





## Projects Performance Report

### 1 Introduction






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

### 2 Performance Report

- 2.1 Progress against milestones and timescale is indicated in the attached 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

### 3 Recommendations

- 3.1 The Board is asked to note progress recorded in the past quarter, summarised in the attached Appendix 1.

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September 2022

## Appendices

Appendix 1

Projects Performance Report September 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 September 2022

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# 1. Strategy

## 1.1 Regional Transport Strategy



**Start date:** November 2020

**Initial completion date:** March 2022

**Expected completion date:** September 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*

- Following completion of all STAG stages of RTS development and statutory consultation in February 2022, officers worked with Scottish Borders Council colleagues to enhance the way rural transport issues were reflected within the draft new RTS; this work concluded with a report to Scottish Borders Council in August 2022 supporting the new RTS.
- The scope for a new monitoring framework, (Programmed Investment Plan) to track transport investment and delivery of RTS priorities has been developed for procurement.
- A draft Executive Summary for the draft new RTS has been developed by consultants.

- **Stages Achieved**

*On track*

- Completion of all STAG stages including statutory consultation.
- Final edits to incorporate additional comments from Scottish Borders Council.

- **Next Steps**

*On track*

- 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 first phase was possible with SHARE-North funding for four community-run GO e-Bike hubs in Fife (two), 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 fund GO e-Bikes into to six further hubs / locations. The latest stations trial Bewegen GO e-Bike hire stations in East Lothian and Midlothian. The Bewegen system launched in April 2021 with 40 e-bikes across 4 station sites. In 2021, SEStran worked with Transport Scotland to support the development of the Cargo Bike Movement (CBM) cargo-bike hub in the south side of Edinburgh. The hub promotes cargo bikes as a fairer, healthier, and carbon-free vehicles for delivery of goods and for individuals and families. Go e-Bike added two e-cargo bikes to the project.

#### Project Development:

#### ▪ Last quarter

- Ongoing discussion with Bewegen on expansion opportunities.
- Support to community hubs in Scottish Border to deliver led-rides.
- Maintenance, operation, and marketing contract agreed with Bewegen for additional 12 months.
- Usage and site survey carried out by Midlothian Council. Site visits at Penicuik and Dalkeith.
- Over the last quarter (Apr-Jun 2022) there were 301 trips.

*In progress*

#### • Stages achieved

- All planned hubs operational (May 2021)
- LCTT funding fully maximised with 6 new hubs.
- The final report to LCTT and Transport Scotland completed.

*On track*

#### • Next steps

- Groundworks for new wayfinding panels as required at Go e-bike stations.

*In progress*

- Work with partners to promote scheme in East and Midlothian. Upgrade signage for existing Bewegen stations.
- Identify sites for expansion of the Bewegen system including provision of cargo trikes. Work with Midlothian Council on relocation of Jarnac Court e-bike station.

## 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**
- Following an internal City of Edinburgh Council review of potential transit routes across the city the BioQuarter project has restarted.
- Sweco have been engaged to recommence final stages of design in light of the review addressing some specific junctions and signalling requirements.
- This project is now projected for completion this year.

*Delayed*

## 2.3 Regional Active Travel Development Fund – Transport Scotland



**Start date:** Financial year 2022/23

**Initial completion date:** March 2023

**Expected completion date:** March 2023

**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 2022/23 to Transport Scotland has been awarded up to £597,000 for this fifth year of funding. A number of projects from 2020/21 carried forward with agreement of Transport Scotland, are now completed as reported below.

Project Development:

- Project 1: Attitudinal Survey**

    - Last quarter:*

      - The final wave of qualitative panels was held prior to the summer with similar findings to the previous waves.
    - Next steps:**

      - A final publication will be compiled by officers for publication taking insights from the two years of results.

Complete
  
- Project 2: ‘Do The Ride Thing’ Awareness Campaign**

    - Last quarter:**

      - The final pieces of marketing were completed after some missed broadcasts on a number of platforms.
    - Stages achieved:**

      - The overall campaign was hugely successful with a large audience reach and engagement rate.
      - The results returned values in excess of twice the market benchmark for engagement across social media and online campaign presence.
    - Next steps:**

      - SEStran were not successful in securing additional funding this year for another campaign but the creative content remains available for partner authorities to utilise.

Complete
  
- Project 3: SEStran Strategic Network**

    - Last quarter:**

      - ARUP** were successfully awarded a contract for further project management and development of the routes studied in the previous year, with additional elements of discussion within local authorities and a package of survey work to be undertaken under subcontract to take these routes closer to the next stage and construction funding bids.
      - All work is on track for completion in early March.
    - Stages achieved:**

      - Procurement exercise completed and inception meeting held with consultant team.

In progress

- **Next steps:**
- Further funding will be utilised to procure data collection equipment in relation to these routes to inform the next stages of design and engagement with local authority departments.

- **Project 4: GO e-Bike**

*In progress*

- **Last quarter:**

- £186,000 funding was secured for further development of GO e-bike as described in section 2.1.

## 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 was largely at or exceeding pre-pandemic levels over the 2021/22 school year. Meetings held with most LAs in the region to advise on Support Plus funding applications for 2022/23 school year.
- Worked with Falkirk to increase delivery rates through third party support.
- Two Bikeability Scotland Instructor Training courses have taken place in East Lothian in August and a mentor training course will be run in October. These courses will support an increase in capacity to deliver training in the region.
- 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.
- Organised an inclusive Bikeability delivery session for Edinburgh school staff and Thistle staff and volunteers for September.
- **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.
- Funding to support led-rides using e-bike fleet as part of the legacy work from the Enduro world series (Scottish Borders - Tweedvalley)
- **Next steps:**
- 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:** Grant funding is available for cycle training providers and organisations who would like to start running cycle training activities (<https://www.cycling.scot/what-we-do/training/essential-cycling-skills/grant-funding>).
- Cargo bike training is being supported in partnership with Sustrans Scotland and other organisations. Sustrans staff are being trained to further support delivery of cargo bike training across the country.
- Essential Cycling Skills training is being supported in Midlothian in September/October
- **Next steps:**
- Continue to identify opportunities to improve access to cycle training through engagement with partners.

### 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 in 2010. SEStran has worked with partners to build up a comprehensive network of over 200 maintained 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 develop 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:

- In progress
 ▪ **Last quarter:**
  - PC replacement for the old system has 70% of the PCs delivered now 'live'.
  - New installations of standalone screens purchased via the framework continue to be utilised by Local Authorities.
  - New operator Ember being integrated into the system.
  - Weekly meetings held with Local Authority partners and projects team.
- On track
 ▪ **Stages achieved:**
  - System testing was completed, and the system accepted in November 2021.
  - The system is live with bus operator data being integrated into the live system.
  - The purchasing framework is being utilised by SEStran and Local Authorities to provide additional Real Time infrastructure for the region.
- In progress
 ▪ **Next steps:**
  - Roll out of new PCs will continue, 170 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 significantly improved.
- In progress
 ▪ **NOVUS FX**
  - The NOVUS FX platform contract for the next 3 years is now in place.

### 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 August 2022.
  - Work on the journey planning project has now finished with system design and a pilot ready for testing.
- **Stages achieved:** On track
  - Journey planning project running to plan with final system design and pilot development.
  - Six-month milestone meeting point met with Scottish Enterprise approval.
- **Next steps:** In progress
  - Stage one initial testing of journey planning prototype has commenced.
  - Options for further development/use - SEStran will be discussing with key stakeholders Transport Scotland and 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 on the Detailed Options Appraisal has been completed.
  - Final report with the following key recommendations were submitted to Transport Scotland for consideration.
  - Option 3a (rail station) is the most suitable solution to meet all the study objectives and therefore meet the needs of people and business in Newburgh and the surrounding areas.
  - It was also concluded that if a 10m modular station is feasible following further exploration, Option 3e would represent the best value for money option, and it should be situated at the Abernethy Road site.
  - Work on the project timelines was impacted by the need to do additional modelling to try and account for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The final report can be viewed using this [LINK](#).

- **Stages achieved:**

Complete

- Case for Change, Initial Options Appraisal and Detailed Options Appraisal.

- **Next steps:**

In Progress

- Awaiting feedback from Transport Scotland.

### 3.4 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 £500m 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 five bus alliance groupings to become established and supported the development of bids in the region, namely Forth Valley, Fife, Midlothian, West Lothian and Edinburgh. 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. SEStran is now also contributing by providing project management services to Midlothian and Forth Valley Bus Alliance bids.

Project Development:

- **Last Quarter:**

In Progress

SEStran remains involved in and supportive of all the Alliances as they work through the STAG appraisal process, supported by consultants. Current activities include development of the Case for Change for each alliance, and consultation on the proposals as they develop.

- **Stages achieved:**

On track

- Work is continuing around STAG appraisal, consultation, and development and refinement of governance structures. Full Scottish Government Guidance and regulations on the emergent Bus Service Improvement Partnerships (BSIPs) is awaited.

- **Next steps:**

In Progress

- 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 to convene regular region-wide meetings of Alliance project managers, including Tayside Bus Alliance, to discuss matters of common interest, ensuring a consistent approach to the development of bids and sharing best practice.
- Continue to provide project management services (funded from the Bus Partnership Fund awards for Midlothian and Forth Valley Bus Alliances).

### 3.5 The GO SEStran project



**Start date:** March 2022

**Planned completion date:** March 2023

**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, which integrates DRT pilots in the SEStran region over the course of a one-year period, which is due for completion in March 2023.

GoSEStran is an app that can be consistently updated to integrate various localised modes, for example private bus operators in the area. The app will show you real time information for bus timetables and you can also filter the results to your preference, such as the cheapest option or the lowest emission. SEStran is delivering the project in partnership with three project partners; Fuse Mobility as MaaS providers, East Lothian Council and Tactran.

Project development:

▪ **Last Quarter:**

*In progress*

- SEStran concluded the necessary legal agreements with project partners and Transport Scotland to ensure the project commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> July.
- The Go SEStran app was launched in early August and can now be downloaded from [Google Play](#) and [Apple app](#) stores.

▪ **Stages achieved:**

*In progress*

- A Monitoring and Evaluation Plan has been agreed and signed off by Transport Scotland. A Marketing and Communications Plan is has now been finalised, whilst meantime, ‘soft launch’ activities are being undertaken, including taking a stall at Queen Margaret University’s Freshers event on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

- **Next steps:**

*In Progress*

- SEStran continues to work with Transport Scotland to report on progress.
- SEStran is working with all partners to maximise the marketing of the app, which has so far received very encouraging feedback.
- Fuse are continuing with the work needed to integrate further improvements to the app, including real time passenger information and other transport modes such as Bewegen e-bikes.
- SEStran is working with East Lothian Council with a view to enabling the launch of the DRT pilot later this year.
- SEStran and Tactran are collaborating on a number of fronts to ensure funding of the app will continue past March next 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*

- Initial Options Appraisal work is complete.
- Submitted to Transport Scotland in August 2022 for comment.

- Meetings help with stakeholders and business has informed the development of the work.
- **Stages achieved:** On track
  - Case for Change approved December 2021.
- **Next steps:** In Progress
  - Begin work on Detailed Options Appraisal subject to Transport Scotland approval.

## 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:**

Complete

**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:** Complete
  - SEStran hosted the final project meeting of the SHARE-North project in at the end of June 2022. The meeting reviewed partner highlights from the project across the partner countries.
  - The final claim for EU grant funding has been prepared at submitted. The additional geofenced Bewegen e-bike hubs is complete and will be monitored.
- **Stages achieved:** Complete
  - Project completion and hosting of the final project event
- **Next steps:** Complete
  - The Share North project officially ended 30 June 2022. However, shared mobility policies are included in the draft Regional Transport Strategy which is due to be considered for

approval by the Board in September 2022. How shared mobility is integrated and expanded into the transport network is a key focus of future work.

## 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. The next stage of SURFLOGH will look at combining the first phase outputs based on the project pilots and research. The development site at [Perth West](#) will be used as a location for this work, stage one for Perth West includes a mobility hub unlocking an active travel programme, alongside mobility as a service options and a last mile delivery centre, all connected to a smart energy network. This will be Scotland’s 1st green, city ‘living lab’.

### Project Development:

▪ **Last Quarter:**

*In progress*

- Procurement for consultancy support on Perth West completed in July.
- AECOM were successfully awarded the contract to develop a freight and logistics framework for Perth West. A hybrid inception and partner meeting was held in Perth in August 2022.
- Partnership Meeting in Edinburgh September 2022.

▪ **Stages achieved:**

*On track*

- Development of Edinburgh Pilot – ZEDIFY cycle logistics hub.
- Business model framework developed following extensive research with Edinburgh Napier University <https://tinyurl.com/emxdd4ep>.
- City hub case studies for each of the pilots developed

▪ **Next steps:**

*In progress*

- Develop and test framework for Perth West.
- Ongoing engagement with partners in Tactran and Perth West development consultant.
- Present update on the work at POLIS conference in Brussels in November.



### 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:**

*In progress*

- SEStran have appointed [Optimat Ltd](#) to build on the conclusions of the BLING project work to date, identify and evaluate opportunities and challenges to the wider implementation of blockchain technology, smart contracts, and distributed ledger technology, in local government within the Scottish policy landscape, with a particular focus on the impact on transport.

▪ **Stages achieved:**

*On track*

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

▪ **Next steps:**

*In Progress*

- Continue to work on scoping and policy paper, stakeholder event on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October.
- Partnership meeting in Edinburgh in October 2022

### 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:

- **Last Quarter:** In Progress
  - Phase one of the PriMaaS project officially concluded on 31 July
  - SEStran also presented a paper to a related EU project’s conference, CISMob, in Stockholm in May.
- **Stages achieved:** On track
  - Completion of Phase One of the project which included the submission of the Action Plan and submission of the best practices; Go Borders DRT trial and Tactran ENABLE Platform
- **Next steps:** In Progress
  - Monitoring of the Action plan will take place over the next 12 months
  - A final face to face event is planned in the Coimbra region of Portugal in June 2023.

## 5.5 CONNECT

Interreg North Sea Region



**Start date:** October 2019

**Initial completion date:** March 2022

**Expected completion date:** December 2023

**Overall project progress:**

In Progress

**Project description:** [CONNECT’s](https://northsearegion.eu/north-sea-connect) 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>

Project Development:

- **Last Quarter:** In progress
  - SEStran integrating freight study work into project.
- **Stages achieved:** In progress
  - Not applicable.
- **Next steps:** In Progress
  - SEStran will be visiting the Port of Gothenburg in September 2022.
  - CONNECT partners will be visiting Forth Ports in November 2022 on a study visit.

- 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.

## 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 six partners from six European regions (Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Greece, 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 six 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*
  - The second of three interregional events was held in Slovenia where best practices of the Slovenian and Greek project partners were presented and discussed.
- **Stages achieved** *In Progress*
  - Ongoing exchange of information between the project partners through the Interregional exchange process.
- **Next steps:** *In Progress*
  - The Interregional exchange process in Edinburgh will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September where the best practices from SEStran and the Italian partners will be presented and discussed.
  - Finally, six 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 forum will take place in the last quarter of 2022, with a date yet to be confirmed.
- **Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum**
  - The next forum will take place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October. The last forum took place on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
- **Integrated Mobility Forum**
  - The next forum meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The last forum took place on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021.