

Projects Performance & EU Exit Update

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The report provides the Chief Officers with an update on the 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.
- 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 The UK officially left the EU on 31 January 2020. In the withdrawal agreement, both the EU and UK Government agreed there will be a transition period until December 2020, meaning nothing changes until this date. SEStran has received a letter from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) saying all partners in EU-funded projects should continue to deliver project activities, make finance claims, and are still eligible to apply for further ETC (Interreg) funding as part of this current 2014-2020 Programme Period.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Julie Vinders
Project Officer
19 February 2020

Appendix 1: Projects update

Policy Implications	
Financial Implications	
Equalities Implications	
Climate Change Implications	

SEStran Projects Update

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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 2019.
 - Summary report is now being drawn up to close off 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. 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:

- **Edinburgh BioQuarter** In progress
 - Agreement on further work has allowed consultants to progress to 3D design between Lady Road and Little France.
 - Final designs will be complete in March for City of Edinburgh to progress the project further within their capital active travel programmes.
- **SEStran Strategic Cycle Network Review** In progress
 - Local Authority partners were engaged through December and January by consultants to scope issues across the region.
 - A wider stakeholder workshop was facilitated in January to look at opportunities across and boundaries.
 - Arup are currently compiling options for a shifting exercise at the end of February.

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:

- **Project 1: Kirkcaldy to Buckhaven** In progress
 - AECOM are continuing design work with 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.
- **Project 2: Alloa Town Centre Street Design** In progress
 - Developing design to enhance the centre for active mobility and better access to services and public transport.
 - **Total award £80,000**
- **Project 3: West Lothian Active Travel Links** In progress
 - 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**
- **Project 4: ELGT Wisp to Sheriffhall Greenway** In progress
 - 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. A meeting has been held with Falkirk Council to address low delivery rates. Discussions have been held with Scottish Borders to revise their offer to schools.
 - The annual Bikeability conference is being held in Perth on the 24th March.

- A Bikeability comms strategy is currently being rolled out across six LAs in Scotland to increase awareness of the programme. Three are 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.
 - Tweeddale Youth Action Bike Punks project are receiving a four-day Cycle Trainer course to enable them to support the delivery of Bikeability Scotland cycle training in schools. This course also provides them the opportunity to go on to offer adult cycle training with a short supplementary training course.
 - A Cycle Trainer Assistant course was set-up for West Lothian Bike Library to enable them to support the delivery of Bikeability Scotland in West Lothian and surrounding LAs. They were supported to become an approved supplier on the Bikeability Scotland Training Provider DPS. They have since been appointed to provide training support to schools in Midlothian.
- **Adult Cycle Training** In progress
 - Potential for adult cycle training course currently being explored with Cycling Scotland tutors. Pilot would likely be in Edinburgh or East Lothian.

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:

- **New Content Management System** Delayed
 - The new Content Management System tender process has been completed by City of Edinburgh, with the successful contractor 21st Century (now named Journeo <https://www.journeo.com>) being appointed.
 - Work has now begun on the design on the new CMS including the SEStran regional system.
 - SEStran & Journeo are currently developing a project plan to implement the new CMS with the aim of an operational RTPI solution in place by June 2020.
 - An interim step is being developed using Trapeze scheduled data and Journeo software for deployment across the existing screen network.
 - Additional funds from the LEZ fund will be used to upgrade the existing Windows 7 PCs that are used in the system to Windows 10 to improve the capability of the system.
- **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 successfully 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.

2.2 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 App - 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 8th 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.

- **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
 - Work complete with the website, new branding and campaign available to all partners to use to promote the facility.
 - SEStran is investing £20K in an expanded advertising campaign using radio (Forth FM & Radio Borders) and print media.
- **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.
 - The position focuses on marketing and communications and is based in Victoria Quay starting in November 2019 and running up to the middles of April 2020.

2.3 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).
- In January 2020 after feedback was received from TS the Case for Change report was amended and resubmitted with a recommendation that the project continue to the next stage – Initial Options Appraisal.
- The report is currently with the Transport Scotland Appraisal team being reviewed.
- £17,000 has been claimed from the budget for the work to date.

• **Forth Freight Strategy**

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 is underway via Public Contracts Scotland.
- The procurement process closed on the 21st of February with the project reviewing submissions with the aim of appointing a contractor to help with the work by end March 2020.
- End date for the study with a final report due is March 2021.

2.4 LEZ Public Transport Provision Fund



SEStran has taken initiative to set up an LEZ Regional Stakeholder Group, to cover the latest Edinburgh LEZ developments and identify funding opportunities to mitigate cross-boundary implications. The group meets every 3-4 months and is attended by Local Authority Officers as well as Transport Scotland. In November 2019, SEStran secured £205,000 funding from the LEZ Public Transport Provision Fund from Transport Scotland for four projects which are to be delivered by this financial year 2019/2020.

Latest developments:

• **Regional Park & Ride Strategic Study**

In progress

- Arup has been appointed to review and update the 2009 Regional Park and Ride Strategy. The purpose of the study is to review present day Park and Ride provision and usage in the SEStran area, and to set a framework for the development and assessment of future investment in Park and Rides across the region.

- **Smart Ticketing Machines** In progress
 - SEStran will purchase Smart Ticket machines for two of the region’s local bus operators, which will help facilitate real time passenger information on the services operated.
 - SEStran will also use this funding for a software upgrade for the RTPi provided on digital screens across the region.
- **Mobility Hub Strategic Study** In progress
 - Based on the learnings from the SHARE-North project, SEStran has appointed Steer Group for the development of a “Mobility Hub” Strategic study to help promote shared mobility in the SEStran area and guide the implementation of Mobility Hubs as a complementary measure to maintain levels of accessibility as a result of the LEZ intervention.
- **Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) Strategic Study** In progress
 - SYSTRA has been appointed for the development of a “Demand Responsive Transport” (DRT) Strategic Study 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.

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.

Latest developments:

- **Mobility Hubs** 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 Hubs seeks to raise the profile of shared mobility (car club, bike-sharing, carsharing), by integrating these modes of transport with existing public transport provision.
 - SEStran is using the LEZ Public Transport Provision Funding from Transport Scotland to develop a framework for the implementation of Mobility Hubs in the SEStran region.
- **Tripshare SEStran** In progress
 - SEStran is reviewing Tripshare SEStran and is in the process of rebranding the website.
 - SEStran will present the platform at a SHARE-North online webinar which will be held in March 2020.

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)”.

Latest developments:

- **Project activities and Final Conference** Complete
 - The Final Conference was held in October 2019 and the remainder of the project months focused on the administrative closure of the project.
- **Project closure** In progress
 - The final projects report summarises the impact REGIO-Mob has had on promoting active mobility through e-bikes. The impact of e-bikes to make cycling more accessible and their potential to facilitate mode shift was evidenced through GO e-Bike and will be incorporated into the Regional Transport Strategy.

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.
- Further work will continue to move the pilot from ‘the lab’ into the real world with a successful test of the technology using the cycle logistics company ZEDIFY completed in December 2019.
- A ‘Collider’ event focused on the potential applications of blockchain technology and the issues (policy & legal) will be hosted by the University of Edinburgh & SEStran on the 18th of March 2020.
- 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 MaaS and incorporate wider societal goals through interregional collaboration, sharing best practices, and policy development.

Latest developments:

- **PriMaaS Regional Stakeholder Group**

In progress

- The first Regional Stakeholder Group was held on 15 January 2020 at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh. The meeting was attended by Transport Scotland, Local Authorities, MaaS Scotland, CoMoUK, and various consultancies including SIEMENS, JLM Consulting and IBI Group.
- Through this meeting, a baseline was established of the current levels of MaaS integration in the SEStran area.

- **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.

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:

- **Project Application**

Delayed

- The CONNECT project is currently on hold due to the departure of one partner.
- Discussions are taking place with the Interreg Joint Secretariat as to the future of the project.

4. SEStran forums & upcoming events

4.1 SEStran Forum Meetings



SEStran hosts three different forum groups which are held twice a year. The aim of these forums is to provide a platform for interested parties to come together and to formulate a regional voice in various transport-related matters.

Upcoming meetings:

- **Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum**

The next forum will be held at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh from 10:00-12:30 on Wednesday 1 April 2020.

- **Integrated Mobility Forum**

The next forum will be held at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh from 10:00-12:30 on Friday 24 April 2020

- **Logistics and Freight Forum**

The next forum will be held at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh from 13:30-16:30 on Wednesday 13 May 2020. This forum will be linked to the BLING partner meeting, which SEStran is hosting in Edinburgh.