

Projects Report & EU Exit Update

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The report provides the Chief Officers 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 encountered	
Severe issues or delayed	

3. EU Exit Update

- 3.1 As of the 29th October 2019 the UK may be leaving the European Union on or before 31 January 2020. It's still not clear how Brexit will happen, or whether it will happen. The Scottish and UK Governments are continuing work on two main options; a withdrawal agreement and subsequent transition period; and a no deal situation.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Chief Officers take note of the contents of the report.

Keith Fiskien
Programmes Manager
6th November 2019

Appendix 1: Projects update

Policy Implications	
Financial Implications	
Equalities Implications	
Climate Change Implications	

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:

- **Employer Pool bike Roadshow** Complete
 - After launch in 2018 the employer scheme restarted in March.
 - Summary report now being drawn up to close out the scheme.
- **GO e-Bike expansion with LCTT funding** In progress
 - Tweeddale Youth action continue to promote the Hub in the Tweeddale area with cargo bike delivery opportunities being explored with local businesses.
 - Sites in East Lothian and Midlothian were visited by officers and the contractor Bewegen. Work is now progressing with Scottish Power to begin installation of the stations.

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:

- **Edinburgh BioQuarter** Delayed
 - Consultation now live through October and November.
 - Online consultation available
<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/ebqconsultation/consultation/intro/>
 - Consultation closes 25th November.
- **SEStran Strategic Cycle Network Review** In progress
 - Procurement exercise for the contracting of a consultant is underway and due to complete for project commencement in November.

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:

- **New Project 1: Kirkcaldy to Buckhaven**

In progress

- AECOM have undertaken further work on preliminary designs after feedback from stakeholders.
- Discussions have taken place regarding land ownership with ongoing communication over the life of the project.
- Consultations have taken place in October at different locations along the route, with an online survey available.
- Online consultation is due to close on the 8th November.

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

- Falkirk and Scottish Borders are priority areas for support with Bikeability, as they have the lowest delivery rates in Scotland. Revised delivery plans have been signed off for both areas.
- Bikeability coordinator training is being held in October 2019. The training will help coordinators develop strategies for increasing delivery rates in their local areas.
- A Bikeability comms strategy is currently being rolled out across six LAs in Scotland. Three within SEStran area: Falkirk, West Lothian and Fife.

- **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.
- Tweeddale Youth Action Bike Punks project completed Cycle Ride Leader & Led Ride Assistant course and are looking at further training opportunities.

- **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. The work should now be complete and SEStran is expecting a final report in the next couple of weeks.
- **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 tender process has been completed by City of Edinburgh, SEStran will be working with the contractor on developing the new interface. The timeline has however pushed out further with a March 2020 completion date.
 - 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:

- **Piloting the Hate Crime Charter**

In progress

- The working group has been reaching out to transport operators to pilot the draft Hate Crime Charter and develop a monitoring mechanism. The last few months have involved setting up initial meetings with transport providers to talk through the process of piloting a Charter. 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.
- Phase 1 concepts will be evaluated on the 8th of November to determine if any have the potential to move to a Phase 2 public pilot.
- SEStran will be working with Scottish Enterprise and other funding bodies 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.
- HITRANS have also asked if we can develop a television advert to use in their region, this has been briefed into the agency. The development costs will be covered by HITRANS.
- Work is due to be completed in November 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 has been working in partnership with Inclusion Scotland to provide an Internship to work on the Thistle Assistance program.
 - Candidate interviews were conducted in October 2019 with one successful candidate offered the position which has been accepted.
 - The position will focus on marketing and communications and be based in Victoria Quay start date in November 2019 running up to end March 2020.

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 a successful application in June 2019 to the second round of LRDF funding and will receive up to £150,000 to conduct the study.
 - 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.).
 - Procurement for a contractor to work on the study will be done via Public Contracts Scotland. This process is targeted for completion by the end of the year with a contractor in place to begin the work at the start of 2020.
 - End date for the study with a final report due is March 2021.

3. European-funded Projects

3.1 SHARE-North



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 Mobility Hubs in the SEStran region.

Latest developments:

- **Project outcomes**

In progress

- SEStran has been exploring various avenues to introduce the Mobility Hub concept to the SEStran area. In doing so, SEStran builds on the expertise and support from the European partners.
- A Mobility Hub scoping paper was developed to provide background information on the concept and help guide discussions on potential projects.
- SEStran submitted a proposal to develop a Mobility Hub Strategy for the area as part of the £10.3m funding made available for local authorities and RTPs by Transport Scotland for measures supporting the implementation of LEZs.
- SEStran also submitted an application to the Low Carbon Travel and Transport (LCTT) Challenge Fund to develop Mobility Hubs in collaboration with Edinburgh College at their four campus locations across Edinburgh and Midlothian. The bid is for £250k, of which SEStran will be required to fund 33%.
- Finally, SEStran is in the process of reviewing the current TripshareSEStran arrangements to promote car-sharing in our region.

3.2 REGIO-Mob



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:

- **REGIO MOB Final Conference**

In progress

- The REGIO MOB project will come to an end in March 2020. In October 2019, the Final Project Conference was held in Kozani, Greece. SEStran’s chair and vice chair attended the Conference along with two SEStran officers, to present the results of the project and the impact it has had in the SEStran area.

- **Monitoring of policy instrument development & project closure**

In progress

- SEStran will continue to monitor the impact the project has had in the area and the experiences gained from the project which can be incorporated into the rewrite of the Regional Transport Strategy.
- The remainder of the project will mostly be focused around a final projects report and the administrative closure of the project as a whole.

3.3 SURFLOGH



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



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 will be presenting to the partnership group in November 2019.
- Further work will continue to move the pilot from ‘the lab’ into the real world over the next 6 months.

3.5 PriMaaS



Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) is a recent concept whose main objective is to change the way people travel and pay for mobility services. The main vision of PriMaaS is to promote the integration of traditional collective transport modes with personal and innovative ones by creating equitable mobility services truly focused on citizens’ needs.

Latest developments:

- **Preparation of Baseline Assessment Report**

In progress

- As part of the first phase of the project, SEStran is tasked with producing a Baseline Assessment Report, which will assess the current levels of transport and MaaS integration in the SEStran area. It is intended to resource this work externally.
- SEStran is also looking to set up a Regional Stakeholder Group which would involve various MaaS stakeholders and investigate the main challenges and opportunities for MaaS in the SEStran area. SEStran is looking to host a first stakeholder meeting in January 2020 and is currently preparing a list of contacts. The Local Authorities in the SEStran area are invited to participate in the Regional Stakeholder Groups.

3.6 CONNECT



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 for 3 years.

4. Strategy Developments

4.1 Electric Electric Vehicle Strategy



SEStran is working with the Local Authorities to develop an Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy for the region which aims 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

Following discussions at the last Chief Officers it was identified that LAs are looking for a more practical guidance about on the ground delivery as opposed to a strategic guidance document. Therefore, the form and content of what will be included in the EV Strategy is to be reviewed.

4.2 RegionRegional 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. A re-write is now in progress.

Latest developments:

- **Main Issues Report**

In progress

- A notice was placed on 11 October on Public Contract Scotland to seek notes of interest in the proposed consultancy work to deliver the Main Issues Report.
- The brief and tender documents are nearly complete, and the formal tender notice will be issued within the next 7 days.
- The timetable for delivery of the completed RTS is under review.

5. SEStran forums & upcoming events

5.1 SEStran Formal 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:

- **Logistics and Freight Forum**

The next meeting will be held on 31 October 2019.

- **Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum**

The latest meeting was held on 2 October 2019 with discussions on the National transport strategy and ongoing work with the Thistle Assistance Journey Planner, including a rebrand for Thistle assistance. The next meeting is to be confirmed in due course.

- **Integrated Mobility Forum**

The latest meeting was held on 10 October 2019 with presentations on SEStran's NTS response, Edinburgh Low Emissions Zone, and ScotRail developments. The next meeting is to be confirmed in due course.

Appendix 1: Thistle Assistance Design

