





## Projects Performance & EU Exit Update

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The report provides the Partnership Board 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

- 2.3 The strategic objectives as set out in the SEStran Regional Transport Strategy are used throughout the projects update to highlight how the projects link back to the RTS:

 *Economy*

 *Accessibility*

 *Environment*

 *Safety & health*

 *Corporate*

### 3. EU Exit Update

- 3.1 Due to the upcoming UK election on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December it is 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 Board takes note of the contents of the report.
- 4.2** The Board is asked to approve the Grant awards detailed in section 1.3 of the projects update. The total value of awards is £170, 000 which comes from the total award from Transport Scotland for this fund.
- 4.3** The Board is asked to approve the Grant awards outlined in section 2.1 of the projects update report, of £29,260 to Peter Hogg of Jedburgh and £13,300 to Telford Coaches, for the purchase of new electronic ticket machines to facilitate integrated ticketing, contactless payments, and Real Time Passenger Information. The total value of awards is £42,560 which can be met from funds available within the annual award from Transport Scotland to SEStran.

Keith Fiskien  
**Programmes Manager**  
6 December 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:

- Complete

• **Employer Pool bike Roadshow**

  - After launch in 2018 the employer scheme restarted in March 2019.
  - Summary report is now being drawn up to close off the scheme.
- In progress

• **GO e-Bike expansion with LCTT funding**

  - Tweeddale Youth Action continue to promote the Hub in the Tweeddale area with cargo bike delivery opportunities being explored with local businesses. A recycling collection service for local businesses and individuals is also being developed.
  - 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:

- In progress

• **Edinburgh BioQuarter**

  - Consultation was conducted through October and November.
  - Consultation closed on 25<sup>th</sup> November.
  - Consultants are now progressing onto some technical aspects of design and looking at further aspects that have resulted from the consultation.
- In progress

• **SEStran Strategic Cycle Network Review**

  - Ove Arup have been contracted for the Strategic Network.
  - The total value of the contract is £67,900.
  - The project team has met for inception with data gathering now underway.

## 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 completed consultations within a number of the communities along the route and have now compiled all the findings.
  - Following a progress meeting with SEStran and Fife Council, AECOM are now preparing further design work with some rescoping after the public consultations.
- **Other Projects** Some Issues
  - Officers have identified a number of projects that will can be delivered in the financial year to maximise this funding after delay to initial proposals.
  - The following proposals are set out for the approval of grant awards by the Board.
- **Alloa Town Centre Street Design**
  - Developing design to enhance the centre for active mobility and better access to services and public transport.
  - **Total award £80,000**
- **West Lothian Active Travel Links**
  - To provide active travel provision between Ecclesmachan and Threemiletown, providing a safe link to local bus services.
  - To provide a link from Bathgate Hills quiet roads through Bangour and connect to the Livingston green network.
  - **Total award £55,000**
- **ELGT Wisp to Sheriffhall Greenway**
  - Design of active travel route from The Wisp to the Sheriffhall roundabout, linking through new development land and connecting with the path network at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.
  - Additional links to Danderhall would be investigated to provide a safe link onto the greenway and access to services.
  - **Total Award £35,000**

## 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 was held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 with East Lothian, West Lothian, Midlothian, and Clackmannanshire. The training helped 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 complete 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 Partnership's sustainable transport objectives.

### Latest developments:

- **Queen Margaret University** Complete
  - Queen Margaret University was awarded £7,150 in order to update their Travel Plan. The work is now complete and SEStran received a final report with an overview of results.
- **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 Fiskin) 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, SEStran has been able to improve the quality and the reliability of scheduled 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.
- **Identifying funds to support ETM purchase, agreeing conditions of grant** In progress
  - Two regional bus operators, Peter Hogg of Jedburgh and Telford Coaches, require new electronic ticket machines (ETMs) to facilitate integrated ticketing, contactless payments and Real Time Passenger Information. SEStran has applied to Transport Scotland's LEZ fund, for funds to meet the total cost of grant aid of £42,560 provide grant aid to the two operators. If this application is not successful, SEStran funds are available in 2019/20 to provide grant aid, which will be offered subject to appropriate conditions of grant.

### 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** Complete
  - SEStran has been working to develop an intermodal journey planner and Thistle Card App, which will make it easier for people to plan and make journeys by public transport.
  - Phase 1 concepts were evaluated on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2019 with presentations to Scottish Enterprise, Transport Scotland & SEStran from the 5 developers.
  - In each case the 5 developers determined that there was a viable proof of concept (POC) that could be taken forward.
  - SEStran is working with Scottish Enterprise and other funding bodies to explore potential funding for Phase 2.
- **Development of Thistle Assistance Website & Branding** Complete
  - SEStran has been working with the Hillside Agency on the development of the new Thistle Assistance branding, website and campaign.
  - HITRANS asked SEStran to develop a television advert to use in their region and this has been actioned. This went onto STV in the Hitrans region at the end of November. The development costs will be covered by HITRANS.
  - The Thistle Assistance website was also launched at the end of November [www.thistleassistance.com](http://www.thistleassistance.com)
  - Work complete with the website, new branding and campaign available to all partners to use to promote the facility.
- **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 focuses on marketing and communications and is based in Victoria Quay starting in November 2019 and running up to the 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 the Port of Leith and other ports on the Forth 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 end of the current financial year.
- End date for the study with a final report due is March 2021.

## 3. European-funded Projects

### 3.1 SHARE-North

Interreg North Sea Region – Jan 2016 to Dec 2021



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 applied 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 30%.
- Moreover, SEStran is in the process of reviewing the current TripshareSEStran arrangements to promote car-sharing in our region.
- Finally, SEStran project officer presented at the Inspiratiedag Duurzame Mobiliteit (sustainable mobility conference) in Belgium in November, as part of the 9<sup>th</sup> SHARE-North partner meeting.

## 3.2 REGIO-Mob

Interreg Europe – Apr 2016 to March 2020



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 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*

- As set out in the REGIO-MOB Action Plan from April 2018, SEStran has been working with St Andrews University to conduct a survey and focus group to assess the health impacts of the GO e-Bike at their campuses based on the Physical Activity Through Sustainable Transport Approaches (PASTA) methodology.
- It was identified that e-bikes make cycling more accessible and can function as a bridge technology to get more people into cycling and engaged in active mobility.
- The potential of e-bikes to encourage modal shift is evidenced through this research and will be incorporated into the Regional Transport Strategy.
- The remainder of the project will mostly focus on the final project report and administrative closure.

### 3.3 SURFLOGH

Interreg North Sea Region – Jun 2017 to Oct 2020



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

Interreg North Sea Region – Jan 2019 to Dec 2021



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 to make location data secure without being invasive.
  - SEStran attending the partnership meeting in Oldenburg Germany and presented an update on the Edinburgh pilot.
  - Further work will continue to move the pilot from ‘the lab’ into the real world over the with a test being run by end of December.
  - Edinburgh will host a BLING partnership group meeting and ‘mini-conference’ in May 2020.

### 3.5 PriMaaS

Interreg Europe – Aug 2019 to Jan 2023



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.
- **PriMaaS Regional Stakeholder Group** In progress
  - 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

Interreg North Sea Region – Oct 2019 to Mar 2022



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 development 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 first quarter 2020 and the project will run for 2.5 years.

## 4. Strategy Developments

### 4.1 Electric Vehicle Strategy



SEStran is working with the Local Authorities to develop an Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy for the region aimed 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 Regional 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 tender brief and documents are now on Public Contract Scotland and the deadline for returns is 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019.
- Based on the REGIO-MOB learnings, active mobility will feature as a core part to encourage more sustainable transport behaviour, recognising the health benefits of active mobility, and the fact that e-bikes, in particular, make cycling more accessible and can facilitate modal shift.

## 5. Other Developments

### 5.1 Edinburgh Low Emission Zone



In line with the newly enacted Transport (Scotland) Bill 2018, the City of Edinburgh Council is developing a Low Emission Zone (LEZ) to be in place by December 2020. SEStran has been involved as stakeholder in the Edinburgh LEZ Delivery Group, which meets monthly.

#### Latest developments:

- **LEZ Regional Stakeholder meetings**

*In progress*

- SEStran has taken initiative to set up an LEZ Regional Stakeholder Group, to keep officers from each local authority in the SEStran area up to date with the Edinburgh LEZ developments.
- Transport Scotland has also been part of this group and has used this forum to communicate developments at a national level, including the national LEZ communication strategy, and funding

opportunities for local authorities and RTPs, as well as retrofit programmes for commercial vehicles.

- **Transport Scotland LEZ Support Fund**

*In progress*

- In October 2019, Transport Scotland announced that £10.3m had been made available for LEZ related sustainable travel measures and bus priority works to be delivered by this financial year 2019/2020.
- SEStran submitted four bids with a total value of £205,000:
  1. An update to the 2009 Regional Park and Ride Strategy;
  2. The purchase of Smart Ticket machines, which will also facilitate real time passenger information on the services operated, for two of the region's local bus companies. This is something that SEStran has provided in the past, using its own funds along with 40% ERDF grant
  3. The development of a "Mobility Hub" Strategy to help introduce this concept to the SEStran area and guide the implementation of transport alternatives as a means of minimising the negative impacts on accessibility of the City as a result of the LEZ intervention.
  4. The development of a "Demand Responsive Transport" Strategy for the SEStran region to support access to the city for those with limited public transport solutions (such as in rural areas) as an alternative to upgrading to a compliant vehicle that meets the LEZ standards.
- SEStran is now awaiting formal confirmation of funding and expecting to hear back soon from Transport Scotland.
- If SEStran does not receive funding from Transport Scotland to purchase Smart Ticket machines for two small bus operators in the Scottish Borders, SEStran asks the Board to allow the purchase of these machines from SEStran's core budget, as further detailed in section 2.1.

## 6. SEStran forums & upcoming events

### 6.1 SEStran 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 latest meeting was held in Methil, Fife, 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

