INTEGRATED MOBILITY FORUM
10:00AM THURSDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2021

Present:

Councillor Lesley Macinnes (Chair)	**Edinburgh Council**
Jim Grieve (JG)	SEStran
Jim Stewart (JS)	SEStran
Peter Jackson (PJ)	SEStran
Andrew Ferguson (AF)	SEStran
Keith Fisken (KF)	SEStran
Cheryl Fergie (CF)	SEStran
Mike Harrison (MH)	Midlothian Disability Access Panel
Cllr James Fullarton (JF)	Scottish Borders Council
George Hazel (GH)	George Hazel Consultancy
Kirsty Dunsmore (KD)	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Cllr Russell Imrie (RI)	Midlothian Council
Jonathan Padmore (JP)	Tactran
Ross Forbes (RF)	Edinburgh Napier University
Alan Rennie (AR)	Parliament
Hannah Markley (HM)	CPT Scotland
Cllr Cameron Rose (CR)	Edinburgh Council
Tony McRae (TM)	Fife Council
Gary Bell (GB)	Paths for All
Katherine Soane (KS)	Transport for Edinburgh
Duncan Hearsum (DH)	Non Councillor Member
Sarah Elliott (SE)	Stagecoach East Scotland
John Scott (JS)	First Bus
Karen Doran (KD)	Non-Councillor Member
Greg McDougall (GM)	Edinburgh Council
Ben Ritchie (BR)	Lothian Buses
Rachael Murphy (RM)	Community Transport Association
Kevin Collins (KC)	Falkirk Council
Stacey Monteith-Skelton (SMS)	Edinburgh Council
Cllr Laura Murtagh (LM)	Falkirk Council
Mark Craske (MC)	NHS Forth Valley
Damian Sefton (DS)	NHS
Matthew Davis (MD)	Sustrans

Apologies:

Andrew Marshall-Roberts	ScotRail
Douglas Robertson	Stagecoach
Sarah Boyd	Lothian Buses
Cllr Cathy Muldoon	West Lothian Council
Victoria Barby	Scottish Parliament
Ross Milligan	Edinburgh College
Neil Bailey	Edinburgh Coachlines
Mark Speed	Tactran
Jason Hedley	Scottish Borders Council
Cllr Craig Hoy	East Lothian Council
Emma Crowther	University of Edinburgh
Gareth Williams	SCDI
Kathryn O'Brien	TP Express Trains
Desmond Bradley	ScotRail
Cllr Dave Dempsey	Fife Council
Cllr Norman Hampshire	East Lothian Council
Susan Keenlyside	Fife Council
Iain Reid	East Lothian Council
Cllr Gordon Edgar	Scottish Borders Council

Ref.		Actions
1.	**Welcome and Introductions**	
	Councillor Macinnes welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.	
2.	**Minutes of IMF 27th April 2021**	
	The minutes of the last meeting were approved.	
3.	**Regional Transport Strategy Update**	
	Jim Stewart gave a presentation on the RTS, key points are listed below. **Progress since last meeting** • Case for Change has been published • Supporting SEStran 2035 RTS Draft Case for Change: SEA Environmental Report • Supporting SEStran 2035 RTS Case for Change: Equalities Duty Report • Long list of options identified as relevant to problems and issues in SEStran area	

	Progress continued • Case for Change led to four strategy objectives • Strategy Objective 1: Transitioning to a sustainable, post-carbon transport system • Strategy Objective 2: Facilitating greater physical activity • Strategy Objective 3: Widening public transport connectivity and access across the region • Strategy Objective 4: Supporting safe, sustainable, and efficient movement of people and freight across the region **The next stage was the appraisal of options** • Preliminary Options Appraisal report is complete (STAG based assessment) • This identified 62 potential interventions • These have been grouped into 12 Regional Mobility Themes • These themes will form main policy and actions areas of the RTS **Next Steps** • The final draft of the RTS is being prepared • Approval of the Draft RTS by SEStran Partnership Board end of October • Formal consultation for 14 weeks commencing November 2021 • SEA Environmental Report and Equalities Impact Assessment will be published at the same time for consultation • February 2022 – consideration of comment received during consultation • Board approval of final RTS in March 2022 • Submission of final RTS to Scottish Ministers for approval LM questioned whether the crossover of regional mobility themes will be acknowledged. JS noted this will be monitored and assessed using appropriate parameters. LM suggested this could be done by Oct.	
4.	**Thistle Assistance APP workshop with developer**	
	Keith Fisken provided an update, and the following key points were noted: There has been a huge response to the card/app being adapted for people that were exempt from wearing a mask. SEStran receive regular requests for cards and there have been 10,000 downloads of the app. A broader spectrum of needs has been identified, like hidden disabilities. There are mobility communication and anxiety issues especially after COVID 19.	

	Keith Fisken gave a presentation on VoyagAR	
	SEStran have received £150,000 funding from Scottish Enterprise through the Can-Do Fund, we are using this for phase 2 of Thistle Assistance VoyagAR.	
	The VoyagAR platform is a simple adaptive interface that links seamlessly and dynamically with the environment and creates a protective bubble around the user. With development focussed on the user experience also maximising the output from available funding by using existing market tested solutions. It will use Artificial Intelligence to produce a simple personalised solution specific to the needs of the user.	
	The main objectives are: • Disability Awareness • Journey Planning • Wayfinding	
	There will be various testing stages and SEStran are currently working with Angel Eyes and Lothian Autistic Society. Further user groups will be set up for future testing.	
	JF questioned about tracking and GPS, whether the providers can offer tracking in rural areas? KF noted web base route planning can be used which allows journey planning before departure. Artificial Intelligence will understand the routes regularly taken.	
	LM pointed out this was excellent work that can be built on. She asked how SEStran are going to let the community know this is available? KF noted testing will be key and sourcing user groups, working with LAs and Forums, also word of mouth and promotions. KF inserted his email into the chat keith.fisken@sestran.gov.uk and can be contacted with any comments or questions.	
5.	**RTPI**	
	Keith Fisken provided an update, and the following key points were noted:	
	SEStran are working closely with City of Edinburgh on the RTPI re-design. The roll out has been affected by COVID. SEStran are currently testing, and the systems should be handed over next week. Managing data will be important, however, the organisation is working with a wider group to make sure this works accurately. There are 200 screens across the region.	
	LM is excited with the possibilities for the traveling public and suggested KF could email members once the system is live before the next Partnership Board meeting.	**KF**

	RI questioned how easy it was for smaller operators to participate with RTPI as capital cost is a challenge. KF responded that as part of the development of new system SEStran are engaging with as many operators as possible. Transport Scotland and SEStran have offered funding to some operators.	
6.	**Active Travel**	
	Peter Jackson provided an update, and the following key points were noted: **Regional Travel Network** The Strategic network document was published in 2020, this was a game changer for establishing connections and engagement with partners. The entire network has been split into different sectors. There are 5 feasibility studies to be funded this year, SEStran are currently working with West Lothian Council – Falkirk Council and Scottish Borders Council on several routes: • Addiewell to Livingston • Bellside to Larbert • Larbert to Falkirk • Melrose to Galashiels SEStran have had stakeholder workshops to encourage wider engagement. ARUP online engagement rooms on strategic network are now live with the ability to add comments for those unable to attend workshops. There has been a high-level engagement with community groups. **GO e-Bike** The on-street system went live in April but wasn't launched fully until June 2021, there are 550 unique users and there have been 2000 rides the last 6 months. There are stations at: • Brunton Hall, Musselburgh • Musselburgh Train Station • Jarnac Court, Dalkeith • Edinburgh College, Eskbank SEStran have added a virtual station at Cockenzie, working with East Lothian Council to expand their mobility options. There are increasing numbers of memberships. The Social media interaction has been good, and the campaign is ongoing. There will be another phase in advertising in Feb/March next year promoting more use of e-Bikes and active travel.	

	There was a discussion on maintenance and damage to the E-Bikes. SEStran have seen a reduction in the damage of the bikes but there has been a curfew from 9pm-6am where the electrical assistance will be turned off. The police will have to follow up any theft of bikes.	
7.	**Midlothian Bus Alliance**	
	Andrew Ferguson provided an update, and the following key points were noted: There has been £500 million given to the Bus Partnership Fund for bus improvements throughout Scotland. There are Existing bids across the region including the Edinburgh "corridors bid", Fife, and Forth Valley. The Mid Lothian Bus Alliance was created after discussions between SEStran and Midlothian Council regarding the difficulties with bus travel from Mid Lothian across the bypass. The Bus Alliance has also been working with neighbouring councils to create the final bid that will be submitted to TS in October. AF presented a graphic from the bid, that shows areas that have issues with bus accessibility. It shows there are good existing corridors to access the centre but when travelling mid to east or west it's not so good. The bid proposes a dedicated bus route around the bypass to access around Edinburgh not just in the centre. AF noted the bid is proceeding well with exciting ambitious plans to solve congestion. West Lothian have also come forward with a bid for the October deadline, and SEStran have also been involved in this.	
8.	**Regional Transport Transition Group**	
	Andrew Ferguson provided an update, and the following key points were noted: The Regional Transport Transition Group was set up in the early days of the pandemic by TS with LA's and SEStran. It is a forum to talk about effect on transport through the pandemic and share experiences and procurement. The group has now fulfilled its purpose and JV is pulling together a closing report to update the Partnership Board. Existing joint bodies can now take it forward. Topics discussed in the RTTG group: • TRO's • Spaces for people. • Staycation's impact on areas AF shared statistics from TS: • Car usage is back at pre pandemic levels • Rail is at 50% • Bus at 65%	

	There is still work to be done and SEStran are keen to help where we can. RI highlighted the co-operation that this group has had from Councils has been unprecedented and hopes the region continues to have that co-operation when the group closes. He noted bus operators have engaged a lot more than train operators and this needs work. SEStran have also been involved in TAB groups along with TS, this has benefited the South East of Scotland. LM agreed the degree of co-operation has been remarkable, relationships have been incredible. MD posted a question in the chat regarding public advice on public transport, do we know when we will go back to pre-pandemic levels? JG responded that TS's latest position is 3 weeks baseline messaging reviewed every 3 weeks. Patronage in public transport may take a while. All modes of Active Travel will have a positive impact, but this will also take time. LM noted car usage is now seen as a safe mode of transport after the pandemic, there needs to be a behavioural change, so we don't go backwards in sustainable transport.	
9.	**AOCB**	
	LM suggested the date of the next meeting should be early spring before the parliamentary recess.	
10.	**Next Meeting**	
a) b)	Topics/priorities for next meeting Date of Next Meeting – TBC – March 2022	