

Projects Report & EU Exit Update

1. INTRODUCTION

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

2. PROJECTS PERFORMANCE

- 2.1 The RAG status (red-amber-green) is used throughout the projects update to highlight the current state of progress for each active project. The projects update is included as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.2 The table below explains the meaning of the different colours used throughout the report to highlight how a project is progressing.

Status	Meaning:
	Complete
	Progressing according to plan
	Some issues/delay encountered
	Severe issues or delayed

- 2.3 The strategic objectives as set out in the SEStran Regional Transport Strategy are used throughout the projects update to highlight how the projects link back to the RTS:

 *Economy*

 *Accessibility*

 *Environment*

 *Safety & health*

 *Corporate*

3. EU EXIT UPDATE

- 3.1 The EU Exit Process has been postponed with a new deadline of 31 October 2019.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Partnership Board take note of the contents of the report.

Programmes Manager

20th September 2019

Appendix 1: Projects update

Policy Implications	TBC
Financial Implications	TBC
Equalities Implications	None
Climate Change Implications	None

1. Active Travel Projects

1.1 GO e-Bike



In April 2018, SEStran successfully launched GO e-Bike, a regional bike-sharing scheme funded by SEStran, with a contribution from the SHARE-North project. The first four GO e-Bike hubs were launched in St Andrews, Buckhaven, West Lothian and Falkirk and SEStran has secured funding from the Low Carbon Travel and Transport (LCTT) Fund to expand the GO e-Bike scheme through 6 further hubs.

Latest developments:

- Complete

● **Forth Bike hub**

In June 2019, the Forth e-bike hub was launched at Helix Park, Falkirk Wheel and Forth Valley Royal Hospital in collaboration with Forth Environment Link, NHS Forth Valley, Transport Scotland, Clackmannanshire, Stirling and Falkirk Councils. At the time of writing, some 1188 cycle trips had been made since the launch of the scheme. More information about the scheme can be found on: <https://www.forthbike.co.uk/>.
- In progress

● **GO e-Bike expansion with LCTT funding**

 - The hubs at Socialbite Village and TYA Bike Punks are seeing great usage of the e-bikes.
 - Socialbite village residents have been getting support in the use and charging of the bikes from West Lothian Bike Library.
 - A promotional campaign developed for GO e-Bike launched at the TRANSCEND festival in June. Do the Ride Thing encourages responsible use of bicycles in all settings and promotes the benefits that e-bikes can bring.
 - The launch coincided with the GO e-Bike Family ride where some 500 riders cycled from Peebles to Innerleithen on the Tweed Valley Railway path.
 - A contract is now in place with Bewegen Technologies Inc. to deliver the shared e-bike system in East Lothian and Midlothian. Work is now beginning on preparing bikes and the planning for installation later in the year.
 - Site plans are being finalised with interactions with Scottish Power Energy Networks for a connection at Eskbank station.

1.2 Regional Cycle Network Grant Scheme



The Regional Cycle Network Grant Scheme continues the partnership between Sustrans Scotland and SEStran's commitment to delivering improvements to the cross-boundary utility routes.

Latest developments:

- Delayed

● **Edinburgh BioQuarter**

 - Design work is being progressed after input from Sustrans and City of Edinburgh officers.
 - The project has been allocated £95,500, as a continuance of 2018-19 funding.
 - Public consultation is being prepared for October 2019.

- Some further design changes are being investigated to fulfil potential future funding requirements.
- **SEStran Strategic Cycle Network Review** In progress
 - SEStran are preparing a brief for the review of the Cross-Boundary Cycle Development study 2015.
 - Preparatory work is underway to define the scope of the new study and engage with partners and other important stakeholders.
 - Funding has now been approved from Sustrans to deliver this project with a tender to be published in September.

1.3 Regional Active Travel Development Fund – Transport Scotland



SEStran received £200,200 in funding for cross-boundary active travel routes in the SEStran region. SEStran is using the funding for three feasibility and design studies in Falkirk, Midlothian and East Lothian. For the financial year 2019/20 SEStran has received £250,000 for a series of new projects that are getting underway.

Latest developments:

- **Project 1: Larbert to Stirling** Complete
 - SEStran is working in partnership with Tactran to carry out a feasibility and design study on the A9 route from Larbert to Plean (and through to Stirling).
 - Consultants 2020 have made an initial options assessment and are working to complete feasibility in May. Public consultation will be concluding in early June.
- **Project 2: A701 corridor** Complete
 - SEStran has awarded Arup a contract worth £34,467.50 to carry out a feasibility study of the A701 for improvements to public transport, walking and cycling provisions. In April Arup presented the options appraisal to Midlothian to confirm agreement for the proposals.
 - The finalised study report is due for completion at the end of May.
- **Project 3: East Lothian LiDar** Complete
 - East Lothian have appointed Peter Brett Associates, AECOM Ltd, and IKM to develop 3D visualisations. The concept design work is ongoing. The visualisations are expected to be complete by mid-June. The total contract award is £120,458.91.
 - 6 routes around Musselburgh were looked at in detail to feed design for the Musselburgh Master Plan.
 - The designs in North Berwick have presented options for changes to the High Street.
 - East Lothian is undertaking some further work in Tranent to complete all design.
 - All design is still subject to public consultation.
- **New Project 1: Kirkcaldy to Buckhaven** In progress
 - SEStran conducted a tender competition in July and have appointed AECOM Ltd to progress preliminary work to consultation and further design.
 - The total contract award is £79,991.70.
 - AECOM and SEStran have met with landowners to discuss the project and potential future support.

1.4 Cycle Training & Development – Cycling Scotland



Support and develop the delivery of Bikeability Scotland National Standard cycle training by local authority Bikeability coordinators. Promote, encourage and develop cycle training opportunities across SEStran projects.

Latest developments:

- **Bikeability Scotland** In progress
 - Action plans are being prepared for Falkirk and Scottish Borders to better support the delivery of Bikeability.
A regional Bikeability coordinator meeting is being organised to enable better collaboration between the eight Local Authority Bikeability coordinators and support the sharing of knowledge and resources. The first meeting is planned for September subject to availability.
- **Go e-Bike cycle training** In progress
 - Training is being offered to all hubs as they are completed and as part of ongoing development plans.
 - The Cycling Scotland ‘Essential Cycling Skills’ programme and guided rides are being offered to all employers taking part in the employer roadshow.
 - Tweeddale Youth Action Bike Punks project will be running a Cycle Ride Leader & Led Ride Assistant course.
 - Shadowing opportunities are being set-up for TYA at other cycling hubs, including West Lothian Bike Library and Recyke-a-Bike (Stirling).
 - Social Bite Village in Granton are receiving bike maintenance training through West Lothian Bike Library in August. They are also being supported to trial e-cargo bikes through Sustrans and will receive Essential Cycling Skills and cargo bike training.
 - Employers have received Essential Cycle Skills training from West Lothian Bike Library following the e-bike trial.
 - Collaboration being explored with Easyriders cycle training project in Scottish Borders. E-bikes from the Scottish Borders hub would be offered to increase accessibility to the training.
- **Adult Cycle Training** In progress
 - Potential for a female beginner’s cycle training course currently being explored with Cycling Scotland tutors. Pilot would be in Edinburgh.

1.5 Sustainable and Active Travel Grant Scheme



SEStran supports additional projects through grant funding that will help deliver against the Partnerships sustainable transport objectives.

Latest developments:

- **Queen Margaret University** In progress
 - Queen Margaret University was awarded £7,150 in order to update their Travel Plan.
- **ReCYCLEd Signs** In progress
 - The first 4 signs have been finished with two being delivered to Falkirk for instillation at Falkirk High & Grahamston rail stations and a further 2 for Midlothian Council for Dalkeith and Bonnyrigg.

- SEStran provided a further £5,000 grant funding to Tweeddale Youth Association to produce 3 more signs in 2019/20.
- If local authority partners are interested in obtaining a sign for a location with an existing active travel map, please contact SEStran (Keith Fiskien) to discuss.

2. Public Transport Projects

2.1 Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI)



SEStran's RTPI system began in 2010 with the aim to tackle a declining bus patronage and make bus travel more predictable and reliable. SEStran is working with the City of Edinburgh Council to move towards a new Content Management System that will improve the public facing regional screen network.

Latest developments:

- **Development of new Content Management System**

Delayed

- The new Content Management System is out for tender with the City of Edinburgh Council managing the tender process. Depending on the award process and new contractor, it is hoped that the new CMS will be in place by the end of the calendar year.
- Using Traveline data via a website set up, we have been able to improve the quality and the reliability of information delivered via the screen network outside of the Lothian Bus network with a successful test at the Galashiels Interchange. SEStran will be able to implement this solution at key sites (as there is a cost) until the new CMS is operational.

2.2 Hate Crime Charter



SEStran is involved in a working group, together with Transport Scotland, Police Scotland and Disability Equality Scotland, to develop a regional Hate Crime Charter for public transport. Hate Crime is a key work package which came out of the Accessible Travel Framework developed by Transport Scotland. SEStran is developing the charter on a regional scale for all protected characteristics under the current hate crime legislation.

Latest developments:

- **Development of Hate Crime Charter**

In progress

- Public transport operators and different equalities groups have been involved through consultation events and surveys. The group is now reaching out to transport operators for a pre-pilot survey seeking feedback on the draft Hate Crime Charter and developing a monitoring

mechanism. Based on the learnings from this engagement, the working group hopes to roll out the Charter nationally.

2.3 Thistle Assistance Programme



The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership has developed the Thistle Assistance Card and App to make using public transport easier for older people and those with disabilities, illness or mobility issues. SEStran is currently undertaking work to improve and evolve the program.

Latest developments:

- **Journey Planner - Phase One Proof of concept development** In progress
 - SEStran has been working 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.
 - Work on the phase 1 concepts for the App continue with the developers.
 - Due to complete this phase in October 2019 with a presentation to the project team.
 - Phase 1 concepts will be evaluated to determine if any have the potential to move to a Phase 2 public pilot.
 - SEStran will be working with Scottish Enterprise to explore potential funding for Phase 2.
- **Development of Thistle Assistance Website** In progress
 - SEStran has been working with the Hillside Agency on the development of the new Thistle Assistance branding, website and campaign.
 - Design concepts have been presented to Transport Scotland, Disability Groups and RTPs (see appendix 1).
 - Work is due to be completed in September 2019 with the website, new branding and campaign available to all partners to use to promote.
- **Development of SEStran Website – Accessibility Regulations 2018** In progress
 - In order to comply with legislation [Public Sector Bodies \(Websites and Mobile Applications\)\(No. 2\) Accessibility Regulations 2018](#) SEStran will be developing the Partnership website to improve accessibility across the site for all users and at the same time improve the functionality of the site.
 - The legislation states that public sector websites and mobile apps should be made accessible;
 - Any new sites from September 2018 should be accessible after September 2019. Existing sites should be made accessible from September 2020. Mobile applications after June 2021;
 - Accessible means Complies with all Level A and AA Success Criteria of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.1;
 - £2,000 allocated from the Transport Scotland Fund will be used to undertake the work as part of the Thistle Assistance program development.
- **Marketing Communications Internship** In progress
 - SEStran will be working in partnership with Inclusion Scotland to provide an Internship to work on the Thistle Assistance program.
 - This opportunity for someone with a disability to gain experience and skills is part of the ‘We can Work Internship’ project from the Inclusion Scotland [Employability Program](#) and will be jointly funded by Inclusion Scotland and SEStran.
 - The position will focus on marketing and communications and be based in Victoria Quay with a projected start date end October 2019.

2.4 Local Rail Development Fund (LRDF)



The £2 million Scottish Government [Local Rail Development Fund](#), was announced in February 2018, with the aim of providing funding to develop community led options to improve local rail connections.

Latest developments:

- **Newburgh Train Station**

In Progress

- SEStran & Fife Council supported a successful bid from the Newburgh Train Station Group for the first phase of funding.
- £82,000 (exc. VAT) was secured to undertake a multi-modal transport appraisal in the Newburgh area with SYSTRA appointed to undertake the work in December 2018.
- Phase 1 – the Initial Case for Change was completed in April 2019 with a report submitted to Transport Scotland (TS).
- Feedback has been received from TS and the project team is currently reviewing the comments and will undertake further work over the coming months to progress the case for change.
- £8,000 has been claimed from the budget for the work to date.

- **Forth Ports Leith**

In Progress

- SEStran in partnership with Forth Ports made an application in June 2019 to the second round of LRDF funding.
- The proposal is for a multi-modal freight study in and around the Port of Leith to explore key issues and opportunities whilst maximising the potential for existing infrastructure (rail heads etc.).
- Transport Scotland have approved SEStran's submission and awarded a grant of £150,000 to conduct the study up to 31st March 2021. <https://www.transport.gov.scot/public-transport/rail/rail-policy-and-strategy/local-rail-development-fund/>
- SEStran will begin work on procurement of a consultant to undertake the work.
- Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidelines (STAG) will be the framework that the project will follow, with each decision point being assessed by Transport Scotland before moving to the next stage (see appendix 2).

3. European-funded Projects

3.1 SHARE-North

Interreg North Sea Region – Jan 2016 to Dec 2021



SHARE-North 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 project has been extended for another three years during which SEStran plans to promote shared-mobility through Tripshare SEStran and the introduction of 'Mobihubs' (mobility hubs) in the SEStran region.

Latest developments:

- **Project outcomes**

In progress

- SEStran is currently looking at bringing Mobihubs to the SEStran area taking learnings from the various European partners. SEStran is looking for partners from the Local Authorities to work jointly to deliver a Mobihub in the SEStran region.
- SEStran has developed a Mobihub scoping paper, setting out background information and guidance on suitable locations, which will be used to form partnerships and develop a Mobihub.
- In addition, SEStran has started reviewing current TripshareSEStran arrangements to continue to promote ride-sharing in our region.

3.2 REGIO-Mob

Interreg Europe – Apr 2016 to March 2020



REGIO-Mob 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”.

Latest developments:

- **Implementation of REGIO-Mob Action Plan** In progress
 - As part of the REGIO-Mob Action Plan, SEStran planned to implement GO e-Bike and measure the effects on the scheme on people’s health and levels of physical activity using a research methodology presented as best practice by the Italian lead partners.
 - In May and June 2019, SEStran conducted a GO e-Bike health survey and hosted a focus group with staff at St Andrews University to measure the impact GO e-Bike has had on people’s levels of physical activity and perceptions of well-being. The findings from the survey and focus group will be summarised in a report and used in the development of a new Regional Transport Strategy.
- **Monitoring of policy instrument development** In progress
 - The findings from the GO e-Bike survey and focus group will be used to inform the development of the Electric Vehicle Strategy (e-bike section) and the Regional Transport Strategy, recognising the fact that e-bikes can be an enabling technology to promote a healthier and more active population.

3.3 SURFLOGH

Interreg North Sea Region – Jun 2017 – Oct 2020



SURFLOGH 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.

Latest developments:

- **Development of business case with Edinburgh Napier University** In progress
 - SEStran is leading on a work package along with Edinburgh Napier University Transport Research Institute (TRI), developing business models for urban freight hubs.

- The first stage of the research (literature review) and business model framework has been completed by SEStran and Edinburgh Napier University and has been presented to the project team and EU Joint Secretariat for review.
- A further paper is being developed for publication and presentation.
- **Edinburgh Pilot – ZEDIFY** In progress
 - The pilot is up and running and currently delivering up to one pallet worth of small packets in central Edinburgh from a site west of Haymarket station.

3.4 BLING

Interreg North Sea Region – Jan 2019 to Dec 2021



Blockchain is a key enabling technology that will underpin efforts to deliver innovative services under the Digital Agenda for Europe. The Blockchain IN Government (BLING) project focuses on providing one of the first dedicated platforms to bring these tools and approaches into local and regional services. SEStran will be developing a pilot with the University of Edinburgh, which will showcase innovative use of the technology in a transport environment.

Latest developments:

- **Development of Edinburgh Pilot** In progress
 - The Design Informatics team at the University of Edinburgh team supported by SEStran is prototyping ways to create Location Based Smart Contracts – agreements about the location and relations of smart objects in space that allow conditions such as proximity or co-location to trigger actions like financial transfers or opening physical locks. These systems are backed with blockchains, to explore new techniques for make location data secure without being invasive.
 - SEStran and the University of Edinburgh presented the Edinburgh pilot to at a Blockchain Conference in Gothenburg in June 2018.
 - Further work will continue to move the pilot from ‘the lab’ into the real world over the next 6 months.

3.5 PriMaaS

Interreg Europe – Aug 2019 to Jan 2023



The main objective of Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) is to change the way people travel and pay for mobility services. The PriMaaS project is about promoting the integration of traditional collective transport modes with personal and innovative ones by influencing the development of regional policy instruments. Through interregional learning, policies can be updated to promote equitable mobility services truly focused on citizens’ needs.

Latest developments:

- **Kick-off meeting in September** In progress
 - Following some clarifications to the project application, the European Joint Secretariat has now fully approved the PriMaaS project.
 - SEStran officers attended the kick-off meeting where the partners discussed the project’s priorities for the upcoming 3.5 years.

- SEStran will be organising Regional Stakeholder Meetings as a platform to discuss the MaaS concept and develop a Baseline Assessment Report during the first phase of the project.

3.6 CONNECT



Interreg North Sea Region – Oct 2019 to Mar 2022

CONNECTING North Sea Region's TEN-T nodes – Support intermodality growth in the North Sea Region through smart efficiency enhancements. The overall objective is to support smart intermodality growth in the NSR through efficiency enhancements. The project focuses on: implementation of new smart processes and working tools (smart intermodality) and developing of strategies for smart efficiency enhancements (smart involvement). <https://northsearegion.eu/north-sea-connect>

Latest developments:

- **Application Approved by the Joint Secretariat** In progress
 - SEStran has been part of a further successful application for EU funding for the CONNECT project from the Interreg North Sea grouping.
 - 10 partners from across the region will be working on developing and promoting best practise in sustainable port operational development.
 - SEStran will be running a work package on communication and marketing.
 - The first partnership meeting will be in November 2019 and the project will run  

4. Strategy Developments

4.1 TravelVU: Getting a VU on Edinburgh



SEStran was successful in a bid to Smarter Choices Smarter Places Open Fund in November 2018 and was awarded £13,650 in match funding to collect travel data in and around Edinburgh through the TravelVU app developed by Trivector Traffic AB.

Latest developments:

- **Data collection through TravelVU App** Complete
 - A final report was produced by Trivector at the end of July.
 - While participation was low the survey captured a large number of journeys and trip destinations.
 - SEStran is exploring how to make further use of the app with support from partners.

4.2 Electric Vehicle Strategy



SEStran is planning to develop an Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy for the region aimed at addressing the barriers to the EV uptake and the challenges faced by local authorities when implementing EV infrastructure. This will form an integral part of the new Regional Transport Strategy.

Latest developments:

- **Development of draft EV Strategy**

In progress

SEStran has been looking into the Electric Vehicle Strategies of partner RTPs such as Hitrans and Tactran. SEStran is currently investigating what the strategy should cover and how this can best be achieved. It is envisaged that a Baseline Report and Demand Forecast Note will need to be developed as a baseline for the development of an EV Strategy which can be incorporated into the new RTS.

4.3 Regional Transport Strategy



SEStran's original Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) was approved in March 2007 and covered the period from 2008 until 2015. The strategy was subject to a refresh in August 2015 and covers the period until 2025.

Latest developments:

- **Main Issues Report**

In progress

- A paper was presented and agreed by the SEStran Partnership Board in June outlining the proposed project delivery and governance structure and proposing a timeline for the initial phases of the project.
- SEStran will now begin the process of preparing a "Main Issues" report, as a prelude to a complete review of the RTS. SEStran will employ external experts to prepare the Main Issues Report.
- A scoping exercise is nearing completion to identify the extent of work needed to deliver the new RTS and the tender documents are being prepared.

5. SEStran forums & upcoming events

5.1 SEStran Forum Meetings

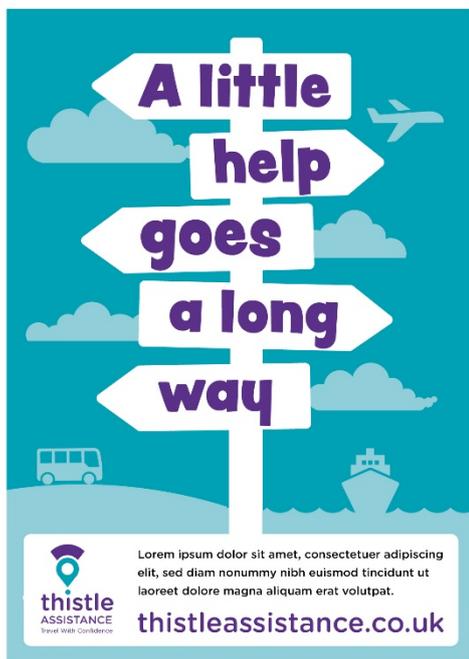


SEStran hosts three different forum groups which are all held twice a year. The aim of these forums is to provide a platform for interested parties to come together and to provide a regional voice in various transport-related matters.

Upcoming meetings:

- **Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum**
The next meeting will be held at Victoria Quay at 2pm on 2 October 2019.
- **Integrated Mobility Forum**
The next meeting will be held at Victoria Quay at 10pm on 10 October 2019.
- **Logistics and Freight Forum**
The next meeting will be held on 13 November 2019.

Appendix 1: Thistle Assistance Design



Appendix 2: STAG Process

