

Performance Report

1 Introduction






- 1.1 This report and its Appendix track progress over the last quarter across SEStran's timebound projects and key work streams. Impacts on progress or delivery are explained, including those deriving from Covid-19.

2 Performance Report

- 2.1 Progress against milestones and timescale is indicated in the report template through a high level 'RAG' (Red-Amber-Green) status. Once completed, projects are reported with a 'Blue' status, and then removed from future reports.

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

- 2.2 The alignment of project work to SEStran's Strategic Objectives is indicated using the following symbols.

	Economy
	Accessibility
	Environment
	Safety and health
	Corporate

- 2.3 The template indicates start dates, and also initial and expected completion where these apply, to help indicate progress within timescales. This discharges an action from the March 2021 Committee meeting. Where decisions have been taken by a funder or Lead Partner to extend a project's completion date (for instance, in response to Covid-19) this is explained.

3 European Project Extensions

- 3.1 The last report advised Committee that EU project Lead Partners were applying for timescale extensions as a response to the impacts of Covid-19 on project delivery.

Share-North has since had a six-month extension agreed, on that basis. SEStran's ongoing involvement in EU projects is secure, within the terms of the EU Withdrawal Agreement.

4 Recommendations.

- 4.1 Committee is asked to note the following, prior to onwards reporting to the Board:
- progress outlined in the Performance Report (Appendix 1) including impacts and delays recorded in relation to Covid-19;
 - amendments to the performance report template to include information on end dates where appropriate;
 - the agreed extension to the Share-North project.

Anna Herriman
Senior Partnership Manager
4 June 2021

Appendices

Appendix 1

Performance Report June 2021

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 Performance June 2021

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1. Strategy

1.1 Regional Transport Strategy



Start date: November 2020

Initial completion date: March 2022

Expected completion date: March 2022

Overall project progress:



Project description: A new Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) for the SEStran region is under development. This is proposed to cover the period up to 2035, and it will respond to and allow for alignment to new national level policies and strategies including the National Transport Strategy 2, the National Planning Framework 4, the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, as well as regional spatial and economic strategies under development across the SEStran area.

SEStran's original 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.

To prepare for the development of the new RTS, a Main Issues Report published in May 2020 explored current issues, evidence and policy environment that together create the context for the new RTS. The Main Issues Report was able to highlight that Covid-19 impacts will require the RTS be able to respond flexibly to future uncertainty, impacts of travel restrictions and variable future travel demand scenarios. The longer-term impacts of Covid-19 are not fully known, but it is widely accepted that impacts will be far reaching and include impacts on the economy, plans for land-use, transport systems and travel behaviour.

Current status:

- **RTS Development**

In progress

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

- Stantec were appointed to develop the new RTS in December 2020, following a procurement process through Public Contracts Scotland.
- Original delivery timescales were revised to remain in line with the development of other, linked strategies such as the Second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2).
- The proposed final completion date of early 2022 has not changed, however the revised RTS delivery programme was agreed by the Board at its meeting on 20 November 2020.
- The Scoping Report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was lodged with the Statutory consultation bodies and comments have been received. Work continues to

ensure that the SEA informs the ongoing development of the RTS. Work is also ongoing on the Equalities Assessments needed to support the draft RTS.

- A substantial public consultation and stakeholder engagement is now complete.
- The draft Case for Case a key supporting document needed has been completed and is being reviewed prior to some further engagement with Equalities Groups.
- Work to develop the draft RTS is ongoing and is due to be presented to the Partnership Board in September.

2. Strategic Active Travel Projects

2.1 GO e-Bike



Start date: April 2018


Initial completion date: ongoing programme

Expected completion date: ongoing programme subject to funding

Overall project progress: 

Project description: 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 and these hubs remain active and operational. In August 2018 SEStran secured further 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.

Current status:

- **GO e-Bike expansion with LCTT and TS funding** 
 - Cargo Bike Movement (CBM) is now operating from a facility in Tollcross, sharing space with other cargo bike couriers Farr Out Deliveries. CBM have carried out a renovation of the space to make it fit for purpose. The cargo bikes are being utilised for the collection and redistribution of surplus food from supermarkets in Edinburgh. They are recruiting volunteers to increase their capacity for food collections. Volunteers are currently being trained by Cycling Scotland but there are plans to support CBM to be able to deliver training themselves. CBM are also exploring the potential for hiring out the cargo bikes.
 - The Bewegen system launched in April with a small number of bikes to test the system. The first month has seen positive usage with more bikes added to each station in May.
 - With restrictions now easing a formal launch is being planned to promote the scheme prior to the summer holidays.
 - The [“Do The Ride Thing”](#) campaign has now progressed with a media buying contract with The Media Shop Scotland. Initial Radio adverts will be aired at the start of June with further social media work to follow. The campaign will run through the year at specific times with all material available to local partners on request.

2.2 Regional Cycle Network Grant Scheme



Start date: April 2014

Initial completion date: ongoing programme

Expected completion date: ongoing programme subject to funding

Overall project progress: 

Project description: Provided through a partnership between Sustrans Scotland and SEStran, the Regional Cycle Network Grant Scheme delivers improvements to the cross-boundary utility routes.

Current status:

- **Kirkliston to Cramond Brig Pathway** In progress
 - SEStran are supporting Edinburgh Lothian Greenspace Trust with a feasibility for the upgrade of a pathway along the Almond River.
 - The current route has a number of accessibility barriers which are to be overcome and the potential for flood mitigation.
 - ELGT appointed consultants, Open, have conducted a feasibility of the route and engaged with various stakeholders on the route. A final report is expected in June.
- **Edinburgh BioQuarter** Delayed
 - Additional Work on the route to prepare final design for construction was due to commence 2020. This work will facilitate the transition to construction through Sustrans Infrastructure Funding. City of Edinburgh have commissioned SWECO to complete this phase of work.
- **SEStran Strategic Network** In progress
 - In order to maximise the investment possible in the Strategic Network, the funding will be combined with the Regional Active Travel Fund as described below.

2.3 Regional Active Travel Development Fund – Transport Scotland



Start date: Financial year 2021/22

Initial completion date: March 2022

Expected completion date: March 2022

Overall project progress:

Project description: The Regional Active Travel Development Fund was established between Transport Scotland and the Regional Transport Partnerships in 2018/19 and allows for an annual award for delivery of agreed project work. SEStran's proposal for projects in 2021/22 to Transport Scotland has been awarded up to £250,000 for this fourth year of funding. With agreement of Transport Scotland, a number of 2020/21 projects have been continued into 2021/22 as a result of COVID-19.

Current status:

- **Project 1: Attitudinal Survey** In progress

- “The Lines Between” were appointed to carry out a longitudinal behavioural survey, commencing in July 2020. Initial research work has been completed and the baseline survey report is in the last stages of drafting.
- A baseline population survey of around 750 people was conducted in September 2020 with a follow up in February 2021. Initial insights have been collated and will be shared in due course.
- A first qualitative panel survey of around 30 people has been conducted with draft results being reviewed.
- Further waves of surveys will follow the trends across the year and produce further insights into travel attitudes and motivators.
- **Total award £62,000**

- **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 was completed in March 2021 with a successful contract awarded to the Media Shop Scotland.
- A series of different media sources will be used to promote ‘Do The Ride Thing’ and share the messaging with a broader audience.
- **Total award £90,000**

- **Project 3: SEStran Strategic Network**

In progress

- Following on from the publication of the SEStran Strategic Network in 2020, work has been identified to take initial phases of routes to feasibility and concept design.
- Partnership working with local authorities through 2020-21 has continued the discussion with updates to planning of routes in response to various Spaces for People projects across the region. SEStran has long encouraged the use of trial measures in promoting new infrastructure.
- This project will take forward a series of feasibility studies with agreement from partners to develop proposals in preparation for community engagement.
- Additional resource will be used to continue engagement with partners and develop plans within communities.
- The Procurement exercise for this is due to complete in June 2021.
- **Total award £270,000**

- **Project 4: East Fife Mobility Hub Integration and Last Mile Logistics Feasibility**

In progress

- The study will establish how Mobility Hubs could be delivered in conjunction with key rail and bus interchanges at Leven and Cameron Bridge (proposed), Leuchars and St Andrews and link into existing and proposed active travel routes.
- Supporting active travel is a core element of a Mobility Hub. Key to this is the provision of secure cycle parking facilities and a safe, well designed public realm. Additional elements can include e-bike charging facilities, public transport information, secure parcel pick up, and in appropriate locations, space reallocated from private car parking for car share operators to use.
- In addition to this will be the business case feasibility of last mile logistics operations on cargo bike in East Fife, tying into mobility hubs and interchanges.
- ***Total award £80,000***

2.4 Cycle Training and Development – Cycling Scotland



Start date: core workstream

Initial completion date: ongoing

Expected completion date: ongoing

Overall progress:

In Progress

Project description: This workstream is made possible through a partnership arrangement with Cycling Scotland, and supports the delivery of Bikeability Scotland National Standard cycle training delivered by local authority Bikeability coordinators. It promotes, encourages and develops cycle training opportunities across SEStran projects.

Current status:

- **Bikeability Scotland**

In progress

- Delivery across the region has picked up with schools back full-time, however there are areas where capacity to support delivery is limited. Some areas still have restrictions in place around external staff delivering training for schools. There has been a significant increase in demand for instructors due to compressed delivery period.
- Staff and volunteer training is increasing to enable them to support Bikeability Scotland delivery. This is currently scheduled to take place in Fife, Edinburgh, East Lothian, West Lothian and Clackmannanshire.

- **GO e-Bike cycle training**

In progress

- Training is offered to all hubs as they are completed and as part of ongoing development plans. West Lothian Bike Library has accessed training to enable them to deliver Family cycling sessions.
- There are plans to provide the Tweeddale BID with Cycle Ride Leader training to support them with utilising the e-bike fleet.

- **Adult and Family Cycle Training**

In progress

- The Essential Cycling Skills course has been adapted in order to make the purpose of the sessions clearer. This has also involved development of new promotional materials. A trial and evaluation is being carried out with employers and individuals to determine the effectiveness of this approach in the SEStran region. Demand for cycle training in general has been high since restrictions have lifted to Level 2.
- A Cargo Bike training course has been developed and is now being delivered in the region. Sessions have been run for volunteer groups as well as for NHS staff with access to cargo bikes for work trips.

3. Strategic Public Transport Projects

3.1 Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI)



Start date: 2010

Initial completion date: ongoing workstream

Expected completion date: ongoing workstream

Overall progress:

In Progress

Project description: SEStran began implementing a region wide network of RTPI screens supplying bus timetable information feeds in 2010, to help tackle declining bus patronage and make bus travel more predictable and reliable. Since 2010, SEStran has built up a comprehensive network with information screens in key travel hubs such as railway stations, park and choose / ride sites, hospitals, colleges, universities, shopping centres and large employer hubs. More recently SEStran has worked with the City of Edinburgh Council to support a move towards a new, common Content Management System that will improve the information provided in the public facing regional screen network incorporating Lothian Buses information.

Current status:

- **New Content Management System and hardware upgrades**

Delayed

- SEStran and City of Edinburgh met (virtually) with bus operators and Local Authorities in May 2021 to discuss data feed requirements and processes with the aim of sharing information and developing a consistent approach for providing data for the new Journeo operated system. Further meetings will take place on a regular basis.
- SEStran, in partnership with Trapeze, will run a series of training workshops with Local Authority officers on the Novus FX system to help improve data input capacity into the new system.

- Silent running testing will take place in June 2021 and if successful the new Journeo system will be handed over to CEC and SEStran in July 2021.

- **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 with the layouts adapted to display the new information.
- This will 'go live' when the new RTPI feed is operational, estimate July 2021.

- **New RTPI Screens Network**

- The test of the new system and new PCs undertaken at the Galashiels Interchange was successful with scheduled information displaying correctly.
- Web based layouts are being developed for partners such as ScotRail, that have the capacity to use this format, this will further increase the flexibility and reach of the system.
- Site surveys are being undertaken for the new screens for Livingston, Fife, Clackmannanshire and Scottish Borders.
- The hardware has passed Factory Acceptance Testing.
- Installs to be arranged, following system silent running and data update process in place, in July 2021.

- **Existing System Ongoing support**

- The Covid-19 pandemic impacted on the timeline for the introduction of the new Journeo system. To continue to maintain the functionality of the existing RTPI system, until the new system is operation, SEStran has contracted ongoing specialist technical and integration support through Tetra Tech. In accordance with Contract Standing Orders, the details of the arrangement will be reported to the next meeting of the Partnership Board.

3.2 Thistle Assistance Programme



Start date: 2005

Initial completion date: ongoing workstream

Expected completion date: ongoing workstream


Overall project progress:

In Progress

Project description: 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 evolve the journey planning aspect of the scheme.

Current status:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journey Planner App - Phase Two <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the £150,000 funding provided by Scottish Enterprise, a mini procurement competition is being progressed currently for the development of a Journey Planning App; two bids have been received from five invited bidders. • The bids are currently being assessed with the contract award due to be offered in June 2021. • Phase two work will run over 12 months. 	<i>In progress</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thistle Assistance Programme Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Covid-19 update SEStran to the Thistle card and App provides an exemption message for those that cannot use a face covering when using public transport. Mask exemption messaging is available for print, social media and on the website¹. • To date over 65,000 cards and leaflets have been distributed and there have been over 9,000 downloads of the App. 	<i>In progress</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEStran Website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to comply with legislation (Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications)(No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018) SEStran updated the Partnership website in 2020. • A design for a new SEStran site remains under development, but due to Covid-19, the timescale for identifying and addressing site management issues was not been met. A go live date for a new look site with desired new functionality, that fits with current branding is yet to be confirmed. 	<i>Delayed</i>

<h3>3.3 Newburgh Train Station Study</h3>	
<p>Start date: December 2019</p>	
<p>Initial completion date: March 2020</p>	
<p>Expected completion date: March 2022</p>	
<p>Overall project progress:</p>	<i>In Progress</i>
<p>Project description: SEStran is carrying out a transport options study for Newburgh, with work being delivered by consultants Systra appointed to work on behalf of SEStran. This study is funded by the Local Rail Development Fund that was introduced by the Scottish Government in February 2018, with the aim of providing funding to develop community led options to improve local rail connections.</p>	
<p><u>Current status:</u></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Options Appraisal 	<i>In Progress</i>

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

- The phase 2 stage was approved by Transport Scotland in December 2020 and published on the SEStran website.
- Phase 3 work 'Detailed Options Appraisal' began in February 2021 and is expected to take 6 months.
- £37,834 of the £82,000 budget has been claimed for the work to date.

3.4 South East Scotland Transport Transition Group



Start date: June 2020

Initial completion date: subject to ongoing need for group to meet in response to Covid-19 crisis.

Expected completion date: as above.

Overall project progress:

In progress

Project description: The South East Scotland Transport Transition Group was established in June 2020 as a temporary grouping 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.

Current status:

- **Development of South East Scotland Transport Transition Plan** Complete
 - SEStran has had a key role coordinating the development of the South East of Scotland Transport Transition Plan, and ensuring it is kept up to date as guidelines change and issues and opportunities arise.
- **Bus Priority Rapid Deployment Fund** In progress
 - Temporary bus priority measures are being implemented across the SEStran local authorities following a successful bid for up to £1.8m, led by the City of Edinburgh Council in partnership with SEStran, operators and other local authority partners through corridor groupings. The monitoring and evaluation programme is ongoing.
- **Region-wide sub-group** Complete
 - SEStran led on 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 mask exemption.

3.5 Bus Service Improvement Partnerships



Start date: May 2020

Initial completion date: ongoing area of work

Expected completion date: March 2026

Overall project progress:

In progress

Project description: The Bus Partnership Fund (BPF) is a £0.5Bn fund over five years, announced by Transport Scotland in November 2020, for the development of permanent bus priority infrastructure. Bids are invited from partnerships, which are working towards a Bus Service Improvement Partnership (BSIP) status. BSIPs must be collaborative partnerships involving bus operators and other relevant partners. SEStran has been supporting the development of emerging BSIPs and BPF bids prior to and since the BPF announcement, to help maximise investment in bus priority infrastructure into the SEStran region, and ensure that bids are complementary.

Current status:

- **Fife Bus Partnership and BPF bid development**

In progress

- A bid to the BPF addressing serious, localised congestion issues that affect the performance of bus services within and across Fife is finalised for submission in April, led by Fife Council.
- A partnership grouping with Fife Council, SEStran and bus operators was established in 2020, with Terms of Reference agreed, in advance of a formalised Bus Improvement Partnership.
- SEStran is providing initial secretariat support for this partnership, and has made a contribution of £5,000 towards the development of Bus Partnership Fund bid.

- **Edinburgh and south east of Scotland BPF bid development**

In progress

- A bid growing out of the Bus Priority Rapid Deployment Fund award for temporary bus priority interventions focusses on Edinburgh-bound corridors. The bid, led by City of Edinburgh Council, will be submitted in April and involves six local authorities and operators with services on key city bound corridors.
- SEStran is involved in discussions at all levels of this grouping to help identify and prioritise a range of permanent bus-supportive measures.

- **Forth Valley Bus Alliance and BPF development**

In progress

- A bid to the BPF is planned, to address some of the more challenging congestion issues affecting the performance of bus services and affecting commuters travelling within the Forth Valley and central area of Scotland.
- An alliance comprising key bus operators and three Councils agreed both membership and terms of reference in autumn 2020.
- SEStran is providing secretariat support for the Alliance and has made a contribution of £5,000 towards the development of Bus Partnership Fund bid.

4. Freight and Logistics Projects

4.1 Forth Freight Study



Start date: May 2020

Initial completion date: December 2021

Expected completion date: June 2022 (end date revised by funder, Transport Scotland)

Overall project progress:

In progress

Project description: This study, delivered by SEStran in partnership with Forth Ports, explores the potential in the region, particularly around the Forth, for developing sustainable, multimodal freight gateways. It aims to identify key locations for potential freight consolidation centres that would maximise the sustainable movement of freight at national, regional, and local levels. The study is being carried out for SEStran by appointed consultants Aecom. The study is funded by the [Local Rail Development Fund](#) that was introduced by the Scottish Government in February 2018.

Current status:

- **Case for Change**

In progress

- The Case for Change STAG Phase One work is complete, including data collection, desktop review and wide stakeholder engagement. The Case for Change was submitted to Transport Scotland in December.
- Transport Scotland advised in April 2021 that the evidence and analysis made available through the Case for Change has been wholly incorporated and adopted into Transport Scotland's STPR2 process and Case for Change. SEStran is awaiting further feedback.
- In recognising the impacts of Covid-19, Transport Scotland has extended the delivery timescale for LRDF projects. The revised completion date for the Forth Freight Study is now June 2022. £68,000.00 from the £150,000.00 budget has been invoiced to date.

5. European-funded Projects

5.1 SHARE-North

Interreg North Sea Region, ERDF



Start date: January 2016

Initial completion date: December 2019

Expected completion date: June 2022 (following successful extension application and 6-month Covid-19 extension)

Overall project progress:

In progress

Project description: SHARE-North focuses on shared mobility and its potential to address sustainable transport challenges in the North Sea region. This includes developing, implementing, promoting and assessing car, bike and ride sharing and other forms of shared mobility in urban and rural areas and employment clusters. One example is the establishment of Mobility Hubs. 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 in 2020 SEStran has been working with partners to identify potential opportunities to plan for Mobility Hubs.

Current status:

• **Mobility Hubs**

In progress

- SEStran has committed funding to the region's first mobility hub in Musselburgh, East Lothian, to be called a 'Journey Hub' and this hub is nearing completion.
- SEStran is supporting Fife Council to carry out feasibility and business case development for Mobility Hubs at east Fife railway stations at Leven, Cameron Bridge, St Andrews and Leuchars. An application to Transport Scotland for funding was successful and SEStran is working with Fife Council to procure consultants.

• **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 successfully applied for a 6-month extension to the project, to allow extra time to complete project activities.

• **Tripshare SEStran**

Reduced service

- Due to the ongoing impacts of Covid-19 and Scottish Government guidance on carsharing only where necessary, SEStran is not actively promoting the Tripshare SEStran platform. The current one-year award to Liftshare (a reduced level award) will expire in September 2021.
- Options for procuring and providing future trip sharing opportunities are being explored with other RTPs, within the context of national policies on public health, car sharing and other trip-sharing approaches within Scotland.

5.2 SURFLOGH

Interreg North Sea Region, ERDF



Start date: June 2017

Initial completion date: October 2020

Expected completion date: October 2022 (lead partner seeking 18-month extension)

Overall project progress:

In progress

Project description: SURFLOGH aims to enhance the role of sustainable logistics in urban logistics networks in the North Sea Region. SURFLOGH has created a trans-national network of ‘city hubs’ promoting innovation in city logistics. These hubs bring together different partners to exchange knowledge and work on innovative pilot projects and business models that can work in real world urban logistics systems. SEStran’s Edinburgh pilot operating near Haymarket has now been running successfully since 2018, and the study is in an advanced stage.

Current status:

• **Development of business case with Edinburgh Napier University**

In progress

- SEStran is leading on the Interreg project’s 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 four case studies have been completed and are being reviewed.
- An extension proposal for the project was submitted to the Organising Committee of the EU Joint Secretariat, the partnership is due to be notified in June 2021 of the result.

• **Edinburgh Pilot – ZEDIFY**

In progress

- ZEDIFY were successful in the procurement process in October 2020, for services to expand the initial pilot project. A new site in Leith was identified to run an expanded Edinburgh logistics hub.
- The new hub started operations in March 2021.
- SEStran, with SURFLOGH and Paths for All funding, will be supporting the development of the hub in 2021/22 with a grant of £50,000.

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

In progress

- SEStran has been working with Transport Scotland to support Cargo Bike Movement (CBM).
- CBM are developing a community hub in south Edinburgh to promote the use of cargo bikes as a fairer, healthier and greener alternative to carbon-emitting vehicles in the delivery of goods and for individuals and families.
- This new hub approach will share information that contributes to SURFLOGH research.
- Work on the new hub has progressed and the space is now in use by CBM and a small courier company.

5.3 BLING

Interreg North Sea Region, ERDF



Start date: January 2019

Initial completion date: June 2022

Expected completion date: June 2022

Overall project progress:

In progress

Project description: 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.

Current status:

- **Development of Edinburgh Pilot**

In progress

- The Design Informatics team at the University of Edinburgh, 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 latest work was presented to the SEStran Logistics and Freight Forum in May 2021.
- The University of Edinburgh and SEStran were successful with a submission of a full paper on the project to the Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)³ in May 2021.
- The project Mid-Term conference⁴ was held successfully online on the 3 March 2021 with over 50 attendees from across Europe participating.
- An extension proposal for the project was submitted to the EU Joint Secretariat in March 2021 and if successful will provide a further 18 months' work. The partnership is due to be notified in June 2021 on the result.

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

³ <https://dl.acm.org/conference/chi>

⁴ <https://northsearegion.eu/bling/news/bling-conference-blockchain-public-services-across-europe-3-march/>

5.4 PriMaaS

Interreg Europe, ERDF



Start date: August 2019

Initial completion date: January 2023

Expected completion date: January 2023 (lead partner seeking 6 month extension due to Covid-19 impacts)

Overall project progress:

Delayed

Project description: 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.

Current status:

Baseline Assessment and MaaS Action Plan

- 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.
- The idea for a DRT/MaaS platform was presented at the Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum on 2 October and the Integrated Mobility Forum on 8 October, inviting forum members to share their views and comments.

'GO SEStran' MaaS/DRT in the SEStran region

- SEStran lodged a bid to the MaaS Investment Fund for an ambitious project exploring potential uses of MaaS and DRT throughout the region. SEStran is lead partner in a consortium of tech providers and East Lothian and Fife Councils, and if successful the bid could attract funding of c. £600K to an overall project of £1.6m.
- The timescale for an outcome of funding has been revised to June 2021 by Transport Scotland.
- Focusing initially on the Journey Hub being developed in Musselburgh, it will seek to develop a SEStran-wide MaaS app for the public to use, to enable planning, booking and payment across travel modes (bus, rail, bike hire, car club, taxi).

Project activities and partner meetings

- 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 that has resulted in underspent budget.
- The lead partner is seeking a 6-month extension to allow more time to complete project activities. In addition, SEStran is involved in a pilot action proposal, to repurpose some of the underspend towards investigating different MaaS bundles and subscription models on the basis of stated choice surveys and focus groups.

5.5 CONNECT

Interreg North Sea Region



Start date: October 2019

Initial completion date: March 2022

Expected completion date: March 2022

Overall project progress:

Delayed

Project description: [CONNECT's](#) overall objective is to support the growth of 'smart inter-modality' in the North Sea Region, through smart efficiency enhancements within freight movement. It looks at connecting the North Sea Region's TEN-T nodes, focusing on implementing new smart processes and working tools (smart inter-modality) and development of strategies for smart efficiency enhancements (smart involvement). <https://northsearegion.eu/north-sea-connect>

Current status:

- **Project Kick-Off**

Delayed

- The partnership meets online on a monthly basis, but Covid-19 travel restrictions are impacting on progress.
- Project pilots are being developed and a workshop will be run in May 2021 to develop concepts further.
- SEStran will be leading on a work package based (WP3) focussed on sharing of best practice.

6. SEStran forums and upcoming events

6.1 SEStran Forum Meetings



SEStran hosts three different forum groups, the Integrated Mobility Forum, the Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum and the Logistics and Freight Forum. The aim of the forums is to provide a platform for interested parties to come together and to formulate a regional voice in various transport-related matters.

Latest Forum meetings:

- **Logistics and Freight Forum**
 - The forum last met on the 19 May 2021 and provided feedback to the draft Case for Change report produced for the Forth Freight Study and also on the Regional Transport Strategy.
 - The forum had presentations from the University of Edinburgh on the BLING GeoPact⁵ logistics pilot, Fife Council on their use of drones and from Rail Operations Ltd on an innovative UK pilot for rail freight using converted electric passenger trains.
 - The next forum will take place in November 2021.
- **Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum**
 - The forum last met on 31 March 2021 and covered agenda items including an RTS update and equalities impact assessment update, MaaS/DRT update, Thistle Assistance, the Hate Crime Charter, and the Equalities Outcomes 2021-2025 and Mainstreaming Report.
 - The next forum will take place on 30 September 2021.
- **Integrated Mobility Forum**
 - The forum last met on 27 April and was well attended. The agenda included a presentation from Minze Walvius at Advier, a Dutch consultancy also involved in the SHARE-North project; a presentation from Cycling Scotland on the Cycle Friendly Programme; a presentation from Stantec on the RTS; an update on DRT/MaaS project; an update on the Regional Transport Transition Group; and an update on the Bus Partnership Fund.
 - The next forum meeting will take place on 7 October 2021.

⁵ <https://northsearegion.eu/bling/use-cases/use-case-2-university-of-edinburgh/>