



INTEGRATED MOBILITY FORUM  
10:00AM THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

**Present:**

Cllr Sally Pattle	West Lothian Council
Chris Milne	East Lothian Council
Kevin Collins	Falkirk Council
Linda Bamford	NCM
Ben Ritchie	Lothian Buses
Doreen Steele	NCM
Madeleine Bell	Midlothian Council
Siobhan Eke	Mobility Ways
Rebecca Taylor	Scottish Government
Cllr Margaret Anslow	Falkirk Council
Douglas Robertson	Stagecoach Buses
George Hazel	
Jim Stewart	SEStran
Cllr Tom Conn	West Lothian Council
Robina Barton	Zetrans
Carlos Soto	Sustrans
Niall Gardiner	Tactran
John Geelan	Steer Group
Cllr John McMillan	East Lothian Council
Jane Findlay	Fife Council
Des Bradley	Scotrail
Jim Grieve	SEStran
Cllr Russell Imrie	Midlothian Council
Cllr Ruaridh Bennett	East Lothian Council
Hattie James	SEStran
Beth Harley-Jepson	SEStran
Cllr Jenny Linehan	Scottish Borders Council
Nikki Both	SEStran

**Apologies:**

Stuart Lowrie	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Dianne Alexander	Midlothian Council
Cllr Jane Cox	Scottish Borders Council
Christopher Snelling	AOA
Victoria Barby	Scottish Government
Cllr Jule Bandel	City of Edinburgh Council
Jason Hedley	Scottish Borders Council

Merry Smith  
 Cllr Colin Davidson  
 John Yellowlees  
 Scott Prentice  
 Paul White

Tactran  
 Fife Council  
  
 Scotrail  
 NCM

Ref.		Actions
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	
	Councillor Pattle welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies were noted as above.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of IMF - 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b>	
	<p>JG updated the group on Item 5 of previous minutes in relation to RTPI. JG explained that there a lot more operators using the system. JG also said the system is almost fully upgraded.</p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting were then approved.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Update/discussion on RTS along with STPR2, NPF4, and 20% reduction car km route map</b>	
	<p>JS informed the Forum that the final version of the RTS has now been approved by SEStran Board. It has now been submitted to Scottish Government for approval which is the statutory process.</p> <p>JS conducted his RTS presentation. JS explained that following the statutory consultation, some of the Regional Mobility Theme titles were changed. These are shaded grey in the presentation.</p> <p>JS highlighted that one of the main areas of the RTS development process was Spatial Strategy which consisted of 2 strands. The first strand looked at better connectivity within communities affected by deprivation. The 2<sup>nd</sup> strand was related to reduction in car kilometres.</p> <p>JS highlighted that NPF4 was published in November 2021 and needed to be considered in relation to the development of the finalisation of the RTS.</p> <p>STPR2 was published in January 2022 which identified key potential transport themes.</p> <p>JS highlighted that one of the key factors that was highlighted within NPF4 and STPR2 was the role for Maas transit to improve urban accessibility within the South East of Scotland. JS highlighted that SEStran took account of these factors and they are now included with the final version of the RTS.</p>	

	<p>With regard to 20% reduction car km route map – JS explained that Scottish Government published a route map for achieving a 20% reduction in car kilometres by 2030 in January 2022 which highlighted the importance of behaviour change. This map is reflected in SEStran policies and RTS.</p> <p>A discussion followed the presentation and the following questions were posed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What is the best way to drive behaviour change and awareness? – JS explained that SEStran is a Model 1 Regional Transport Partnership and the primary aim is to set the framework within which other transport partners can operate. JG highlighted that due to the pandemic more people are using their cars and a discussion is needed on the best way to encourage people to restart using the buses.</li><li>- How do you get people back on the bus? JS explained that is about engagement with the operators to jointly encourage greater use and promote safe public transport is and option for people to use. JS said that SEStran would be happy to engage with both bus and rail operators.</li><li>- DR explained that the government funding has been vital to preserve the current bus network. DR said there has been a strong bounceback in age group 22-60. DR highlighted that the biggest issue is 60+ age group are not using the bus facility. DR stated that a national message is necessary to convince the 60+ age group to return to using bus again following the pandemic.</li></ul> <p>Cllr Pattle congratulated SEStran for all the hard work in developing and submitting the new RTS.</p> <p>MA requested a copy of the presentation slides.</p>	<p><b>JS/NB</b></p>
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<b>4.</b>	<b>RTPI/VoyagAR</b>	
	<p>Regio-Mob is an EU project and has identified good practices undertaken during Covid-19 to encourage and sustain public transport use and these were explained. In particular JS conducted a presentation on Thistle Assistance and explained its links with Regio-Mob and VoyagAR.</p> <p>A discussion followed regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- engagement with transport operators to improve disability awareness including hidden disabilities amongst front facing staff.</li> <li>- the best way to monitor Thistle Assistance qualitative data.</li> </ul> <p>JG highlighted that disability awareness training for front facing transport staff is key. DR explained the training process undertaken by Stagecoach staff.</p> <p>JS &amp; JG to have a discussion with Transport Scotland to determine how to gather information in the effectiveness of Thistle Assistance and how to monitor its qualitative data.</p> <p>JS gave a presentation on VoyagAR. JS gave an overview and explained that user testing was the next step in the process.</p> <p>With regard to RTPI, JG updated the group within Item 2 of this meeting.</p>	<b>JG/JS</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>GO SEStran (DRT MaaS)</b>	
	<p>HJ gave a presentation on GO SEStran app. HJ explained that the app is now a live working app.</p> <p>HJ provided background and explained that the funding is provided by Transport Scotland MaaS investment fund. HJ explained the funding is only up to March 2023 and SEStran are currently looking for other funding options from end of March 2023.</p> <p>HJ explained the that the objective is to the test concept of MaaS and highlighted that the app is currently being piloted within East Lothian. SEStran are in discussions with other councils to expand the area.</p> <p>DRT is being investigated to include into the app also.</p> <p>A discussion followed and it was suggested adding Safe Places and Thistle Assistance onto the app. HJ highlighted that one of the best features of the app is that journeys can be</p>	

	booked and paid for and that it is specific to local transport providers.	
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<b>6.</b>	<b>Bus Alliance</b>	
	<p>JG provided an update on Bus Alliance explaining that the initiative is to increase bus patronage.</p> <p>JG explained this is a government initiative and bids were accepted from local authorities to develop infrastructure and technology.</p> <p>There are a number of bus partnerships across the SEStran area which are currently under development.</p> <p>JG highlighted that the bus operators are key players. JG mentioned that SEStran are project managing 2 of these projects – Forth Valley and Midlothian Alliances.</p> <p>JG explained that Forth Valley have developed a Case for Change which needs to go through a STAG process. The work is being undertaken by consultants on behalf of the alliances. JG explained that this is currently being reviewed by stakeholders who are developing a public focus group. JG explained that the Case for Change transport planning objectives will require further refining.</p> <p>Midlothian Bus Alliance are at a similar stage in the process as Forth Valley Bus Alliance.</p> <p>JG also explained that these projects are currently going through gateway assessments for Transport Scotland approval to progress to the next stage of the projects..</p> <p>MA requested FVBA information from JG. JG will get information for MA.</p>	<b>JG</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>GO E-Bike Presentation</b>	
	<p>BHJ gave a presentation on GO E-Bike scheme. BHJ provided an overview of the scheme. BHJ highlighted that a public e-bike scheme was developed and there are currently 5 active stations. BHJ explained that the bikes are public electric hire bikes and an app is used to access these bikes.</p> <p>BHJ explained that ELC are looking to develop new sites in Musselburgh and Prestonpans. Midlothian are currently in the process of identifying 2-3 new stations for this scheme. SEStran are also working with Forth Environment Link which covers Clacks &amp; Falkirk to determine 2 new sites within that region.</p>	

	<p>BHJ explained that SEStran are hoping to engage with local authorities to create a scheme that is interlinked.</p> <p>BHJ explained that at some of the expansion sites, an e-trike with a cargo element is hoping to be incorporated to enable access to people with mobility needs.</p> <p>A discussion followed the presentation. SE offered to provide BHJ with scoping maps to determine demand pockets. JS to pass SE details on to BHJ.</p> <p>A discussion followed the presentation and the following questions were posed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- how many non-standard bikes will be available for hire? BHJ is still in discussions with provider regarding the number of bikes. LB will provide contact details for Wheels for Wellbeing to BHJ.</li> <li>- Is there information collated on user numbers at Eskbank and Musselburgh? BHJ explained that membership numbers are collected and an annual survey is sent out by the operator to users.</li> </ul>	<p><b>JS</b></p> <p><b>LB</b></p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	
	There was no AOCB. Cllr Pattle highlighted that topics/priorities for the next meeting can be emailed to NB for including in the next IMF Agenda. Cllr Pattle thanked JG & JS for all their work as they are due to retire at the end of the year.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	
a)	Topics/priorities for next meeting	
b)	Date of Next Meeting – TBC – April 2023	