

BUS FORUM

10:00AM, 13th MAY 2016

CONFERENCE ROOM 4+5, VICTORIA QUAY

Present

Name	Organisation
Charlie Anderson (Chair)	Non Cllr Member
Cllr Jim Fullarton	Scottish Borders Council
Cllr Michael Veitch	East Lothian Council
Bob Baillie	Fife Council
Gavin Booth	Bus Users Scotland
Ker Corbett	Stagecoach East Scotland
Chris Cox	Falkirk Council
Mark Craske	NHS Forth Valley
Chris Day	City of Edinburgh Council
John Dellow	Scottish Borders Council
Ian Forbes	West Lothian Council
Lisa Freeman	SEStran
Marie Garvie	Transport Scotland
Jim Grieve	SEStran
Gordon Hanning	Transport Scotland
Trond Haugen	Advisor to SEStran
Catriona Macdonald	SEStran
John Macdonald	Community Transport Association
Gordon Manson	Home Energy Scotland
Andrew McLellan	East Lothian Council
Stuart McNeill	Traveline Scotland
Brian Peat	First Scotland East
Sandy Scotland	Non Cllr Board Member
Nigel Serafini	Lothian Buses
Alastair Short	SEStran
Barry Turner	Non Cllr Member
Karl Vanters	Midlothian Council
Paul White	CPT
Mark Whitelocks	Stagecoach East Scotland
Emily Whitters	SEStran

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Cllr Donald Balsillie	Clackmannanshire Council
Cllr Stephen Bird	Falkirk Council
Cllr Gordon Edgar	Scottish Borders Council
Cllr Nick Gardner	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Irene Hamilton	Clackmannanshire Council
Cllr Bill Henderson	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Lesley Hinds	City of Edinburgh Council

Cllr Adam McVey	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Cathy Muldoon	West Lothian Council
Cllr Derek Rosie	Midlothian Council
Neil Bailey	Edinburgh Coach Lines
Lesley Deans	Clackmannanshire Council
Duncan Hearsum	Dial-a-journey
George Mair	CPT
John Martin	Non Cllr Member
Amber Moss	East Lothian Council
Derek Parry	Clackmannanshire Council
Neil Renilson	Non Cllr Member
Martin Wanless	Scottish Borders Council

Ref.		Action
1.	Welcome & Apologies	
	Mr Anderson welcomed the group and conducted round table introductions.	
2.	Minutes & Matters Arising	
	<p>New Bus Service Regulation (Carried forward from 20/02/15)</p> <p>Mr Haugen commented that the new bus service registration regulations have now been finalised by Transport Scotland. The confidentiality restriction has been withdrawn, however there has been no extension to the whole registration period.</p> <p>Mr Haugen observed that he would like to discuss further with local authorities when SEStran should become involved if a route is cross boundary or has regional strategic implications. The group agreed that further clarification on the rules would be gained from the September meeting of the Association of Transport Coordinating Officers (ATCO).</p>	
3.	Smart Ticketing	
	<p>Mr Hanning gave a presentation on Smart Ticketing and Transport Scotland initiatives towards this. Key points as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart Ticketing was highlighted in the most recent National Transport Strategy and the previous transport minister was a driving force behind this. • The concessionary travel scheme has been fully smart for 7 years – works effectively. • Transport Scotland have made a lot of investment and therefore much of the infrastructure required is already in place. However, this needs to be brought up to a consistent level. • Abellio have many committed obligations from the franchise agreement including ensuring take up of any smart ticketing schemes. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The same franchise obligations have been introduced in the tender process for ferry services – The successful bid for the Clyde and Hebrides services will shortly be announced. • SPT are running a very successful smart ticketing scheme on the Glasgow subway. • Progress has been slower on buses, due partly to the fact it is a deregulated market. However some large operators have done work towards using smart ticketing. • Transport Scotland are introducing smart zones in cities involving major bus operators working together to produce a multi-operator ticket. Dundee and Aberdeen will go live this summer. Glasgow should be towards the end of 2016 and Edinburgh is currently planned for 2017. • Major operators have agreed to accept a national e-purse. Transport Scotland have an e-purse working group involving all major operators and are looking to have this in place within a year. 	
4.	First Group Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) Ruling	
	<p>Mr Anderson declared an interest in this item by reason of a professional relationship with First Group and did not participate in discussions.</p> <p>Mr Haugen reported that CMA have now released First Group from their undertakings effective immediately. However Mr Haugen noted some concern that there were now no safeguards in place against withdrawal of services.</p>	
5.	Environment & Clean Air Issues	
5.1	Measures to reduce fuel costs & environmental impact	
	<p>Mr Manson gave a presentation on measures to reduce fuel costs & environmental impact, (attached with minutes). Main points as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Home Energy Scotland • Fuel Efficient Driver Training (FuelGood) • Advice on vehicle telematics systems – behaviour change • Sustainable Transport Review Service • Low carbon transport loan (£100,000 interest free) 	
5.2	Air Quality and Buses in Edinburgh	
	This item will be brought forward to the next meeting of the Bus Forum.	
5.3	Cost of Congestion; Possible initiatives by Local Authorities and Operators	
	Mr Anderson highlighted that bus usage has been declining and the group discussed the many issues contributing to this. Journey times, particularly within Edinburgh, was raised as a key issue. The group	

	agreed that this item would be kept as a discussion point going forward.	
5.4	International Treaty on Climate Change	
	This was covered in item 5.3	
6.	Update on Projects	
6.1	A89/A8 Corridor Public Transport Study	
	Mr Haugen gave an update as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newbridge roundabout found to be a stumbling block for improving journey times on the transport corridor. • The STAG process has now been completed and bus lanes and cycling facilities were top of the agenda. • The next stage is to fill in details on what is feasible and this is now up to the stakeholder group. 	
6.2	Ferrytoll P&R	
	Mr Baillie gave an update as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is due to start in mid June and will take up to 3 months to construct the new entrance/exit and a larger area for buses to operate under • The building will be closed during this time but there will be temporary accommodations in place. 	
6.3	South Tay P&R	
	Mr Haugen gave an update as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been some movement on the land lease and procuring the site this way has resulted in a small cost saving of £4000 • SEStran have set up a meeting with Fife council to discuss the potential of them taking the project forward in terms of design. Alternatively it may go out as a contract design and build, dependent on funding arrangements. 	
6.4	Real Time Bus Passenger Information Update	
	Mr Grieve gave an update as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEStran have now spent all their Bus Investment Fund (BIF) money. This has gone towards providing an interface with the new Stagecoach system and transferring kits from Stagecoach to First Scotland East. All fleets from these two operators in the SEStran area are now equipped with RTPI. • There are almost 150 RTPI screens installed in the region in public locations with a further 134 left to place. Attendees were asked to pass on any suggestions for further locations. • SEStran are also promoting RTPI screens in commercial locations and have recently had a successful trial at RBS Gogarburn which has been extended to Edinburgh Park. • SEStran are looking to re-launch publicity of the system in around 1-2 months. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no BIF opportunities this year and the current aim is to work with smaller operators to get them involved in the system. SEStran will hold a seminar in July with small operators to take this forward. 	
6.5	Thistle Card Update	
	<p>Mr Short gave an update as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45,000 cards have been distributed since 2011 The card has won a SATA award and is currently nominated for national transport awards and Euro transport awards. Currently developing an app to replicate the card. Trial versions will be ready by the end of the month which will then be shared with bus operators. The paper product will continue to be produced as well as the app. <p>Mr Cox suggested that the functions of the Thistle Card could be integrated in to the new smart card system. Mr Short agreed that this could be an avenue going forward but that at the moment the app is just to replicate the card.</p>	
7.	Current Issues	
7.1	Transport Scotland	
	There were no further issues raised.	
7.2	Local Authorities	
	There were no further issues raised.	
7.3	Operators/CPT	
	There were no issues raised.	
7.4	Traveline Issues	
	<p>Mr McNeill gave an update as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relaunched the website, which now adapts to browsing platform and is therefore easier to maintain. Working on a project around disruption and personalisation of journeys. 	
7.5	Bus Users Scotland	
	<p>Mr Booth gave an update as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handling an increasing number of complaints – few of these are in the SEStran area. There are very few adverse reports from bus compliance officers in the area. Took over responsibility for roadside monitoring from the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) at the beginning of April and have increased the number of bus compliance officers accordingly. 	
7.6	CTA	
	Mr Macdonald stated that there have been developments on creating an accessible transport action plan looking at all transport	

	modes. This is to be signed off by the transport minister and COSLA in July/August and launched at the end of September.	
8.	AOCB	
	<p>Mr Haugen noted that SEStran are sent draft rail timetables on a confidential basis three months in advance of changes but have now reached an agreement with Scotrail that these can be released to relevant local authorities in order to amend integrated bus timetables accordingly. The next timetable change will take place in August and Mr Haugen stated that he will pass on draft timetables as they come in.</p> <p>Mr Anderson advised that Trond Haugen would be retiring later this year and this would therefore be his last bus forum. Mr Anderson expressed his thanks for all Trond's advice and support to the forum.</p>	TH
9.	Next Bus Forum	
	The next bus forum will be held on 14 th October 2016 at 10:00am in conference room 4+5, Victoria Quay.	