





Projects Performance Report

1 Introduction






- 1.1 This report and its appendix track progress over the last quarter across SEStran's projects and key work streams, with impacts on progress or delivery explained where required.

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 with 'Blue' for completed action.

RAG Status	Meaning:
	Complete
	Progressing to plan
	Some issues or delays encountered
	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 A new area of project activity outlined within the report is included at section 3.4. The Go SEStran project received funding from Transport Scotland, confirmed in December, and will trial MaaS and DRT pilots in the SEStran region over an initial one-year funding period.
- 2.4 The presentation on the Interreg Connect Project's background, key work areas and SEStran's role to be provided as part of this agenda item discharges an action from the Performance and Audit Committee of 19 November 2021, where it was

agreed that “further detail on Project 5.5 – Connect ... would be provided to the next meeting of the Performance and Audit Committee”.

3 Recommendations

3.1 The Committee is asked to note the following, prior to onwards reporting to the Board:

- progress on existing projects outlined in the Performance Report at Appendix 1;
- the inception of the Go SEStran project summarised in paragraph 2.3 of the report and outlined in the Performance Report at Appendix 1.

Anna Herriman
Senior Partnership Manager
February 2022

Appendices

Appendix 1

Projects Performance Report March 2022

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, or support for more sustainable transport options.

SEStran Projects Performance March 2022

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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:

On track

Project description: A new Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) to cover the period up to 2035 will align to the National Transport Strategy 2, National Planning Framework 4, Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, as well as regional spatial and economic strategies under development across the SEStran area.

SEStran's first 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. In addition to a new policy context the new RTS takes account of potential impacts for future travel demand, behaviour and the transport system resulting from Covid-19.

Project Development:

• **Last quarter**

On track

- The last quarter has focussed on Statutory consultation on the draft RTS and commenced on 05 November and concluded on 11 February 2022.
- Social media and communications support from LA partners was used to promote the draft RTS and to seek comments from stakeholders.
- Individual meeting with multidisciplinary teams from the 8 partner local authorities took place during this period.
- A final push via on line press articles and social media advertising took place in the last two weeks to boost engagement.

• **Stages Achieved**

On track

- Completion of the statutory consultation stage.
- Commencement of the review of the consultation comments is underway.

• **Next Steps**

On track

- Amend the draft RTS and report to the Partnership Board with Final RTS
- Submit Final RTS to Scottish Ministers for approval

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:

In progress

Project description: GO e-Bike, the regional bike-sharing scheme launched in 2018, aims to increase the visibility of e-bikes and increase access to e-bike use within community hubs or community groups in the region. The project began with a contribution from SHARE-North to the four GO e-Bike hubs in St Andrews, Buckhaven, West Lothian and Falkirk which remain active. In 2018 SEStran secured funding from the Low Carbon Travel and Transport (LCTT) Fund and Transport Scotland (TS) to expand GO e-Bike to six further hubs / locations. The latest are Bewegen GO e-Bike hire stations in East Lothian and Midlothian. Expanding to e-cargo bikes for shared use or hire is the latest phase of Go e-Bike. SEStran has worked with Transport Scotland to support Cargo Bike Movement (CBM) developing a community hub in south Edinburgh. This promotes cargo bikes as a fairer, healthier and greener alternative to carbon-emitting vehicles for delivery of goods and for individuals and families. Go e-Bike has added two e-cargo bikes to the project.

Project Development:

▪ Last quarter

- Ongoing discussion with Bewegen on expansion opportunities.
- Received end of year report for Bewegen system.
- The final report to LCTT and Transport Scotland completed.
- Supporting CBM with business plan development and funding sources for 2022/23.

In progress

• Stages achieved

- All planned hubs operational (May 2021)
- LCTT funding fully maximised with 6 new hubs.
- Quarters one to three claims and reporting completed for CBM.

On track

• Next steps

- Relocation of Jarnac bikes complementing redevelopment at the court.
- Work with partners to promote scheme in East & Midlothian, enhancing the system website with route suggestion in the area. Upgrading signage for existing Bewegen stations.
- Planning for activities of all hubs in 2022/23.
- Develop plans for expansion of the Bewegen system at two more sites.

In progress

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:

In progress

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

Project Development:

- **Edinburgh BioQuarter**
 - No further progress has been made in the last quarter.
- **SEStran Strategic Network**
 - **Last Quarter:** In order to maximise investment in the Strategic Network, funding will complement the Regional Active Travel Fund and activity (described below).

Delayed

In progress

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:

In 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.

Project Development:

- **Project 1: Attitudinal Survey**
 - *Last quarter:*
 - The second wave of qualitative surveying was presented with continuing themes from the other results.

In progress

- Final pieces of work are being prepared along with the preparation for a publication of all results when complete.
- **Stages achieved:**
 - Population survey 1 ,2, & 3 complete (September 2020, February 2021, September 2021)
 - Qualitative panel session 1&2 complete (March 2021, October 2021)
- **Next steps:**
 - Final panel surveys to be held.
 - Publication of full longitudinal results.

▪ **Project 2: 'Do The Ride Thing' Awareness Campaign**

In progress

- **Last quarter:**
 - No activity in the last quarter though preparations are underway for remaining pieces of work.
- **Stages achieved:**
 - Initial social media and online campaign presence complete (June 2021)
 - OOH campaign complete (September 2021)
- **Next steps:**
 - Final pieces of marketing including online campaign and targeting marketing through social media influencers.

▪ **Project 3: SEStran Strategic Network**

In progress

- **Last quarter:**
 - ARUP were awarded a contract for the delivery of a package of feasibility routes and engagement with stakeholders and the communities involved.
 - West Lothian route plans have been proposed and a draft feasibility report produced.
 - The West Lothian virtual tool - <https://sestran-west-lothian.virtual-engage.com/>
 - Falkirk route plans have been proposed and a draft feasibility report produced.
 - The Falkirk virtual tool - <https://sestran-falkirk.virtual-engage.com/>
 - Community engagement has commenced in the Scottish Borders.
 - All work is on track for completion in early March.
- **Stages achieved:**
 - Feasibility reports and concept proposals for West Lothian and Falkirk now complete.
 - Community and stakeholder engagement in the Scottish Borders.
- **Next steps:**
 - Funding application has been submitted to Transport Scotland to look at data collection in relation to these routes to inform the next stages of design and engagement with local authority departments.

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.

Project Development:

▪ **Bikeability Scotland**

In progress

- **Last quarter:** Delivery across the region is progressing however there are some constraints to delivery in certain areas due to capacity of instructors and tutors to support delivery as cycle training activity has picked up.
- Mid-year review meetings have been held with the eight Local Authority Bikeability Scotland Coordinators. East Lothian, Scottish Borders, Edinburgh, Clackmannanshire, and West Lothian are on track to meet or exceed pre-pandemic delivery rates and targets for the year.
- **Next steps:**
- Support will continue with particular focus on areas currently struggling to meet targets, to increase awareness of the programme and availability of trained school staff or third-party delivery.

▪ **GO e-Bike cycle training**

In progress

- **Last quarter:** Training is offered to all hubs as they are completed and as part of ongoing development plans.
- **Next steps:**
- Planning for e-bike trials and led-rides as part of the Enduro world series in June (Scottish Borders - Tweedvalley)
- Explore options for tying in training offers with Go e-bike hire schemes including demo days in East Lothian and Midlothian.

▪ **Adult and Family Cycle Training**

In progress

- **Last quarter:** Essential Cycling Skills funding has been offered to eligible providers across the region. Deadline for requests mid-Feb. CPD session for eight Cycling Scotland tutors with support from Cargo Bike Movement. Absolute Beginner sessions have been delivered to Midlothian Council with additional sessions planned. Support was also provided to Edinburgh Council to organise a programme of cycle training across all the HE/FE institutions in Edinburgh (and QMU).
- **Next steps:**
- Cargo Bike Training for Fife Outdoor learning staff with support from cargo bike movement. Planning for further cargo bike training for NHS team in Edinburgh.

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, providing bus timetable information to make bus travel more predictable and reliable. Since 2010, SEStran has worked with partners to build up a comprehensive network of over 200 screens in 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.

Project Development:

▪ **Last quarter:**

In progress

- PC replacement program is underway for the legacy system.
- New installations of standalone screens purchased via the framework complete at additional locations in Fife, Scottish Borders and West Lothian.
- Further installations will be delivered in Fife & Scottish Borders by end March.
- Weekly meetings held with Local Authority partners and projects team.

▪ **Stages achieved:**

On track

- Silent running has been completed and system acceptance took place on the 12th of November.

- The system is now live with bus operator data being integrated.
- The framework is being utilised by SEStran and Local Authorities to provide additional real time infrastructure for the region.
- **Next steps:** *In progress*
 - Roll out of new PCs will continue, 150 have been distributed to date from the total of 200.
 - The new regional real time system is being updated with real time data from bus operators. Data integration has been an issue and the project team is working with key operators to address this.
 - New system training will be conducted with local authority teams, this has been delayed and is now planned for end March 2022 if a suitable date can be found.
 - New infrastructure has been ordered for the Scottish Borders & Fife.
 - SEStran is working with Midlothian Council to explore sites for screens.
- **NOVUS FX** *In progress*
 - The NOVUS FX platform allows Local Authorities to manage scheduled and real time information in partnership with bus operators.
 - It is owned and provided by Trapeze and SEStran manages the contract on behalf of local authority partners.
 - The system integrates with the SEStran regional real time passenger information system.
 - The current ends in March 2022 with an optional exemption for 12 months.
 - SEStran is currently exploring new contract terms and pricing with Trapeze.

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 (national) Thistle Assistance Scheme to make using public transport easier for older people and those with disabilities, illness or mobility issues. SEStran is leading on the development of a new journey planning aspect of the scheme.

Project Development:

- **Last quarter:** *In progress*
 - Thistle Assistance was promoted in key publications, Enable, Inspire and Possibility magazine with editorial highlighting the new journey planning project.
 - SEStran officers updated Scottish Governments Accessible Travel Steering group in December 2021.

- Work continues on the journey planning project with further system design, there has been a slight delay with this element due to software integration, but this is not expected to affect the overall project timeline.

- **Stages achieved:**

On track

- Journey planning project running to plan with final system design.
- Six-month milestone meeting point met with Scottish Enterprise approval.

- **Next steps:**

In progress

- Stage one initial testing of journey planning prototype will commence in the near future.
- Project aiming for a 'go live' in July/August 2022.
- Options for further development/use - SEStran will be discussing with key stakeholders Transport Scotland & Traveline Scotland.

3.3 Newburgh Train Station Study



Start date: December 2019

Initial completion date: March 2020

Expected completion date: March 2022

Overall project progress:

In Progress

Project description: SEStran procured Systra to carry out a transport options study for Newburgh, on behalf of SEStran. The 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.

Project Development:

- **Last quarter:**

In Progress

- Work continues on the detailed options appraisal.
- Modelling work using the Tay Cities model is nearing completion.
- Initial draft of the Detail Options/Business Case has been sent to project team for review.

- **Stages achieved:**

Complete

- Case for Change & Initial Options Appraisal.

- **Next steps:**

In Progress

- Detailed options appraisal work to be completed by end of the March.
- Final report due June 2022.
- Post Appraisal report due July 2022

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: Completed in November 2021

Overall project progress:

Complete

Project description: The South East Scotland Transport Transition Group (the Group) was established in June 2020 to jointly plan for the management of transport related measures during and following Covid-19 related restrictions. The work of the Group, made up of local, regional and national partners, has now concluded.

Project development:

▪ **Last Quarter:**

Complete

- SEStran coordinated the drafting of an evaluation and close out report to record reflections on the South East of Scotland Transport Transition Plan.
- Some activities continue through business-as-usual work, and consideration is being given to the appropriate existing groups that take this forward.

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 Transport Scotland capital fund for the delivery of infrastructure to tackle the impacts of congestion on bus priority and reliability. Bids can be made by partnerships working towards a Bus Service Improvement Partnership (BSIP) status. BSIPs must be collaborative, involving bus operators that provide services in a local authority or BSIP area, and other relevant partners. SEStran has supported four bus alliance groupings to become established and supported the development of bids in the region, working with partners to maximise investment in bus priority infrastructure where it is needed, ensuring bids are complementary, and that partnerships are moving towards BSIP status. Funding contributions have been made to bid development costs in four partnerships. Across the region, all bids submitted have now received funding to progress some or all of their proposals.

Project Development:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last Quarter: SEStran remains involved in and supportive of the following partnerships as they develop new governance structures and carry out appraisal work to develop funded options further: Midlothian Bus Alliance was awarded £302,000 to carry out appraisal work on four key routes within Midlothian, from the bid to the October round. 	<i>In Progress</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Lothian Bus Alliance was awarded £225,750 to carry out appraisal work on fifteen proposals. Stages achieved: 	<i>On track</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in partnerships funded from Round One is progressing across the region with consultants appointed by Forth Valley and Fife Partnerships for appraisal work and by Edinburgh for appraisal work and delivery of quick wins. Next steps: 	<i>In Progress</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEStran will continue to work with all Partnerships on proposed governance structures, plans, and schemes, pending the emerging Guidance and regulations from Scottish Government. Engage with Transport Scotland on issues relevant to the emerging BSIPs in the region, including governance arrangements and efficient application of STAG Appraisals. Continue discussion with project lead partners Midlothian and Forth Valley Bus Alliances on provision of project management arrangements. 	

3.4 The GO SEStran project



Start date: March 2022

Planned completion date: December 2022

Expected completion date: as above.

Overall project progress:

In progress

Project description: SEStran has worked with a wide range of stakeholders across the South East of Scotland to develop the GO SEStran project, an innovative MaaS and DRT project proposal that was submitted to the Transport Scotland’s MaaS Investment Fund Round 2 (MIF2). The GO SEStran project was awarded £212,440 for the development of MaaS and DRT pilots in the SEStran region over the course of a one-year period.

SEStran will deliver the project in partnership with 5 project partners, Fuse Mobility as MaaS providers, Liftango as DRT providers, Prentice Coaches as DRT operator, East Lothian Council and Tactran.

Project development:

- **Last Quarter:** In progress
 - SEStran has worked with project partners and Transport Scotland to co-create the final GO SEStran project proposal.
 - The consortium group is meeting fortnightly to discuss updates and plan project activities.
- **Stages achieved:** Complete
 - A revised project proposal was submitted to Transport Scotland and was approved for funding in November 2021.
- **Next steps:** In Progress
 - SEStran is working with Transport Scotland to get the grant agreement arranged, including project objectives and milestones.
 - SEStran is working with Anderson Strathern and the consortium partners to develop and agree a Collaboration Agreement which will set out the collaborative arrangements for the delivery of the GO SEStran project over the first year of MIF2 funding.
 - SEStran is working with the DRT tech provider Liftango, Prentice Coaches and East Lothian Council to prepare the launch of the DRT pilot later this year.

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.

Project Development:

- **Last Quarter:** In progress

- After discussions with Transport Scotland the Case for Change was approved in December 2021.
- The Project Team is to update the report to take into account TS comments and time passed.
- **Stages achieved:** On track
 - Case for Change approved December 2021.
- **Next steps:** In Progress
 - Finalising the Case for Change ready for publication.
 - Work has begun on the Initial Options Appraisal (Outline Business Case)
 - Stakeholder workshop will be run in March 2022 to help inform the next stage of work.
 - Next report due in June 2022
 - Extension request submitted to TS to take project to June 2023.

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.

Project Development:

- **Last Quarter:** In Progress
 - SEStran attended the SHARE-North Monthly conference calls and participated in the various Internal Mobility Hub Exchange meetings.
 - SEStran is working with East Lothian Council to further expand the Brunton Hall Journey Hub pilot and provided SHARE-North funding for multi-modal travel counters and additional geo-fenced Bewegen e-bike hubs.

- **Stages achieved:** Complete
 - The first stage of the Journey Hub development at the Brunton Hall in Musselburgh is now complete. This includes EV charging facilities for car club vehicles, electronic information displays, and Journey Hub landscaping concept design.
- **Next steps:** In Progress
 - SEStran will be involved in the SHARE-North final conference which will take place in May 2022. SEStran will present on the Regional Transport Strategy and how shared mobility is being incorporated into sustainable transport policies.

5.2 SURFLOGH

Interreg North Sea Region, ERDF



Start date: June 2017

Initial completion date: October 2020

Expected completion date: June 2023

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.

Project Development:

- **Last Quarter:** In progress
 - Edinburgh Leith hub equipped continues to perform well.
- **Stages achieved:** On track
 - Edinburgh pilot running.
 - Business model framework & canvas developed and being used.
 - Project extension approved.
- **Next steps:** In progress
 - Develop procurement brief for Perth West study – April 2022
 - Drone feasibility study to be developed.
 - Link to freight study were appropriate
 - Partnership Meeting in Sweden in April 2022

5.3 BLING

Interreg North Sea Region, ERDF



Start date: January 2019

Initial completion date: June 2022

Expected completion date: June 2023

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.

Project Development:

▪ **Last Quarter:**

- SEStran engaged with DHL & ZEDIFY logistics to develop interest in using the Blockchain Readiness Awareness Tool (B.R.A.T.) developed by the University of Gothenburg.

In progress

▪ **Stages achieved:**

- GeoPact pilot proof of concept delivered.
- Research paper written and shared.
- Project extension approved.

On track

▪ **Next steps:**

- SEStran to explore workshop with DHL & ZEDIFY for use of B.R.A.T. tool in March/April 2022.
- Partnership meeting in Belgium in March 2022.

In Progress

5.4 PriMaaS

Interreg Europe, ERDF



Start date: August 2019

Initial completion date: January 2023

Expected completion date: July 2023 (following 6-month extension due to Covid-19 impacts)

Overall project progress:

In Progress

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.

Project Development:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Last Quarter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SEStran appointed IBI Group to support with the delivery of PriMaaS activities. The consultants will help with the identification of good practices, the organisation of Regional Stakeholder Events and Exchange of Experience events and the development of a Regional Action Plan for the SEStran region. 	<i>In Progress</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stages achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In January, SEStran, with the support of IBI Group, hosted an online Regional Stakeholder event which involved different speakers from across Scotland on the challenges and opportunities surrounding MaaS and DRT. ▪ SEStran also participated in an online PriMaaS partner meeting hosted by the Portuguese partners. 	<i>On track</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SEStran is planning a face-to-face event in the beginning of April, involving all PriMaaS partners and regional stakeholders. The event will consist of three elements: a thematic conference, a capacity building workshop, and an internal partner meeting. ▪ The IBI Group consultants are working on writing up the good practices informed by Regional Stakeholder event and will use the international Exchange of Experience event with PriMaaS partners to inform the development of a Regional Action Plan. ▪ Another Regional Stakeholder event will be held towards the end of April 2022. 	<i>In Progress</i>

<p>5.5 CONNECT Interreg North Sea Region</p> <p>Start date: October 2019 Initial completion date: March 2022 Expected completion date: December 2023</p>	
<p>Overall project progress:</p>	<i>In Progress</i>
<p>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</p>	
<p><u>Project Development:</u></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Last Quarter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SEStran participated in an online meeting with partners in February - 3 pilot projects provided updates – Ports of Gothenburg, Brussels and Hamburg. 	<i>In progress</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stages achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not applicable. 	<i>In progress</i>

▪ **Next steps:**

In Progress

- SEStran integrating freight study work into project.
- SEStran has invited the BLING partnership to present to CONNECT in March 2022 to explore further links between the two projects.
- SEStran will be review with Forth Ports their approach to enhancing sustainable ports operations and increasing commercial efficiency, this work will be reported back to the project team.
- SEStran to visit key non partnership ports to assess approaches taken.

5.6 REGIO-Mob

Interreg Europe, ERDF



Start date: April 2016

Initial completion date: March 2020

New start date: October 2021

New completion date: September 2022 (following approval of additional 1 year funding for project activities in relation to Covid-19 impacts)

Overall project progress:

In Progress

Project description: 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)”.

The additional REGIO-MOB activities, through a partnership made up of 6 partners from 6 European regions (IT, PL, RO, SI, GR, UK), will allow for an exchange of experiences aimed at learning about the best solutions developed to deal with the Covid-19 crisis and to improve 6 policy instruments for public transport policies to meet the new needs of planning and guarantee a safer and sustainable mobility.

Project Development:

▪ **Last quarter:**

In Progress

- SEStran identified five good practices that were implemented in the SEStran region in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and shared these with the REGIO-Mob partners.

• **Stages achieved**

In Progress

- Five good practices were identified and will be voted on by the REGIO-Mob partners. The good practices include the South East of Scotland Transport Transition Plan, the Thistle Assistance Face Mask exemption sticker, the Bus Priority Rapid Deployment Fund measures, the proposed East Lothian DRT trial, and the Spaces for People programme.

• **Next steps:**

In Progress

- An Interregional exchange process will take place with the selection of good practices that will be the subject of in-depth analysis during 3 learning events scheduled in PL, UK, SI.
- Finally, 6 brief summaries on the key elements learned to drive the change will offer visibility of the results achieved and will facilitate applicability in project's regions and replicability in other European regions as well.

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 last forum took place on the 26th of January 2021 (online).
- **Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum**
 - The last forum took place on 30 September 2021.
- **Integrated Mobility Forum**
 - The last forum took place on 7 October 2021.