

Projects Report

1. REAL TIME PASSENGER INFORMATION

- 1.1** SEStran has now appointed a marketing specialist to accelerate the roll-out of the remaining RTPI digital screens. The appointment was effective from 16 January 2017 and it is hoped to have most of the remaining 130 screens distributed by the end of the financial year.
- 1.2** As advised in the report to the December 2016 Partnership Board, SEStran are currently working with INEO and transport consultants WYG to enable a link between bustrackerSEStran and GPS-enabled ticket machines operated by smaller bus operators in the SEStran region. This work is also programmed to be complete by the end of this financial year.
- 1.3** SEStran is delighted to inform the Board that its bid to the Smart Ticketing Challenge Fund, launched by Transport Scotland in October 2016, was successful. The fund provides capital funding to public sector organisations looking to develop interoperable smart ticketing. As reported previously, modern ticket machines are also equipped with a GPS facility which can facilitate a connection to the RTPI system. Work will now progress to procure the necessary equipment, through a Transport Scotland framework contract, and thereafter to kit-out the following bus operators: Blue Bus Ltd., Peter Hogg of Jedburgh, A1 Coaches, Edinburgh Coachlines Ltd. and Eve's Coaches. The total investment is £100,800 with an ERDF contribution of £40,320. Again the installation will be complete by 31st March 2017.

2. SESTRAN THISTLE CARD – APP DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

- 2.1** The Thistle Card App is designed to replicate the original SEStran Thistle card with an initial page for the customer to input their protected characteristic using the same previously agreed symbols. The second page displays the information to be shown to the bus driver.
- 2.2** The new Thistle Card App was added to the app store in a soft launch to gain feedback. SEStran has now incorporated the feedback received from stakeholders to date, and would now like to encourage Forum members to circulate the app through their own communications channels.
- 2.3** SEStran are now in discussions with experts such as Code Clan and xDesign to identify further potential for the apps development.
- 2.4** Hitrans (Highlands and Islands Strategic Transport Partnership) alongside Tactran (Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership) have both now launched their own versions of the Thistle Card using templates provided by SEStran.

3. Sustainable and Active Travel Grant Scheme (SATGS)

- 3.1 The SEStran Sustainable and Active Travel Grant Scheme aims to support and encourage Travel Planning and Active Travel measures. SATGS can be used to support physical measures implemented as part of a Travel Plan and provide support for organisations actively developing a Travel Plan.
- 3.2 Grants may range from £500 to £25,000 and will normally be up to a maximum of 50% of any proposal, although in exceptional circumstances higher awards may be made. The applicant will be responsible for securing the remaining 50% matching funding which should include a contribution directly from the applicant and may not come wholly from another grant scheme.
- 3.3 SEStran aim to launch the 2017/18 scheme in April. Application forms, guidance and further information on eligibility criteria will be published on the SEStran website.

4. **Regional Cycle Network Grant Scheme (RCNGS)**

- 4.1 SEStran operated the Sustrans funded Regional Cycle Network Grant Scheme throughout financial year 2015/16. Due to a further commitment from Sustrans, the scheme will be made available for 2016/17 and aims to encourage the development of the Cycle Network throughout the Region.
- 4.2 The RCNGS can be used to support feasibility studies, design work, the development of infrastructure and monitoring, as well as supporting innovation and public engagement. Grants may range from £500 to £25,000 although higher sums will be considered.
- 4.3 There is remaining funding for this financial year which is being offered to local authorities and stakeholders, without the need to match-fund.

5. **European Projects Update**

- 5.1 **SocialCar**' aims to integrate public transport information, car-pooling and crowd sourced data in order to provide a single source of information for the traveller to compare multiple options/services.
- 5.2 The last Social Car meeting was held in Brussels as part of the mid-term conference on the 22nd of November. Local Stakeholder groups will resume in February/March of this year, and will seek additional test users later in 2017.
- 5.3 **'SHARE-North'** addresses the concept of 'Shared Mobility' and looks at the development, implementation and promotion of Car Clubs, Bike Sharing and Car Sharing. The planned living labs will integrate modern technology with activities to support changes in mobility behaviour. The objectives are: resource efficiency, improving accessibility (incl. non-traditional target groups), increased efficiency in the use of transport infrastructure, reduction of space consumption for transport, improving quality of life and low carbon transport.

- 5.4** As part of the project's dissemination tasks, a series of webinars are to be held during the lifetime of the project. The first took place on the 20th of January, with an introduction to the 'Sharing Economy'.
- 5.5** **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." Accordingly this project provides an opportunity for SEStran to attract European funding towards the necessary development of the RTS and to learn and share knowledge with other cities throughout Europe. The project will attract 85% funding from Europe.
- 5.6** The last REGIO-MOB consortium meeting was held in Edinburgh at the City Chambers on the 11th and 12th of January. Park and Rides and Edinburgh's A90 Queue Management System were two examples of best practice chosen by the REGIO-MOB project partners. Presentations from both Edinburgh City Council and Stagecoach East Scotland were given, and a subsequent workshop was hosted by SEStran.

6. Opportunities For New European Projects

Interreg, North West Europe

- 6.1** **SCRIPT (Sustainable Carbon Reduction in Port Transport)**
It is well understood that transport, in general, is a major contributor to carbon emissions totals and freight transport's contribution is significant; with a particular concentration around ports and their hinterland as a result of the necessary traffic required to transfer goods to and from the ports.
- 6.2** SEStran and partners' objective is to engage with ports and freight transport operators and their supply chains in selected estuarine and inland waterway locations within the North West Europe area to effect large-scale behavioural change with respect to the use of low carbon logistics and transportation and the implementation of different low carbon solutions. Work continues towards a submission in March this year with a meeting due to be held in Brussels in February.

Interreg, North Sea Region

- 6.3** **SURFLOGH (Sustainable Urban Logistics Hubs)**
The original SURFLOGH project bid, aimed at improving the role of logistic hubs in the network of urban logistics in the North Sea Region, submitted in the previous call last year, was unsuccessful. However, led by the Province of Drenthe in the Netherlands, the partnership and bid has been re-cast with SEStran remaining as a full partner along with Napier University's Transport Research Institute (TRI) and re-submitted at the beginning of February. A response to the bid is expected in June 2017.

Horizon 2020

6.4 I-MAsS (Inclusive Mobility As a Service)

In partnership with Leeds University, Institute for Transport Studies and CENIT in Spain, SEStran is currently pursuing a bid to Horizon 2020. The consortium for this project now includes 8 academic/research institutes, 5 cities/regions and approximately 10 demonstration projects in total. SEStran's role in this project will be a demonstration project in partnership with Young Scot, called yTravel. yTravel will aim to develop and deliver innovative ways to provide inclusive mobility and accessibility solutions to all young people aged 16-25 years living in the South East of Scotland, based on co-produced identification of needs and innovative solutions. The deadline for submission of this project is February 2017.

6.5 INSTINCT

A further bid in partnership with Napier's TRI which will address the long-standing problem of the integration of transport infrastructure and urban development policies has been submitted. It will focus on the development and take-up of practical measures by municipal, regional and national governments, and public transport companies and organisations, to improve this integration and so deliver more sustainable transport and spatial development on the ground. This in turn will increase the attractiveness and convenience of sustainable modes of transport (public transport, cycling and walking) and at the same time reduce transport-related energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

7. EU Exit

- 7.1** The UK government has reaffirmed that the Article 50 process will be initiated at the end of March 2017. In January, the Prime Minister outlined her approach to the process and intended strategy to achieve the best deal for the UK. This will include coming out of the single market and will necessitate making new arrangements with individual countries, following the exit process.

Jim Grieve
Head of Programmes
23rd January 2017