

SESTRAN RAIL FORUM  
 10:00AM FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016  
 CONFERENCE ROOM 1, VICTORIA QUAY, EDINBURGH, EH6 6QQ

**Present**

Graham Bell (Chair)	Non Councillor Member
Cllr Donald Balsillie	Clackmannanshire Council
Cllr Irene Hamilton	Clackmannanshire Council
Cllr James Fullarton	Scottish Borders Council
Cllr Russell Imrie	Midlothian Council
Cllr Derek Rosie	Midlothian Council
Charlie Anderson	Non Cllr Board Member
Nikki Anderson	Abellio
Kevin Collins	Falkirk Council
Chris Day	City of Edinburgh Council
Jane Findlay	Fife Council
Peter Forsyth	East Lothian Council
Catherine Hall	Network Rail
Trond Haugen	Advisor to SEStran
Graeme Johnstone	Scottish Borders Council
Alex Macaulay	SEStran
John Martin	Non Cllr Board Member
Scott Prentice	Scotrail
Sandy Scotland	Non Cllr Board Member
Karl Vanters	Midlothian Council
Emily Whitters	SEStran
Alastair Young	Transport Scotland

**Apologies**

Cllr Stephen Bird	Falkirk Council
Cllr Tony Boyle	West Lothian Council
Cllr Gordon Edgar	Scottish Borders Council
Cllr Bill Henderson	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Lesley Hinds	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Michael Veitch	East Lothian Council
Michael Connolly	Abellio
Sarah Cunningham	First Group
Ian Forbes	West Lothian Council
Richard Gibson	Cross Country Trains
Frazer Henderson	Transport Scotland
Gordon Macleod	Transport Scotland
Iain Shaw	City of Edinburgh Council
Tom Steele	NHS Forth Valley
Barry Turner	Non Cllr Member
Rose Tweedale	Transport Scotland
Martin Wanless	Scottish Borders Council
John Yellowlees	Scotrail

Ref.		Actions
<b>1.</b>	<b>Minutes &amp; Actions/Matters Arising from Rail Forum on 02 Oct 2015</b>	
	The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed with no changes.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Operational Issues and Future Development/Timetable Changes</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	<b>ScotRail; Future ScotRail Timetable Strategy; Presentation by Scott Prentice</b>	
	<p>Mr Prentice gave a presentation detailing the upcoming Timetable strategy and timetabling and projected use of the new Edinburgh Gateway station. The presentation is attached to the minutes for information. Mr Prentice noted that the new timetable is a work in progress and will be in development over the next year.</p> <p>Cllr Imrie commented that trains departing from stations north of Dundee will not stop at Edinburgh Gateway. Mr Prentice responded that this is due to customers' preference on long distance trains for faster journeys with fewer stops but if there was customer demand it could be looked at again. Following a query from Mr Scotland, Mr Prentice noted that Scotrail are in discussions with Transport for Edinburgh regarding through train/tram tickets for use at Edinburgh Gateway.</p>	
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Virgin East Coast</b>	
	<p>There was not a representative of Virgin East Coast present, however an update was circulated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 additional daily weekday services between Edinburgh and London will be launched on May 16<sup>th</sup>. This was press released recently and further details will be given in the stakeholder newsletter nearer the time.</li> <li>• The First Class Lounge in Edinburgh will be launched earlier this month.</li> </ul>	
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Virgin West Coast</b>	
	There was not a representative of Virgin West Coast present. Mr Haugen advised that the franchise was now moving forward and a presentation was given to stakeholders earlier this month.	
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Arriva Cross Country</b>	
	There was not a representative of Arriva Cross Country present.	
<b>2.5</b>	<b>First Transpennine Express</b>	
	There was not a representative of First Transpennine Express (TPE) present, however an update was tabled at the meeting and has been attached to the minutes for information. Mr Haugen reported that SEStran have written a letter of support to TPE for their application to Office of Road & Rail (ORR) for track access between Newcastle and Haymarket.	

<b>2.6</b>	<b>Serco Sleeper Service</b>	
	There was not a representative of Serco Sleeper Service present.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Competition and Market Authority; Rail Competition</b>	
	<p>Mr Haugen advised that the Competition and Market Authority (CMA) report was submitted to the Partnership Board on the 18<sup>th</sup> March and it was recommended for more detailed consideration at the rail forum. Mr Haugen stated that CMA completed a consultation on competition in rail services. This focused on the larger routes such as East Coast, West Coast and Great Western. Options investigated included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping the current franchise arrangements but with significantly more open access operators.</li> <li>• To split franchises in two to compete directly in same area.</li> <li>• Extend the area to overlap franchises.</li> <li>• To replace franchising with open access.</li> </ul> <p>The consultation concluded that the best option would be to increase the number of open access operators. Concerns were raised regarding track capacity issues and level of service provided by open access operators. Mr Haugen noted that a scenario of more open access operations on the East Coast Mainline with applications from two open access operators. Mr Macaulay highlighted that these issues were complex and more appropriate for individuals within the rail industry to deal with and suggested that the SEStran comments should be focused on passenger issues.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>High Speed Rail to and within Scotland. Presentation by Alastair Young, Transport Scotland.</b>	
	<p>Mr Young gave a presentation on High Speed Rail options to and from Scotland (attached with minutes). Main topics as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Published HS2 Network (Phases 1 &amp; 2)</li> <li>• Impact for Scotland</li> <li>• HS2 Ltd Study Remit</li> <li>• HS2 Ltd Study – The challenge &amp; possibilities</li> <li>• HS2 Ltd Study Findings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Upgrade</li> <li>- High Speed Bypasses</li> <li>- Continuous HS Routes</li> <li>- Lower cost route</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Glasgow to Edinburgh HS Route</li> <li>• HS2 Ltd and TS Study Analysis</li> <li>• Future Work</li> </ul> <p>Following a query from Mr Johnstone, Mr Young commented that it is likely there will be one, if not two, parkway stations built in Scotland and that it would likely have good connections to the motorway.</p> <p>Mr Haugen commented that an East Coast alignment would provide greater connectivity between Scotland and northern cities in England</p>	

	and expressed concerns over the lack of mention of what High Speed Rail provision the North East may expect from an extension of HS2 to Scotland.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Shaw report on the future of Network Rail</b>	
	Mr Haugen noted that the recommendation from the report was that re-privatisation was unlikely to occur. The report is now to be considered by the Scottish Government.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Update on £30million Station Fund Projects and other projects/studies</b>	
	Mr Haugen gave an update as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costs for East Linton &amp; Reston have increased substantially and SEStran are in discussions with Transport Scotland about how to take the project forward.</li> <li>• Winchburgh station improvements have also been subject to increased costs. It is to be developer funded but costs may have gone beyond what could be expected for the developer. This is now for discussion between the developer and Transport Scotland.</li> <li>• Leuchars and Falkirk station car park improvements are going ahead.</li> <li>• Levenmouth rail – While this is not part of the fund Mr Haugen notified the group that the STAG has been finalised.</li> </ul>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>EGIP, CP5 projects and other relevant Network Rail Investments; including</b>	
	<b>Network Rail Update</b>	
	Ms Hall gave an update as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edinburgh Gateway is on target for delivery in December 2016.</li> <li>• The transport order was submitted in September for the Glasgow Queen street redevelopment last year. The public enquiry starts on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May.</li> <li>• Millerhil depot for new electric rolling stock is on plan for delivery for August next year.</li> <li>• 20 week closure at Glasgow Queen street has commenced, works on site are progressing well and milestones are being met as planned.</li> <li>• There is a proposal for a new taxi rank at Edinburgh Waverley. Network Rail are outlining early design work and reviewing options. They will be meeting internal/external stakeholders over the next few months and hope to start construction towards the middle of autumn 2017.</li> <li>• Proposed cycle access at Edinburgh Waverley has been completed</li> <li>• Edinburgh Waverley cycling hub is not progressing as quickly as hoped, Network Rail are now working with a project manager from Scotrail to progress this.</li> <li>• W12 gage enhancements on Scotland portion of East Coast</li> </ul>	

	<p>Main Line were completed on time by March 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electrification of Alloa, Shotts, Stirling and Dunblane line is still on plan for the end of the control period.</li> <li>• The Grangemouth electrification programme will be delivered by end of control period as part of the freight fund.</li> <li>• Carstairs Junction remodelling is in the route study, Network Rail are working to try and get this done in the current control period.</li> <li>• Planning to extend platforms at North Berwick to 6 car platforms.</li> </ul> <p>Mr Scotland asked if there were any proposals for an overbridge across the East side of Waverley. Ms Hall stated that it wasn't part of CP5 but would take a note back.</p>	<b>Ms Hall</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Planning for CP6 2019-24 – Update on Scotland Route Study</b>	
	<p>Mr Haugen requested more information about the timetable and next steps of the route study. Ms Hall gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The route study consultation was published just before Christmas, 3 month consultation period has now ended.</li> <li>• Network Rail are looking to get dates for a regional working group with SEStran and constituent local authorities towards the end of May.</li> <li>• The study will be published in July 2016 and subsequent industry advice is September/October with final publication in summer next year. Network Rail have started to get dates in the diary for one on one meetings with some respondent's.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Hamilton queried what freight is moving through the Alloa Dunfermline Line. Ms Hall stated that she would find out and respond.</p> <p>Cllr Balsillie raised the issue of Longannet Task Force. £50,000 has been allocated to investigate the impact of the closure of the power station. Cllr Balsillie stated that the opening up of East-West link would be beneficial to Scotland as a whole and that there was a growing movement to open up the route on to St Andrews. Mr Haugen commented that transport was a relatively small part of the task force but noted that the recent SNP manifesto stated that there will be a transport study along the Alloa-Dunfermline line. Mr Haugen is in contact with Fife and Clackmannanshire Councils regarding this. Mr Haugen noted Cllr Balsillie's comments regarding the St Andrews line but commented that this is not a current priority for the partnership.</p>	<p><b>Ms Hall</b></p> <p><b>Ms Hall</b></p>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Passenger Focus Issues</b>	
	There was not a representative from Passenger Focus present.	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Rail Freight</b>	
	There was not a representative from the Rail Freight Group present.	

<b>11.</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	
	<p>Cllr Balsillie requested clarification on Scotrail's policy of passengers taking bicycles on trains. Mr Prentice advised that following modifications to west coast trains, every train will have space for two bicycles. The decision to allow bikes on the trains is left to the conductor's discretion. Mr Prentice noted that reservable spaces have reduced from four to two on some trains, this is in order to comply with legislation that requires space for two wheelchairs. Further information can be found below:</p> <p><a href="https://www.scotrail.co.uk/plan-your-journey/travel-connections/cycling">https://www.scotrail.co.uk/plan-your-journey/travel-connections/cycling</a></p>	
<b>12.</b>	<b>Date of next Rail Forum</b>	
	The date of the next forum will be circulated to the group in due course.	