

Projects Performance Report

1 INTRODUCTION






- 1.1 This report and its appendix update the Board on performance within SEStran's various workstreams and projects over the last quarter, for noting, and outlines to the Board on proposed approach to streamlining project performance reporting, for agreement.

2 PERFORMANCE REPORTING

- 2.1 For funded projects, programmes and workstreams, progress against agreed outputs and/or Business Plan milestones is indicated in the attached report template. For each, a high level 'RAG' (Red-Amber-Green) status is used, with 'Blue' for completed projects. Once reported as complete, these projects are removed from future updates. Where required, a note explaining progress is provided.

RAG Status	Meaning:
BLUE	Complete
GREEN	Progressing to plan
AMBER	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

3. GO SESTRAN MAAS, DRT AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

- 3.1 There has been good progress within the GO SEStran Mobility as a Service (MaaS) and Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) pilots and the associated Tactran MaaS pilots. Funding bids have been successful in extending the current GO SEStran pilot to the end of March 2024, as well as funding the associated DRT pilot for the same period.

- 3.2 Additionally, there is a need to integrate any new DRT and consolidate DRT and other digital solutions being developed by partners to streamline journey apps for people in the region and beyond. This work is under way, with particularly close joint working with Tactran and ongoing discussions with, amongst others, St Andrews University, Clackmannanshire, City of Edinburgh Council, Fife and Borders Councils.
- 3.3 As there was a risk to the continuity of the existing SEStran and Tactran apps if a procurement for a 9-month licence was carried out, the Partnership Director agreed in terms of Contract Standing Order 5.5 that a new Licence Agreement be entered into with Fuse Mobility Ltd. A Voluntary Ex Ante Transparency Notice (VEAT Notice) was published on Public Contracts Scotland in accordance with procurement regulations.
- 3.4 Further agreements with partners such as St Andrews University are likely to be needed as increased partnership working with other public sector bodies becomes a key part of the developing project, which could see considerable cost sharing and branding/marketing advantages. This partnership working has been provisionally named the Integrated Mobility Partnership Scotland (IMPS).

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Board is asked to:

- a) note progress recorded in the past quarter, summarised in the attached Appendix 1, and
- b) Note the intention to enter into a 9-month Licence agreement with Fuse Mobility Ltd in connection with the GoSEStran project, and delegate to officers to enter into further agreements with public sector bodies as part of the next phase of project.

Keith Fiskien
Senior Partnership Manager
 16th June 2023

Appendix

Projects Performance Report June 2023

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. Several projects actively work to reduce inequalities.
Climate Change Implications	There are no negative climate change implications arising from SEStran projects. Several projects actively work to

	tackle climate change through creation of, or support for more sustainable transport options.
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SEStran Performance March 2023

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1. Strategy

1.1 Regional Transport Strategy



Start date: November 2020

Initial completion date: March 2022

Expected completion date: March 2023

Overall project progress:

On track

Brief description: A new Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) to cover the period up to 2035, to provide a regional framework for potential for managing future travel demand, behaviour and developing the region's transport system.

The new RTS aligns to the National Transport Strategy 2, National Planning Framework 4, Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, as well as spatial and economic strategies under development across the SEStran area. A new monitoring framework, the 'Programmed Investment Plan' will track transport investment and delivery of RTS priorities. SEStran's new RTS, SEStran 2035 has been approved and adopted by the Partnership for implementation in the region.

Milestones from last quarter

On track

- Completed draft RTS was approved by the Minister for Transport.
- Following completed evaluations S82 were appointed to undertake work on the Programmed Investment Plan.
- S82 have completed draft work on the PIP.

Overall Stages Achieved

On track

- Main Issues Report published May 2020
- Development stages of SEStran RTS 2035 completed with input from partners March 2022
- Statutory assessments completed with input from partners March 2022
- Board approval of draft RTS September 2022.
- Scottish Ministers approved RTS March 2023.
- SEStran Partnership Board approved and adopted new RTS in March 2023.

Next Steps

On track

- Further development on the PIP will be undertaken working with stakeholders.
- Publish full new RTS and update website.
- Develop RTS communications and marketing plan.

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 is a regional bike-sharing programme that aims to increase the visibility of e-bikes and increase access to e-bike use. The first (completed) phase funded through SHARE-North provided shared e-bikes in four community hubs – two in Fife and one each in West Lothian and Falkirk. In the second phase Low Carbon Travel and Transport (LCTT) Fund and Transport Scotland (TS) funding for GO e-Bikes in to two further locations. In addition, a public e-bike hire scheme operated by Bewegen delivered 40 e-bikes across 4 station sites in East Lothian and Midlothian, was launched in April 2021. This phase remains ongoing beyond the LCTT funding period. In 2021, with funds from Transport Scotland, SEStran supported the development of the Cargo Bike Movement hub in Edinburgh, to promote 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**

Severe Issues

- Notice of Bankruptcy filed by **Bewegen Technologies Ltd** under Canadian Bankruptcy law and passed to SEStran on **27th January 2023**.
- Bewegen sought to continue the scheme operating through the provision of IT and customer service, a proposal was issued with a deadline of April 27th, 2023.
- Officers liaised with colleagues in HiTrans and Forth Environment Link (FEL) to establish the potential for a joint solution at least on a temporary basis.
- SEStran took the view that without a suitable operations management in place and the the substantial costs promoted by Bewegen this was not a viable option.
- Bewegen issued a notice on May 18th, 2023, indicating that support of IT to all systems was withdrawn with GO e-Bike to close on 19th May.
- Officers liaised with **Anderson Strathern** upon receipt of all communication with Bewegen and a contract termination notice was issued on May 19th, 2023.
- Discussions have begun with **Velogik**, a mobility company with a presence in Glasgow, with a view to finding a turnkey solution for the IT elements of all schemes and providing operational support to keep the schemes running.
- SEStran officers meet with Transport Scotland & EST officers to update them on the 6th of June.

▪ **Stages achieved**

In progress

- Stage one Community Hubs set up in 2017 and operating in West Lothian, Fife, Scottish Borders and Edinburgh (currently in operation).
- Workplace employer library trial set up and ran for 6 months in 2017.
- Additional funding application successful to develop docked stations with Bewegen procured as a supplier.
- Community docked stations set up and operated for 24 months in East and Midlothian.
- Contact made with Velogik, discussions ongoing on potential to keep scheme running.

▪ **Next steps**

In progress

- Pursuing a solution to keep scheme in operation while reviewing e-bike strategy in line with RTS objectives.
- Update Transport Scotland on potential operational models.
- Continue to liaise with other schemes to explore potential solutions.

2.2 Regional Cycle Network Grant Scheme



Start date: April 2014

Initial completion date: ongoing annual programme

Expected completion date: April 2023

Overall project progress:

Complete

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.

▪ **Stages achieved:**

- BioQuarter Active Travel Corridor progressed through additional design phases to mitigate any future tram proposals avoiding abortive works, traffic signal changes were rationalised with CEC teams along the route to maximise effectiveness and cost, public transport teams have discussed several design tweaks to accommodate interactions and any turning manoeuvres.
- CEC will now be looking to take project forward to construction through internal investment plans.

This project fund ended at the close of FY 2022/23 with the equivalent awards being moved into the wider Transport Scotland fund for Active Travel Projects. This section will be removed for future Partnership Board meetings.

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 2023/24 to Transport Scotland has been awarded up to £467,500 for this sixth year of funding. Projects from prior years in various stages of completion are reported as below.

Project Development:

▪ **Project: SEStran Strategic Network**

In progress

▪ **Last quarter:**

- SEStran officers have been preparing relevant briefs for procurement for further design work on the following routes:
 - Falkirk – Polmont**
 - Falkirk - Larbert**
- Additionally, procurement briefs are being prepared to start the concept stage of the following routes:

Kinghorn - Kirkcaldy
Cupar – Guardbridge

Stages achieved:

- Procurement briefs shared with Local Partners for comment.
- **Next steps:**
- Procure Consultant resource prior to next Board.

- **Project: GO e-Bike**

In progress

- **Last quarter:**

- Community groups supported through 2022/23 funding are now making use of the assets provided. Support will be provided to community groups to ensure assets are fully utilised and to further develop the network of hubs. This will include training, knowledge sharing and attending events.
- Further funding has been secured with officers looking to engage further with groups across the region to deliver benefits from e-bike promotion and usage. Work is ongoing to identify key areas to focus further delivery on this project in line with the new RTS .

- **Project: Multimodal Monitoring**

In progress

- **Last quarter:**

- VIVACITY have supplied surveyed sites to local partners for the installation of multi-modal monitoring sensors in **Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and West Lothian.**
- SEStran officers are coordinating with local partners for the relevant permissions for installation.

Stages achieved:

- Sites confirmed for installation of monitoring sensors.
- **Next steps:**
- Sensors installed and operational.

- **Project: Attitudinal Survey**

Complete

- **Next steps:**

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

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 Scotland coordinators. It promotes, encourages, and develops cycle training opportunities across SEStran projects.

Project Development:

- In progress
 ▪ **Bikeability Scotland**
 - **Last quarter:**
 - Delivery of Bikeability Scotland across the region for 2022-23 mostly on track to meet or exceed 2021-22 delivery. Two further LAs in the region anticipated to achieve delivery of Bikeability Scotland Level 2 (on-road cycle training) at 100% of their primary schools.
 - Continued to work with LAs to increase delivery rates.
 - **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.
 - Specific support to LAs to submit Support Plus Funding applications for delivery next academic year. Focus on specific areas over the summer break that are struggling with instructor capacity to identify solutions. Plan for Bikeability Scotland Mentor training and Cycle Trainer course over the summer.

- In progress
 ▪ **Adult and Family Cycle Training**
 - **Last quarter:** Grant funding for cycle training providers and organisations who would like to start running cycle training activities and increase capacity fully allocated with a new round opening in June 2023.
 - **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, Regional RTPI 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 90% of the PCs delivered now 'live'.
 - New installations of standalone screens purchased via the framework continue to be utilised by Local Authorities.

- Integration of Lothian Buses data – this work has been delayed due to technical issues, further work is being done between Journeo and Lothian buses to identify and fix issues.
- Operator and Local Authority ‘data group’ meeting held to highlight importance of data input to the system and benefits.
- Weekly meetings held with Local Authority partners and projects team.
- **Stages achieved:** Complete
 - 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.
 - Training on new content management system completed with local authority representatives.
 - Integration of McGill’s operations from First Bus East after takeover complete.
 - The purchasing 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, 180 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.
 - Moffat & Williamson to be integrated, currently working with Fife Council to facilitate.
 - Instillation of new signs purchased via framework to continue.
- **NOVUS FX** In progress
 - First round of training complete, addition training will be provided based on future requirements.

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.
 - System development for the VoyagAR platform (journey planning and wayfinding tool) was completed.
 - Testing of the system currently underway.
 - SEStran officers provided an update to the Accessible Travel Steering Group Committee in May.
- **Stages achieved:** Complete
 - Journey planning project prototype ready for testing.

- Rebranding of Thistle Assistance including development of promotional material.
- Development of standalone website – www.thistleassistance.com
- Development of transport operator guide.

▪ **Next steps:**

In progress

- Further public testing of VoyagAR to highlight issues and fixes needed.
- Develop an awareness survey to gauge engagement and usage.
- Work with stakeholders on launch of VoyagAR to generate awareness and PR.
- Update funding application for marketing support with Paths for All.

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

- Received feedback and comments from Transport Scotland were reviewed by project team & SYSTRA with responses addressed and final report updated.
- Updated report to be submitted to Transport Scotland in June.

▪ **Stages achieved:**

Complete

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

▪ **Next steps:**

In progress

- Arrange workshop with Transport Scotland to discuss comments and define next steps.

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.
 - Draft reports for both Forth Valley Bus Alliance (FVBA) and Midlothian Bus Alliance completed in June.
 - Final Midlothian Bus Alliance report to be submitted on the 16th of June to Transport Scotland for gateway review.
 - Final FVBA report to be submitted on the 30th of June to Transport Scotland for gateway review.
- **Stages achieved:** In Progress
 - Forth Valley Bus Alliance set up and working with STAG appraisal work funding received from Transport Scotland.
 - Midlothian Bus Alliance set up and working with STAG appraisal work funding received from Transport Scotland.
- **Next steps:** In Progress
 - Gateway review to be undertaken by Transport Scotland for both FVBA & Midlothian work, this is scheduled to take 6 weeks and involve workshops with separate project teams.
 - 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.
 - Contribute to match in kind discussions in all the Alliances, to explore potential SEStran contributions in areas such as real time information (RTI), digital tech pilots (MaaS & DRT) and accessibility programmes (Thistle Assistance) that SEStran supports in the region.



Start date: March 2022

Initial completion date: March 2023

Expected completion date: March 2024

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 was due for completion in March 2023. The Go SEStran app was launched in early August 2022 and can be downloaded from Google Play and Apple app store.

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

- The new digital demand responsive transport (DDRT) pilot in East Lothian went live on 6th March 2023, in partnership with The Routing Company and Prentice Coaches.
- The GoSEStran app has over 1400 users on the app and continues to rise due to the help from East Lothian Council with marketing.
- SEStran ran successful open learning network sessions, for any interested party to attend and learn more about the project. These sessions will continue into the next phase.

▪ **Stages achieved:**

In progress

- A number of integrations have been completed by Fuse, including local transport modes such as community transport, Bewegen e-bikes and Enterprise Car Club, new DRT services in East Lothian and the Borders and park and ride locations in East Lothian.
- SEStran were successful with a grant from Smarter Choices Smarter Places, so the GoSEStran app (and Tactran Enable pilots) are funded up to March 2024.
- The Prentice/ Routing Company pilot is also fully funded to end March 2024 due to procurement savings.

▪ **Next steps:**

In Progress

- SEStran continues to work with Transport Scotland to report on progress and after June 2023, will be invited to join the Transport Scotland MaaS Working Group.
- SEStran, with Ansons Consulting, are creating a report on the GoSEStran pilot so far for Transport Scotland to assess along with the other MaaS Investment Fund pilots.
- Fuse are now carrying out a number of improvements to the app in response to feedback.
- SEStran continue to have conversations with other local authorities include City of Edinburgh Council to explore expanding GoSEStran further across the region. As an initial step taxi providers in Edinburgh and Clackmannanshire are being integrated into the app.

- SEStran, along with Tactran colleagues are to launch the Integrated Mobility Partnership Scotland (IMPS), to share knowledge and experience to other local authorities or public bodies.

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:** *Delayed*
 - SEStran has submitted an extension proposal to Transport Scotland for review.
 - SEStran Officers meet with Forth Ports to discuss transport links and freight and received an update from them on Green Free Port business case development.
 - SEStran provided an update on the work to the Freight and Logistics Forum on the 30th of May.
- **Stages achieved:** *Delayed*
 - Case for Change approved December 2021.
 - Initial Options Appraisal work is complete.
 - Submitted to Transport Scotland in August 2022 for comments.
- **Next steps:** *Delayed*
 - Begin work on Detailed Options Appraisal (stage 3 of the appraisal) subject to Transport Scotland approval of the extension proposal.

5. European-funded Projects

5.1 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

- The final conference took place in March in Bremen.
- Due to transport strikes in Germany SEStran officers were unable to attend as flights were cancelled.
- Final report on Perth West has been reviewed by project team with a final draft being produced in June.

▪ **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.
- Infomercial launched to highlight the Edinburgh Zedify hub and the benefits of a sustainable approach to city logistics.
- Chapter on sustainable logistics published in the Routledge Handbook of Transport Economics.

▪ **Next steps:**

In progress

- Finalise Perth West report and present to stakeholders in June.
- Final claim to be compiled and submitted to Henderson Loggie (auditor).
- Final report and claim to be submitted in July.
- Close project.

5.2 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 developed a logistic pilot with the University of Edinburgh, which will showcase innovative use of the technology in a transport environment and also to produce a snapshot report on Blockchain use cases and potential in Scotland.

Project Development:

- **Last Quarter:** In progress
 - SEStran Officers attended the final conference in Assen in the Netherlands in April.
- **Stages achieved:** On track
 - GeoPact pilot proof of concept delivered.
 - Research paper written and shared.
 - Project extension approved.
- **Next steps:** In Progress
 - Submit final report and claim.

5.3 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
 - 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.
 - SEStran officers attended the final face to face event in Coimbra, Portugal in May 2023 to share updates on GoSEStran and its policy impact on the new Regional Transport Strategy.
- **Stages achieved:** On track
 - The Action Plan and best practices have helped to ensure the success of the GoSEStran Platform and shaped the work put towards the set-up of the new DRT service in East Lothian.
- **Next steps:** In Progress

- Continued monitoring of the Action plan over the next 12 months
- A small amount of capital funding from the Primaas project can be used towards the next phase of the GoSEStran pilot.

5.4 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](#) 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

- The final conference took place in March in Hamburg.
- Due to transport strikes in Germany SEStran officers were unable to attend as flights were cancelled.
- Final claim was submitted to Henderson Loggie (Auditor) for review.

▪ **Stages achieved:**

In progress

- Draft report on inland waterways complete.

▪ **Next steps:**

In Progress

- Submit final report and claim and close of project.

5.5 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
 - Further key learnings were shared across participating regions.
 - Final claim question addressed so that claim can be authorised for payment.
- **Stages achieved** In Progress
 - Exchange of information between the project partners through the Interregional exchange process.
- **Next steps:** In Progress
 - Despite the Regio-Mob project now being complete, SEStran will continue to communicate with the other partners involved and use the knowledge shared to influence any further best practices to help implement the new Regional Transport Strategy.

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 took place on the 30th of May.
 - Updates given on SEStran projects and a presentation was given to the forum from Richard Start from DTLZ Drone Solutions on innovations within the drone sector.
 - Next meeting November 2023.
- **Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum**
 - The next forum will take place on Wednesday 28th of September. The last forum took place on 31st January 2023.
- **Integrated Mobility Forum**
 - The forum took place on Thursday 27th of April 2023.
 - The next forum is scheduled for the 5th of October 2023.