

Projects Performance Report

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The report tracks the progress of SEStran’s projects. Where relevant any impacts on project progress arising from Covid-19, including those affecting progress or delivery by suppliers or partners are noted.

2 Projects performance

- 2.1 A high level ‘RAG’ (Red-Amber-Green) status is used to highlight the current state of progress of each project against the agreed set targets. Once completed, projects are reported with a ‘Blue’ status, and then removed from future reports.

RAG Status	Meaning:
Blue	Complete
Green	Progressing according to plan
Yellow	Some issues encountered
Red	Severe issues or delays

- 2.2 Most SEStran projects address more than one of SEStran’s Strategic Objectives, as established within the SEStran Regional Transport Strategy. Project updates include the following symbols for strategic objectives where relevant.

	Economy
	Accessibility
	Environment
	Safety and health
	Corporate

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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Senior Partnership Manager
06 November 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 2023. The strategy was refreshed in August 2015 to cover the period until 2025.

The 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', which is the need for the RTS to 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, as well as transport systems and travel behaviour.

Latest developments:

- **RTS Development**

In progress

The development of the RTS will be delivered through consultancy support. The development will involve consulting key stakeholders, establishing of a case for change, appraising preliminary options and carrying out statutory assessments including a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Equalities Impact Assessment.

- A Prior Information Notice (PIN) has been issued on Public Contracts Scotland in October and has generated good levels of interest.
- The tender brief for consultancy work is due to be published on 9 November 2020.
- A revised RTS delivery programme, which has been amended to better align to timescales involved in the development of other, linked strategies, has had input from partner Councils and the SEStran RTS Steering Group and will be reported to the Board on 20 November 2020.

2. Active Travel Projects

2.1 GO e-Bike



In April 2018, SEStran 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 remain paused. 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.
 - Now that SPEN works are completed, discussions are progressing with Bewegen to agree a date for the final preparatory works and installation.
 - Design work for the “Do The Ride Thing” campaign and website is now complete, following engagement and feedback from Active Travel delivery partners. A media package is being developed for the launch of the campaign in November, which will now be via online media.

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.
 - The detailed design phase of the project is now complete, with City of Edinburgh Council progressing to Stage Four of the project, and drafting an application to Sustrans Scotland, for funding towards construction.

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.
 - The desktop research and draft baseline survey reports have been received for review.
 - **Total award £100,000**

- **Project 2: ‘Do The Ride Thing’ Awareness Campaign** In progress
 - SEStran has 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.
 - Procurement has commenced for creative services and the development of media package and 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 has reported a delay to the appointment of consultants and completion of the project is now expected by March 2021, within the current financial 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
 - The current guidance on delivery of Bikeability and staff training varies by Local Authority and some are still awaiting clarity on when external visitors will be allowed into the school setting. This is one area of activity where Covid-19 has changed delivery mode. Funding applications are all secured for delivery over this academic year.
 - A regular Microsoft Teams group meeting has been 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.
- **Adult and Family Cycle Training** In progress
 - An adult and family training pilot delivered through Community Learning and Development (CLD) teams is being delivered 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 took place in Fife and Edinburgh during July and August. A review of the delivery took place in September and the course is now available for families to sign up to across the region.
 - A Cargo Bike training course has been developed and the first session is being run in early November in Edinburgh.

3. Public Transport Projects

3.1 Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI)



SEStran's RTPI system began in 2010 with the aim of tackling 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** Delayed
 - The new system passed the factory acceptance testing (FAT) in October which means that the project can now move to silent running testing.
 - The supplier delays with the FAT were due to Covid-19, but if silent running is successful then the RTPI feed should go live before the end of the year.
 - The test of the new system will now be undertaken at the Galashiels Interchange in November Covid-19 restrictions allowing.

- **Public Transport Capacity Information**

In progress

- In response to Covid-19, SEStran is working alongside Transport Scotland and Trapeze to test the feasibility of incorporating bus capacity information on public transport for use by Traveline Scotland.
- This new feed will be integrated into the new SEStran regional RTPi system.

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 working to identify funding to help evolve the programme and journey planning aspect of the scheme.

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 Thistle card and App to provide an exemption 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.
- Since June 2020 over 10,000 cards and leaflets have been distributed and there have been over 5,000 downloads of the App.

- **SEStran Website**

Delayed

- In order to comply with legislation ([Public Sector Bodies \(Websites and Mobile Applications\)\(No. 2\) Accessibility Regulations 2018](#)) SEStran is updating the Partnership website to comply with Accessibility Standards Level A and AA Success Criteria of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.1 and to meet Cyber Essentials requirements.
- The design of the new SEStran site has been completed to required standards, with all Cyber Essentials requirements met. Content is being updated, however due to Covid-19, action on an identified site management issue has delayed staff training. The go live date will be delayed to March 2021.

- **Marketing and Communications Internship**

Complete

- SEStran's internship post, made possible through a partnership with Inclusion Scotland, concluded on 9 October 2020, after two funding extensions were agreed by Inclusion Scotland.
- The internship post supported the rebranding, website development and marketing of the Thistle Assistance Scheme.

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

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
 - Phase 2 - The next stage of the study, the 'Initial Options Appraisal' was submitted to Transport Scotland for review on 18th of September.
 - £37,834 of the £82,000 budget has been claimed for the work to date.
- **Forth Freight Strategy** In Progress
 - The Case for Change STAG phase one work is currently underway with the 'desktop' research & data collection done.
 - Stakeholder engagement took 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.
 - £34,000.00 from the £150,000.00 budget has been invoiced to date.

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 is established as a temporary arrangement, to develop and oversee a Regional Transport Transition Plan for the transition period following Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. The Group brings together local, regional and national partners to jointly plan for the management of transport related measures needed during this period.

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. SEStran oversees the Transition Plan, ensuring it is kept up to date as guidelines change and issues and opportunities arise.
- **Bus Priority Rapid Deployment Fund bid** In progress
 - A bid by the Group to Transport Scotland's Transport Scotland Bus Priority Rapid Deployment Fund initially attracted £1.2M funding for temporary bus priority interventions on key Edinburgh bound corridors, with the City of Edinburgh Council acting as lead applicant. Further funding was set aside pending further information. A second tranche bid for up to £0.6M has now been finalised comprising a wider range of temporary bus-supportive measures.
- **Region-wide sub-group** In progress
 - SEStran leads on the development of a range of region-wide interventions including trialling public transport capacity information (as mentioned in section 3.1), exploring the 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 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.
 - Following the completion of the Mobility Hub Strategic Study, SEStran has been working with colleagues in East Lothian Council, to use SHARE-North funding for the development of a Mobility Hub trial at the Brunton Hall in Musselburgh.
 - SEStran supported colleagues in Fife Council in the preparation of a bid to the Sustrans Places for Everyone Fund, for a Mobility Hub feasibility study in East Fife, including the possible integration of Mobility Hubs at the proposed railway stations at Leven and Cameron Bridge.
 - SEStran ran an online naming exercise for Mobility Hubs during the Integrated Mobility Forum on 8 October 2020 using Mural, an online workspace that allows for collaborative working.
- **Project activities and partner meetings** Delayed
 - Due to Covid-19 various project activities and physical meetings have been cancelled. Whilst some activities have moved online, through teleconferences, other activities have been delayed. The project consortium is now seeking a 6-month extension to the project, subject to formal agreement of the Programme Secretariat.
- **Tripshare SEStran** Reduced service
 - Due to the ongoing impacts of Covid-19 and Scottish Government guidance on carsharing, SEStran is not actively promoting the Tripshare SEStran platform, but has awarded a reduced level, one-year contract to Liftshare in order to maintain the platform and retain existing members during this period.

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.
 - To date the Literature review, Business Model Framework and Edinburgh Case study have been completed.
 - SEStran & Edinburgh Napier University presented the latest work to the project steering group in October.
- **Edinburgh Pilot – ZEDIFY** In progress
 - The procurement process for the pilot project expansion was completed in October via Public Contracts Scotland.
 - ZEDIFY will be appointed to develop the new hope with the SEStran & Edinburgh Napier University project team.
- **Expansion of Edinburgh Cargo-Bike delivery** In progress
 - SEStran will be working with the Cargo Bike Movement (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 participated in a successful mini-workshops to be held in October (19th) to explore the key elements that would be needed for a 'useable' smart contract interface.
- The work is currently being evaluated to present to the BLING steering group on the 25th of November.

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:

- **MaaS Scotland Annual Conference 2020** Complete
 - SEStran participated in this year's online MaaS Scotland Annual Conference and presented the PriMaaS project during the technical session on policy and procurement.
- **Baseline Assessment and MaaS Action Plan** In progress
 - SEStran has worked with partners to feed into the Baseline Assessment Report, establishing a baseline of MaaS levels in each of the partners' regions. This will help identify best practices and develop an Action Plan for the SEStran region.
 - SEStran has started exploring options for MaaS and Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) in the region, and is considering different funding avenues for such a project, such as the Transport Scotland MaaS Investment Fund.
 - The idea for a DRT/MaaS platform was presented at the Equalities & Access to Healthcare Forum on 2 October and the Integrated Mobility Forum on 8 October, inviting forum members to share their views and comments.
- **2nd PriMaaS Stakeholder Workshop** Complete
 - SEStran organised the second PriMaaS Stakeholder Workshop during the Integrated Mobility Forum on 8 October 2020. The forum members were given an update on the project activities and progress to date, and a discussion was held on the challenges around governance, open data and the options for a DRT/MaaS platform.
- **Project activities and partner meetings** Delayed
 - The project partners met online in October to discuss progress of project activities and budget. Due to Covid-19 and government restrictions, many project activities have been delayed and has resulted in underspent budget.

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

- The consortium as a whole is now seeking a possible 6-month extension to the project, subject to formal agreement by the Joint Secretariat of the funding programme.

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 project 'kick-off' meeting took place online 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 (WP3) focussed on 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 2 October 2020 meeting was conducted online, with good attendance, and covered an RTS update, the DRT strategic study, Thistle Assistance, Transport Transition Plan, Tripshare, and the Equalities outcomes 2021-2023.
- **Integrated Mobility Forum**
Due to Covid-19 the April meeting was cancelled. The 8 October 2020 meeting was held online, and covered a PriMaaS Stakeholder workshop, a SHARE-North naming exercise, and an RTS update.
- **Logistics and Freight Forum**
Due to Covid-19 the May meeting was cancelled, and an online Forum meeting will be held before the end of December.