





Projects Performance Report

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** The report provides an update on the progress of the various projects SEStran delivers. Where relevant the report covers the position on COVID-19 in relation to project delivery this financial year.

2. Projects performance

- 2.1** A high level '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. Projects reported as complete will be removed from future reports:

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

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1** It is recommended that the Committee notes the content of this report and progress on current projects. The report will be presented to the Partnership Board following this Committee.

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Senior Partnership Manager
11 September 2020

Appendix 1: Projects update

Policy Implications	Outlined project work contributes to the objectives identified within SEStran Regional Transport Strategy
Financial Implications	All project work is delivered from within confirmed budgets.
Equalities Implications	There are no adverse equalities implications arising from SEStran projects. A number of projects actively work to reduce inequalities.
Climate Change Implications	There are no negative climate change implications arising from SEStran projects. A number of projects actively work to tackle climate change through creation of more sustainable transport options.

SEStran Projects Update

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1. Strategy

1.1 Regional Transport Strategy



SEStran's original Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) was approved in March 2007 to cover the period from 2008 until 2015. The strategy was refreshed in August 2015 and is in place until 2025.

The recently completed Main Issues Report (MIR), published in May 2020, was commissioned to explore current issues and evidence the key considerations that will shape the development of the new RTS.

Many of the issues identified in the MIR will remain relevant over a longer term, however one 'main issue'; the need for the RTS be able to respond flexibly to future uncertainty, has been clearly highlighted by the impacts of COVID-19, ensuing lockdowns and the ongoing transition out of severe travel restrictions. The lasting impacts of COVID-19 are not fully known at this stage, but it is widely acknowledged that impacts will be far reaching and include impacts on the economy, plans for land-use, transport systems and travel behaviour.

Latest developments:

- **RTS Development**

In progress

The next stage of the RTS is the development of the strategy and policies, to be delivered through consultancy support. This will require consultation with key stakeholders and the preparation of the statutory assessments to support the RTS including the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Equalities Impact Assessment.

- A procurement brief has been drafted for presentation to the next meeting of the RTS Steering Group, for discussion and completion.
- A new element of the development of the brief is to include the requirement to reflect transport challenges arising from the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is likely the RTS will need to include some more immediate actions which are adaptable.
- A review of the RTS programme, as recently reported, highlighted the need to amend the delivery timescale across the next financial year, to tie into other strategic programmes, such as STPR2 and RSS development, where timescales have been extended into late 2021. This acknowledges that agencies and authorities are currently responding to immediate pressures and transitional arrangements relating to COVID-19. Influence of the Transport Transition Plan (TTP); ensuring transition arrangements can feed into long term strategy.

2. Active Travel Projects

2.1 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. In August 2018 SEStran secured funding from the Low Carbon Travel and Transport (LCTT) Fund and Transport Scotland (TS) to expand the GO e-Bike scheme through six further hubs.

Latest developments:

- **GO e-Bike expansion with LCTT & TS funding** In progress
 - Activities at the Tweeddale Hub have paused as staff remain furloughed. Discussions are ongoing to assess the feasibility of other options in the Borders. The e-bike fleet have been loaned to Forth Environment Link and the e-cargo bikes are on loan to West Lothian Bike Library.
 - A date in the latter half of September has been received from SPEN for the remaining electrical connection works in East Lothian.
 - Planning has now commenced with Bewegen for the final preparatory works and installation as soon as is reasonably possible.
 - Design work has continued on the “Do The Ride Thing” campaign to promote responsible use of e-bikes. This will align with the launching of the system once all dates have been confirmed.
 - The planning of the launch will be communicated with all stakeholders taking account of government guidelines for public events.

2.2 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
 - Work has been progressing along with City of Edinburgh to assess signalling on the route and particularly at Cameron Toll and Craigmillar Park.
 - Due to COVID-19 the project has a new timeline for completing this design phase at the end of June 2020.
- **SEStran Strategic Cycle Network Review** Complete
 - The final report for the Strategic Network has been published on the SEStran website and shared with all partners.
 - Officers are now working along with partners to take the proposals forward.

2.3 Regional Active Travel Development Fund – Transport Scotland



The Regional Active Travel Development Fund was established between Transport Scotland and the Regional Transport Partnerships in 2018/19. SEStran made a proposal for projects in 2020/21 to Transport Scotland in March 2020 and has received £314,000 for this third year of funding.

Latest developments:

- **Project 1: Attitudinal Survey & Data Collection** In progress
 - “The Lines Between” have been appointed as consultant on the behavioural survey work, commencing in July.
 - Initial research work has been completed with a baseline survey in the last stages of drafting.
 - **Total award £100,000**

- **Project 2: Do The Ride Thing Awareness Campaign** In progress
 - SEStran have created an awareness campaign for the use of e-bikes across the region to complement the launch of a number of e-bike hubs.
 - Do The Ride Thing seeks to create an environment where individuals look out for others and create good habits while riding a bike.
 - Officers are planning the procurement of creative services and mapping out potential media promotions.
 - **Total award £100,000**

- **Project 3: West Lothian Active Travel Projects** In progress
 - Completion of projects from 2019/20:
 - 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.
 - Investigate a number of potential active travel links:
 - A89 Parallel Route – Easton Road Bathgate to Armadale
 - A904 Newton – South Queensferry
 - Linlithgow – Bo’ness (Links to Blackness & Falkirk)
 - West Calder – Harburn
 - Bathgate Hills Quiet Roads Initiative
 - West Lothian Council have completed the procurement of consultants for the work with a completion forecast for the end of the calendar year.
 - **Total award £64,000**
 - SEStran successfully bid for resource funding to support the breadth of active travel projects that happen across the partnership.
 - Officers conducted a procurement exercise for additional resource concluding on the 4th September 2020.
 - **Total Award £50,000**

2.4 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
 - Planning is taking place across the region to support the re-start of Bikeability delivery. The guidance on delivery of Bikeability and staff training varies by Local Authority and some are awaiting clarity on when external visitors will be allowed into the school setting. Funding applications are due in September for delivery over this academic year. Options are being explored to capture those who missed out on training, such as delivery in secondary schools.
 - A Microsoft Teams group is being established to better support communication and information sharing between Local Authority Bikeability Scotland Coordinators.

- **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 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. They are now being offered places on a Cycle Trainer course.

- **Adult Cycle Training** In progress
 - An adult and family training pilot delivered through Community Learning and Development (CLD) teams is being developed in partnership with East Lothian and West Lothian. This will equip CLD staff with the training necessary to deliver Essential Cycling Skills in their community.
 - Pilot delivery of family cycle training sessions has been taking place in Fife and Edinburgh during July and August. A review of the delivery is being undertaken with a view to developing a permanent offer.
 - A Cargo Bike training course is being developed and Cycling Scotland hope to pilot this in Edinburgh initially.

3. Public Transport Projects

3.1 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 and hardware upgrades** In progress
 - SEStran is working with 21st Century (now named Journeo <https://www.journeo.com>), who were appointed by the City of Edinburgh Council to provide the new Content Management System.
 - Work is well advanced on the design on the new CMS including the SEStran regional system.
 - The design work on the new layouts for displays has been completed.
 - The new layouts and support system are being loaded onto the new PCs for testing.
 - Testing of RTPI SIRI feeds is currently underway and is expected to last 6 to 8 weeks.
 - A 'real world' test of the new system will take place at the Galashiels Interchange in September/October.
- **Public Transport Capacity Information** In progress

In response to COVID-19, SEStran is working alongside Transport Scotland and Trapeze to incorporate bus capacity information on public transport for use by Traveline Scotland.

3.2 Thistle Assistance Programme



SEStran 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 programme.

Latest developments:

- **Journey Planner App - Phase Two** In progress
 - SEStran is working on a funding proposal for submission to Sustrans to develop the phase two work.
- **Thistle Assistance Programme Update** In progress
 - COVID-19 update – SEStran has adapted the card and App to provide an exception message for those that cannot use a face covering when using public transport. Messaging has been developed for print, social media and on the website¹.
 - In order to improve distribution of the cards & leaflets and cope with the increased number of requests a mail out service has been developed.
 - Continued to promote Thistle Assistance online, by social media and in print.

¹ <https://www.thistleassistance.com/travel-safety/>

- **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.
- Any new websites sites created after September 2018 should now be accessible since September 2019. Older, pre-existing sites should be made accessible from September 2020 and mobile applications from June 2021;
- Accessible means complying with all Level A and AA Success Criteria of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.1;
- Design of the new SEStran site has been completed. Content is being updated and with final testing underway.

- **Marketing Communications Internship**

In progress

- SEStran has been working in partnership with Inclusion Scotland to provide an internship opportunity to work on the Thistle Assistance program.
- The internship was extended with support from Inclusion Scotland and will now run up to October 2020.

3.3 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 and 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.
 - The transport interventions identified in the Case for Change that will be investigated further are:
 1. Improved bus services to/from Newburgh
 2. An 'Express bus route' through Newburgh
 3. A New/Reopened train station in Newburgh
 4. Provision to increase car sharing
 5. New/Improved active travel routes
 6. New/Improved active travel routes to outlying communities
 7. River services - the provision of passenger service on the Tay Estuary
 - Phase 2 - The next stage of the study, the 'Initial Appraisal', of the 7 interventions is currently under way with the report due to be submitted to Transport Scotland in September.
 - Phase 2 will see the potential interventions being explored in more detail by qualitatively assessing them against the five STAG criteria of Environments, Economy, Safety, Integration and Accessibility/Social Inclusion.
 - The appraisal will also consider the options in the context of Feasibility, Affordability and Public Acceptability.
 - £30,000 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.).
 - The Case for Change phase one work is currently underway with the majority of the 'desktop' research & data collection done.
 - Stakeholder engagement will take place in September using a combination of online workshops and one to one phone/online interviews.
 - The Case for Change is due to be completed & submitted for evaluation to Transport Scotland in November.

3.4



South East Scotland Transport Transition Group

The South East Scotland Transport Transition Group ('the Group') came into being on 3rd June. The Group has been established specifically to develop and oversee the Regional Transport Transition Plan for the transition out of emergency lock down that was implemented to deal with the COVID-19 crisis. The Group brings together local, regional and national partners to jointly plan for the management of transport network and any additional measures needed during this period. SEStran

Latest developments:

- **Development of South East Scotland Transport Transition Plan** *In progress*
 - SEStran plays a key role in the development of the South East of Scotland Transport Transition Plan and in keeping the Plan up to date.
 - In the first instance, this involved developing immediate to medium term interventions in response to COVID-19 and government restrictions on travel, and physical distancing requirements.
 - The Plan is currently being reviewed to consider interventions required for the medium to longer term, to accommodate various scenarios including increased travel as restrictions are eased, as well as the possibility that certain restrictions are re-imposed to continue to contain the spread of the virus.
- **Bus Priority Rapid Deployment Fund bid** *In progress*
 - Through three corridor sub-groupings (north, west, south and east regional corridor), the Group prepared a bid for the Transport Scotland Bus Priority Rapid Deployment Fund. £1.2M has been awarded to date, for the deployment of bus priority interventions identified through the corridor group meetings, with the City of Edinburgh Council acting as lead applicant.
- **Region-wide sub-group** *In progress*
 - SEStran is playing a leading role in the development of region-wide interventions not covered by the corridor approach. Key areas of activity include the deployment of public transport capacity information (as mentioned in section 3.1), feasibility of improved public transport through an expanded DRT approach, and Thistle Assistance.

4. European-funded Projects

4.1 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 opportunities to introduce Mobility Hubs to the region. In doing so, SEStran builds on the expertise and support from the European partners.
 - A Mobility Hub seeks to raise the profile of shared mobility (car club, bike-sharing, carsharing), by integrating these modes of transport with existing public transport provision.
 - The Mobility Hub Strategic Study developed through the LEZ Public Transport Provision Fund has identified eight suitable locations across the SEStran region for further consideration for the development of Mobility Hubs.
- **Tripshare SEStran** In progress
 - SEStran is reviewing Tripshare SEStran and is in the process of rebranding the website.

4.2 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 2020 STAR Conference was cancelled due to COVID-19, but the research paper is being adapted for other conference submission in the future.
- **Edinburgh Pilot – ZEDIFY** In progress
 - This demonstrator project is in its second year of operation, delivering up to one pallet worth of small packets per day in central Edinburgh from a site west of Haymarket station.
 - SEStran and Zedify in partnership with stakeholders are exploring setting up a new hub in south Edinburgh.
 - SEStran secured an additional £25,000 funding from Paths for All to develop an expansion of the Edinburgh pilot, SEStran will be matching with £25,000 from the SURFLOGH budget.

- A procurement process for the pilot project expansion will be developed and run via Public Contracts Scotland.

- **Expansion of Edinburgh Cargo-Bike delivery**

In progress

- SEStran will be working with the CargoBikeMovement (CBM) to develop a community hub in South Edinburgh which will promote the use of cargo bikes within Edinburgh as a fairer, healthier and greener alternative to carbon-emitting vehicles in the delivery of goods and for individuals and families.
- This new hub will work with the existing Zedify hub and contribute to the SURFLOGH research.
- SEStran will use £10,000 from the Sustainable Active Travel budget to support the project.

4.3 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's role is to develop 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.
- The pilot is called 'GeoPact'²
- The next stage of the research will be to develop a Smart Contracts interface that can be easily use and adapted in the 'real world'.
- Representatives from the logistics and freight sector will be invited to three mini-workshops to be held in October (15th, 19th and 20th) to explore the key elements that would be needed for a 'useable' smart contract interface.

² <https://northsearegion.eu/media/14062/geopact-pictorial-tallyn-2020.pdf>

4.4 PriMaaS

Interreg Europe – Aug 2019 to Jan 2023



Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) is a concept that changes 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:

- **Preparation of Baseline Assessment Report** In progress
 - Due to the COVID-19 situation, project activities have moved online, and SEStran is working with partners to feed into the Baseline Assessment Report, which is being developed by the consortium as a whole.
- **Online Partner Meeting April 2020** In progress
 - As a replacement for the physical meetings planned during this period, the consortium organised two online webinars in June 2020. Various MaaS experts presented during the webinars, which focused on the challenges and implications for regional transport systems and the widespread of sustainable MaaS in the post-pandemic era.

4.5 CONNECT

Interreg North Sea Region – Oct 2019 to Mar 2022



CONNECT's overall objective is to support smart intermodality growth in the North Sea Region, through smart efficiency enhancements within freight movement. It looks at 'CONNECTing' North Sea Region's TEN-T nodes, focusing on implementing 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 Kick-Off** In Progress
 - The final application with a new lead partner, the Port of Hamburg, has been approved with a project start date of February 2020 and an end date of March 2023.
 - The project 'kick-off' meeting took place on the 1st & 2nd of September 2020 hosted by the lead partner in Hamburg, SEStran attended online.
 - SEStran will be leading on a work package based around sharing of best practice.

5. SEStran forums & upcoming events

5.1 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.

Forum meetings:

- **Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum**
The meeting of 3rd of June 2020 was conducted online.
- **Integrated Mobility Forum**
Due to COVID-19 the April meeting was cancelled. The meeting will be rescheduled for later in the year.
- **Logistics and Freight Forum**
Due to COVID-19 the May meeting was cancelled. The meeting will be rescheduled for later in the year.