



SEStran Rail Forum  
 10:00AM Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017  
 Conf. Room 3, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

**Present**

Graham Bell (Chair) (GB)	Non Cllr Member
Cllr Kenneth Earle (KE)	Clackmannanshire Council
Cllr Jim Fullarton (JF)	Scottish Borders Council
Cllr Russell Imrie (RI)	Midlothian Council
Cllr Derek Rosie (DR)	Midlothian Council
Dave Boyce (DB)	Network Rail
Kevin Collins (KC)	Falkirk Council
George Eckton (GE)	SEStran
Jane Findlay (JF)	Fife Council
Peter Forsyth (PF)	East Lothian Council
Lisa Freeman (LF)	SEStran
Catherine Hall (CH)	Network Rail
Graeme Johnstone (GJ)	Scottish Borders Council
Gordon Macleod (GM)	Transport Scotland
Scott Prentice (SM)	Scotrail
Sandy Scotland (SS)	Non Cllr Member
Barry Turner (BT)	Non Cllr Member
Rose Tweedale (RT)	Transport Scotland
Karl Vanter (KV)	Midlothian Council
Craig Waterson (CW)	West Lothian Council
Emily Whitters (EW)	SEStran
John Yellowlees (JW)	Scotrail

**Apologies**

Cllr Tony Boyle	West Lothian Council
Cllr Bill Henderson	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Lesley Hinds	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Derek Stewart	Clackmannanshire Council
Cllr Michael Veitch	East Lothian Council
Lesley Deans	Clackmannanshire Council
Richard Gibson	Cross Country
Frazer Henderson	Transport Scotland
John Martin	Non Cllr Member
Graham Meiklejohn	Transpennine Express
Amber Moss	East Lothian Council

Ref.		Actions
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies for absence</b>	
	GB welcomed the group and conducted round table introductions. Apologies were noted as above.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes – Rail Forum 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016</b>	
	The minutes were accepted as a true record.	

	<p><u>22/04/16 Item 8</u></p> <p>CH provided an update on freight moving through the Alloa Dunfermline line. There are still some trains running on that line at the moment on the freight paths to Aberdeen and Inverness.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Network Rail Route Study</b>	
	<p>LF provided a summary of the report to highlight the route study which outlines what Network Rail consider necessary to cope with growing demand on the line and provided an outline of future project proposals and the process the route study will take.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Rail Infrastructure Strategy</b>	
	<p>GE noted that the strategy was open for consultation and that SEStran will submit a final response following the Partnership Board on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Consultation seeks a broad strategic perspective on where we want to go in Scotland on Rail over several issues. GE welcomed input from the group.</p> <p>The group noted concerns around a requirement to highlight the issues in the SEStran area and highlighted a need for greater investment to increase capacity. GB noted that forum members could send on any further views for inclusion to GE. GE noted that there are still consultation events taking place.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>NTS2 Pre-Consult, Request for views</b>	
	<p>GE noted that Scottish Government outlined an intention to review the National Transport Strategy in their Programme for Government. Part of the initial engagement is to come out with a pre-engagement survey on what broad and wide ranging questions of what should be incorporated, has previous strategy worked well. SEStran have taken the paper to all forums in order to feed back to the Board. The group noted interest in co-design to work with stakeholders at a variety of levels to ensure feedback. RI questioned if the outcomes from the 2006 objectives have been measured to see if the NTS had delivered. GM highlighted that there would also be an update to STPR further to the NTS.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>SEStran Model 3 Update</b>	
	<p>GE stated that the Partnership Board had considered a report by Professor Tom Rye at the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> December on proposals for SEStran as a Model 3. Following this a consultation letter was issued to all 8 local authorities and a further report will be tabled at the Board. The issue will likely be continued to a future Board meeting due to timescales.</p>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Rail Update; HSR, ORR, ECMA</b>	
	<p>GE gave a summary update and noted that an informal response had been submitted to the ORR. GE stated he had</p>	

	<p>participated in a meeting of the High Speed Rail group for Scotland, which had been focused on the challenges for Glasgow. The next meeting will be focused on the challenge of Edinburgh and looks to encourage broad strategic thinking. GE noted he would make forum aware of the date of the next meeting and the outcomes.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Projects Update</b>	
	<p>JY noted the contract has been let for the Shotts line. DB noted that there was some impact on community and businesses while it was being delivered. DB stated that EGIP electrification work will be complete this year and driver training will then take place. SP commented that when the Edinburgh – Glasgow route is electrified, two sets of training will take place, which will include some extra carriages of the North Berwick line between February and July. There will then be a break in this level of capacity which will then resume once new trains are delivered.</p> <p>Reston &amp; East Linton GJ gave an update on the development of Reston and East Linton stations. Scottish Government have made an offer to both councils to develop and construct the stations in CP6. This has been accepted which potentially puts station delivery in CP6, taking place between 2019 – 2024. GJ noted they are now waiting on a response from the Transport Minister.</p> <p>DB gave an update on works in Waverly Station. The site will be prepared from April and excavating work on platform 12 will start in May which will therefore be out of use for several months. Platform 5 and 6 will be extended and a new crossover between platform 10 and 11 will be put in and work will go on until December 2018. The extension of platforms 5 and 6 will result in the former space for taxis being used.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Franchise Updates</b>	
	<p>SP noted that the Scotrail performance trend is improving and are confident that they will meet targets by March/April forecast of the improvement plan. 6 services have been strengthened on the Borders Railway. Edinburgh Gateway has now opened. SP noted the Minister gave a commitment last year to publish the top 10 busiest trains, these will be published in the next month or so. There are likely to be 3 within SEStran area but these are targeted for improvement within the next few years.</p>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Review of Forums</b>	
	<p>GE noted that the review of forums had not been determined at the Partnership Board meeting in December. There had been a request for further comments and a further paper will be taken to the Board in March. GE also noted that the Equalities &amp; Access to Healthcare forums had merged and that</p>	

	Edinburgh Airport would take over the work of the Air Forum as part of their duty to deliver a sustainable surface access strategy.	
<b>11.</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	
	GB noted that JY was retiring from Scotrail and had been appointed as Special Advisor to Scotrail and thanked him for his work and contribution to the forum. GB further noted that this would be his last meeting as Chair as he was standing down from his position on the SEStran Partnership Board.	