleviate these barriers and makes it easier for people to use public transport.

8.5 SEStran is looking to mobile application developers and tech companies to develop a simple, engaging and easy to understand interface that has an innovative approach to the use of visual, audio and physical (such as vibration) elements to communicate with its users.

8.6 The competition is funded by the Can Do Innovation Challenge Fund. In the first phase, up to 5 research and development contracts of up to £30,000 each will be awarded to companies to demonstrate the technical feasibility of the proposed solution.

8.7 The first information event will be held on 7th December 2018 at COSLA offices in Edinburgh. Registration is via EVENTBRITE

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thistle-assistance-journey-planner-innovation-challenge-tickets-51717540556>

8.8 Electric Vehicle Strategy: Prompted by discussions at the last Chief Officer's meeting, SEStran intends to develop an Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy for the region, following a similar approach to both Tactran and Hitrans. The aim of such a strategy would be to promote the use of electric vehicles and support the development of a better EV charging infrastructure in the region. SEStran officers are currently working on a draft outline, which will be taken forward for discussion at the next Chief Officers meeting on 20th February 2019.

9. SEStran Forums

9.1 Integrated Mobility Forum: On 12th October 2018, SEStran hosted the Integrated Mobility Forum. Representatives from various organisations were present, including bus and rail operators, local councillors, government agencies, private companies, NGOs, as well as the SHARE-North partners.

9.2 SEStran provided an update on the bus and rail issues currently faced in the SEStran area. This led to a meaningful Q&A session. As a result, multiple connections were made between representatives from different organisations for further cooperation.

9.3 The SHARE-North project leader provided a verbal overview of the project and introduced the topic of shared mobility. This was followed by a presentation by Thomas Geier from EMTA (European Metropolitan Transport Authorities) on his experience of MaaS from a public authority perspective in Amsterdam, and a presentation by Angelo Meuleman from Taxistop Belgium on a case study regarding Mobi-hubs and their integration with mobility as a service.

9.4 The Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum was hosted by SEStran on 2 November 2018. It brought together representatives from different organisations with a shared interest in promoting equality in transport and improve access to healthcare. Topics such as the NHS Journey Planner, Thistle Card, Can Do, Accessible Travel Funding, Access for All Stations Fund and Real Time Passenger Information were covered.

9.5 The Logistics and Freight Forum was hosted by SEStran on 28th November 2018. Andrew Malcolm from Malcolm Group presented at the forum and various issues such as lorry parking and emergency actions were discussed. In addition, SEStran shared the experiences on sustainable logistics in first & last mile deliveries from the SURFLOGH start conference with the members of the forum through an engaging conversation.

10 Local Rail Development Fund – Transport Appraisal Newburgh

10.1 SEStran made a successful application to the Local Rail Development Fund (LRDF) to fund this transport appraisal work. This is a welcome opportunity

to make a robust case to the Scottish Government for improvements to access rail in the Newburgh area.

10.2 In order to manage the procurement of a consultant to undertake the work the project team (SEStran, Fife Council & Newburgh Rail Group) propose a direct appointment via the Scotland Excel framework, the proposed consultant would be SYSTRA.

10.3 There are three key reasons for looking at SYSTRA to undertake this work:

1. Past work: SYSTRA have undertaken past work on Newburgh, the 2015 Initial Rail Demand Feasibility Study.
2. Current similar work: SYSTRA will be working on the Bridge of Earn LRDF appraisal managed by Tactran. The two projects have been linked in past studies and it would be appropriate for links to be maintained whilst at the same time maintaining objectivity.
3. Future relevant work: SYSTRA are currently undertaking the development of the Tay Cities Transport model work. If the Newburgh proceeds to stage 3, the detailed options stage, then modelling will be required. This will be able to be done under the Tay Cities model.

10.4 SEStran officers met with SYSTRA in November 2018 to discuss SYSTRA's capacity to undertake the work, synergies (cost and resource benefits) and separation with other projects. SYSTRA presented a plan that demonstrated an approach that maximises information and resource sharing when appropriate with Bridge of Earn work but allows separation of project sensitive data

10.5 SYSTRA will be asked to undertake a multi-modal transport appraisal in line with the LRDF funding requirements. The service will be subdivided into four stages

Stage 1: Producing a case for change

Stage 2: Undertaking a preliminary options appraisal

Stage 3: Undertaking a detailed options appraisal

If Stage 3 produces option(s) which are worthwhile of further consideration, then:

Stage 4: A post appraisal plan will be prepared, encompassing proposed monitoring and evaluation plan.

It is important to note that progression from one stage to another will be dependent on:

- ✓ The promoters deciding to continue with the study
- ✓ A rail option remaining as an option to be appraised
- ✓ Approval from Transport Scotland

10.6 SYSTRA would begin the work in January 2019 with the final report due by March 2020 if approvals to move through all stages are secured at key decision points. If at any stage the decision is made not to proceed then SYSTRA will cease work.

11. EU Exit update

11.1 The UK is due to leave the EU at the end of March 2019, with a transition period lasting until the end of 2020. The latest news, at the time of writing, is that a Withdrawal Agreement has been reached between the UK government and the EU but the deal is yet to be agreed by the UK parliament. The draft document sets out the terms of the UK's departure of the EU and the details of the transition period. During the transition period, the UK and the EU hope to negotiate a permanent trade deal.

11.2 The Prime Minister is currently working with Brussels, the UK Parliament, businesses and the wider public to gain support for the Withdrawal Agreement.

12. Recommendations

12.1 The Board notes of the contents of the report.

12.2 The Board approves the grant to East Lothian Council as outlined in paragraph 4.5.

12.3 It is also recommended that the Members of the Board save the ECOMM dates in their diaries, which will take place from 29th until 31st May 2019.

12.3 That the Board approves the appointment, via the Scotland Excel framework, of SYSTRA to undertake the Newburgh Transport Appraisal.

Julie Vinders

Project Officer

23rd November 2018

Policy Implications	None
Financial Implications	As described in the report, particularly the sections highlighted in the 'Recommendations'.
Equalities Implications	None
Climate Change Implications	None