

PROJECTS AND STRATEGY PERFORMANCE REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report and its appendix update the Board on performance within the Partnership's various strategy and project workstreams over the last quarter.
- 1.2 For future reporting it is proposed that this stream of reporting is passed back to the Performance and Audit Committee and a report taken to the subsequent Partnership Boards on issues discussed with recommendations. This would commence from first quarter 2024.

2 PERFORMANCE AND ISSUES TRACKING

- 2.1 A new format is being developed for reporting on funded projects, programmes and workstreams. Progress against agreed deliverables and/or RTS and Business Plan milestones is indicated in the attached Appendix. For each, a high-level 'RAG' (Red-Amber-Green) status is used. Once reported as complete, these projects will be removed from future updates. Where required, a note explaining progress is provided.

RAG Status	Meaning:
GREEN	On track to plan and budget
AMBER	Delayed and/or not tracking to budget but can be mitigated
RED	Severe issues with delivery and/or budget

- 2.2 For each activity area, the alignment with the new Regional Transport Strategy is indicated with a 1 to 4 for the following:
- RTS Objective 1: Transitioning to a sustainable, post-carbon transport system
 - RTS Objective 2: Facilitating healthier travel options
 - RTS Objective 3: Transforming public transport connectivity and access across the region
 - RTS Objective 4: Supporting the safe, sustainable and efficient movement of people and freight across the region

3. KEY ISSUES AND FUNDING

- 3.1 Unless otherwise highlighted in 3.2 below all workstreams are tracking to plan, i.e. have a GREEN RAG rating.
- 3.2 Current Amber rated issues are highlighted below, there are no Red rated issues.
- GO e-Bike Shared System (section 1)
 - Real Time Passenger Information (section 2)

3.3 The Partnership has received £1,040,500 in additional funding so far in financial year 2023/24. This funding will allow the Partnership to undertake additional work and is summarised in section 7 of the appendix.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Board is asked to:

- a) Agree to move scrutiny of future Projects Update Reports to the Performance & Audit Committee
- b) Note progress recorded in the past quarter, summarised in the attached Appendix

Keith Fiskin

Senior Partnership Manager

1st December 2023

Appendix: Projects Tracker - December 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.

Appendix 1: SEStran Projects Tracker – December 2023

For each activity area the alignment with the Regional Transport Strategy is indicated with a 1 to 4 for the following:

- RTS Objective 1: Transitioning to a sustainable, post-carbon transport system
- RTS Objective 2: Facilitating healthier travel options
- RTS Objective 3: Transforming public transport connectivity and access across the region
- RTS Objective 4: Supporting safe, sustainable and efficient movement of people and freight across the region

For each active RAG Status used is as follows:

Red	Severe issues with delivery and/or budget
Amber	Delayed and/or not tracking to budget but can be mitigated
Green	On track to plan and budget

1. Active Travel

Project Name	RTS Alignment				Start	End	Status
SEStran Strategic Network	1	2		4	2020	Ongoing	
Summary of Project							
<p>The SEStran Strategic Network presents a framework for coordinated development of cross boundary active travel routes connecting cities, towns, neighbourhoods, settlements and public transport hubs in the SEStran region. The Network presents a proposal for phased investment in active travel infrastructure across the region to help guide potential future projects and funding bids for both SEStran and partner Local Authorities.</p> <p>https://sestran.gov.uk/publications/sestran-strategic-network-cross-boundary-active-travel-routes-connecting-people-and-place/</p>							
Milestones						Date	Status
▪ Brief for Tender of consultancy work						July 2023	
▪ Engagement with stakeholders						Ongoing	
▪ Feasibility and preliminary design of options						Ongoing	
▪ Consultation with stakeholders on furthering design						Ongoing	
▪ Completion of Fife feasibility studies						Mar 2024	
▪ Completion of Falkirk detailed design						Mar 2024	
▪ Plan activity for 2024/25 delivery						Mar 2024	
Activity since last report							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MCA and phasing has been updated and revised schematic received. ▪ Workshop held with Falkirk Council on the 13th November to take some key decisions around taking forward Falkirk routes to RIBA stage 4. ▪ Invoicing schedule received from ARUP for works totalling £195k up to end of March 2024 							
Planned Activity						Date	
▪ Review SSN update and decide whether to be published on website						December 2023	
▪ Agree additional design support funding from T.S.to support taking Falkirk routes to being construction ready in 2024.						December 2023	
▪ Promote virtual reality engagement rooms and input to consultation for Falkirk and Fife routes						January 2024	
▪ PM meetings with Arup (fortnightly 1-1 and monthly with full team)						March 2024	
Risks						Status	
Timescales for spend restrict what activity can be completed on Falkirk routes							
Issues						Status	
Allocation of underspend needs to be confirmed							

Project Name	RTS Alignment			Start	End	Status
GO e-Bike Community Hubs	1	2	4	2017	Ongoing	
Summary of Project						
<p>The Go e-Bike community project was developed by the South East Scotland Transport Partnership (SEStran). The project has involved setting up a series of hubs across the region. The hubs are developed with a mix of local community organisations, charities and academic institutions. Each hub is unique and tailored to its community to support long term sustainability of the hire bike scheme. In 2023 additional funding was received through the Smarter Choices Smarter Places Active Nation funding to support a promotional campaign, provide cycle training and deliver an employer trial.</p>						
Milestones					Date	Status
Update e-bike fleets					April 2023	
Implement employer trial					October 2023	
Develop e-bike promotional campaign					December 2023	
Implement e-bike promotional campaign					January 2024	
Run e-bike trial event					January 2024	
Activity since last report						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ West Lothian Bike Library (WLBL) are taking on the bulk of the work on the employer trial but have come up against some challenges (employer lined up to take part from start of November pulled out). ▪ There will need to be a change to the original proposal which was to engage with 12 employers (not possible in the remaining time). East Lothian will have the e-bikes from mid-Feb to March at John Muir House. ▪ Proposal to hold an engagement event at Victoria Quay in partnership with EST and Edinburgh Council active travel team cargo bike movement to allow VQ staff to try an e-bike and potentially to act as a mini-launch for e-bike promotional campaign. ▪ Communications and Marketing – A multi-channel promotional campaign is in development focused on raising awareness about e-bikes and highlighting their accessibility for local communities in the region. This comprehensive campaign will run across various channels, including digital and print media, public relations, and field activities. Engagement with stakeholders and partners will be a key part of the campaign, ensuring the distribution of key messages. By the end of March, the campaign will have developed all campaign assets, however campaign launch dates are pending confirmation ▪ Met with Energy Savings Trust re information sharing and support 						
Planned Activity					Date	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase engagement with community hubs 					March 2024	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undertake procurement for media awareness campaign 					December 2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launch and monitor awareness campaign 					February 2023	
Risks					Status	
Unable to deliver promotional campaign in the timeframe						
Unable to identify providers to deliver amount of cycle training						
Issues					Status	
Employer trial start delayed so will not meet target number of employers						

Project Name	RTS Alignment				Start	End	Status
GO e-Bike Shared System	1	2	3	4	2019	Ongoing	
Summary of Project							
The Go e-bike shared system was a public e-bike hire system installed in East Lothian and Midlothian. As of May 2023 the operator of the scheme ceased trading and the scheme stopped operating.							
Milestones						Date	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New milestones TBC 						n/a	n/a
Activity since last report							
<p>Bewegen System – actions post supplier liquidation (Feb 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement in place to transfer all SEStran assets to Hitrans Liaising with Hitrans about coordinating collection of bikes, spare parts and infrastructure for use in their system Quotes and outline of works received from Scottish Power Energy Networks for disconnecting power from existing sites. Hitrans will be covering costs of removal and relocation. <p>Replacement Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised approach to bike share proposed, that will be lower cost, less at risk from vandalism and with the capacity to support multi modal journeys. Brompton Bikes have been identified as offering a service that meets all the outlined requirements within the available budget. Discussions are being held with Transport Scotland to ensure the new proposals meet with the original funding conditions. QMU are keen to move ahead with having a Brompton locker on site near to the previous Bewegen hire site at Musselburgh Station. A location has been identified at the site of the proposed mobility hub adjacent to the bus stop and Amazon lockers. Discussions with Brompton and Sustrans will allow us to utilise one of the Sustrans lockers that is currently in storage with Brompton. Meeting held with Scottish Borders Council about potential locations for a Brompton locker at Galashiels interchange or Tweedbank. SBC will come back as to whether there is possible site at Tweedbank. 							
Planned Activity						Date	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for quotes from civils companies for work required to remove docking stations 						December 2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove existing system and transfer all assets to Hitrans 						January 2024	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree approach for Brompton lockers, purchase, and install 						December 2023	
Risks						Status	
New scheme proposals don't meet the criteria of the original funding and funding has to be repaid							
Issues						Status	
Short timescales for delivery before March 2024							
Reallocation of potential underspend							
Ability to coordinate contractors and Hitrans for dock removal and pick-up at same time							

Project Name	RTS Alignment			Start	End	Status
Traffic Monitoring Cameras (Vivacity)	1	2	4	2022	2027	
Summary of Project						
To inform future project work SEStran is working with LAs and Vivacity to deploy a range of traffic camera/sensors across the region to produce an accurate representation of travel patterns of multi-modal traffic and produce data to enable support for appropriate infrastructure changes.						
Milestones					Date	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify 23 camera locations for monitoring and identify relevant assets and required permissions 					November 2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for quotes for electric hook-up of cameras 					November 2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cameras operational and monitoring started 					March 2024	
Activity since last report						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A meeting was held Friday 10th with Vivacity and Midlothian active travel team about sites for 5 remaining cameras. Contractor appointed to connect cameras to power Alternative assets identified in Clacks for camera siting 						
Planned Activity					Date	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise sites for remaining 5 cameras 					December 2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete installation and connection of all cameras 					January 2024	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share information from camera feeds with Cycling Scotland Open data portal once cameras are connected 					TBC	
Risks					Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional delays to installation as a result of weather/permit requirements 						
Issues					Status	

2. Public Transport

Project Name	RTS Alignment			Start	End	Status
Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI)	1	3	4	2010	Ongoing	
Summary of Project						
<p>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. Since 2021 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. https://sestran.gov.uk/projects/real-time-passenger-information/</p>						
Milestones					Date	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new RTPI system testing was completed, and the system accepted 					Nov 21	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The system is live with bus operator data being integrated into the live system. 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training on new content management system completed with local authority representatives. 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regional RTPI purchasing framework is being utilised by SEStran and Local Authorities to provide additional Real Time infrastructure for the region. 						
Activity since last report						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 new screens for Midlothian (Penicuik, Dalkeith & Bonnyrigg) were installed and are now operational Data integration has significantly improved with an operator review meeting in October helping to communicate and address issues SEStran is currently working with Ticketer, Fife Council and M&W to facilitate the integration of real time data from their services into the system 						
Planned Activity					Date	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase and install new signs for Scottish Borders Council via the framework. 					Dec 2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Lothian Buses on feed improvement and integration 					Ongoing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Moffat & Williamson to standardise their data entry 					Dec 2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to bus strategy development study 					Dec 23 to March 24	
Risks					Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data feed stops working – technology or comms failure 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operator does not update data or provides incorrect data 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of hardware delayed e.g. power connection not available 						

Issues	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lothian Buses data integration has been problematic as there is a separate stream of work being undertaken by LB to update their internal systems. The data feed is currently incompatible with the regional system. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A solution is in place and the target is for real time data will roll out from their fleet from end first quarter 2024. For the regional screen network only, scheduled data will be displayed. The screens will be updated with a message to this effect 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Lothian Buses app and website is providing accurate real time data for their services. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Despite this set back the regional system is delivering real time information with McGills, Stagecoach, City Link, Prentice and Borders Buses all providing real time information 	

Project Name	RTS Alignment			Start	End	Status
Novus FX Local Authority System	1		3	4	2010	Ongoing
Summary of Project						
Novus-FX has been designed to assist Local Authorities manage bus information by streamlining the production of registration information, facilitating the transmission of accurate data to Traveline and Journey Planners, and integrating seamlessly with Trapeze's Novus-RT for the provision of real-time data. Novus-FX Publicity makes it easy to create modern and engaging printed information including roadside timetables, network maps and leaflets. The result is more accurate public transport data and better-informed passengers, leading to increased use of public transport.						
Milestones					Date	Status
▪ Renewal of contract with Trapeze in April 2022 which runs up to March 2025					2022	
▪ First round of local authority training complete					2023	
Activity since last report						
▪ Working with Local Authorities on designing a new module for bus stop integration.						
Planned Activity					Date	
▪ Develop new bus stop management and mapping module with LAs & Trapeze					first quarter 2024	
▪ Plan next round of training					first quarter 2024	
Risks					Status	
▪ Data feed fails, communication or software issue						
▪ Wrong data entered						
▪ Key knowledge base in local authority is unavailable through illness or retirement						
Issues					Status	
▪ Relatively small number of people working on the system						
▪ System complexity and time taken to train new users						

Project Name	RTS Alignment			Start	End	Status
Newburgh Transport Appraisal	1		3	2019	Sep 2023	
Summary of Project						
<p>The Newburgh Train Station Group (NTSG), South East Scotland Transport Partnership (SEStran) and Fife Council, with the support of SYSTRA Ltd, are working together to develop proposals to improve sustainable transport to and from Newburgh.</p> <p>The project builds on work already undertaken by the NTSG and focusses on improving links to and from Perth, Edinburgh and Fife. It follows the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG). https://newburghtrainstation.org.uk/</p>						
Milestones					Date	Status
▪ Case or Change and Initial Options work completed					2021	
▪ Detailed Options Appraisal Revised (taking into account TS comments) and submitted to TS (Rail)					Sep 23	
Activity since last report						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ September 2023 - Final revisions undertaken to Detailed Options Appraisal ▪ Raised in Scottish Parliament on the 2nd of November – question from Willie Rennie (MSP) to the Transport Minister ▪ Transport Minister confirmed that there will be a response in coming weeks from Scottish Government on the proposals submitted 						
Planned Activity					Date	
▪ SEStran Officers to attend community information event in Newburgh					25 th November	
Risks					Status	
▪ Transport Scotland does not approve next stage of work						
Issues					Status	
▪ Complexity of appraisal process – number of revisions needed takes time						

3. Technology

Project Name	RTS Alignment				Start	End	Status
GO SEStran	1	2	3	4	2022	Ongoing	
Summary of Project							
<p>SEStran has worked with a wide range of stakeholders across the South East of Scotland to develop the GoSEStran project, an innovative MaaS and DRT project proposal that was submitted to the Transport Scotland's MaaS Investment Fund Round 2 (MIF2). The GoSEStran 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.</p> <p>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.</p>							
Milestones						Date	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New Software Licence signed with Fuse continuing the digital platform that supports both SEStran and Tactran apps until March 2024. 						July 2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ University of St Andrews officially a partner, and from their MIF budget have paid for a web-based version of the GoSEStran platform, further integrations to make it more viable in Fife and improvements to the app for users such as the inclusion of a mobility menu. 						September 2023/ ongoing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IMPs Interest Group meetings held every month with other parties interested in joining the platform with SEStran and Tactran, including Nestrans/Aberdeen Council, SPT, City of Edinburgh Council, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, NHS, and Perth and Kinross Council. 						Ongoing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integrated Mobility Partnership website now live. 						September 2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SEStran presented to the Transport Scotland MaaS Working Group in early November on key findings and recommendations for Maas, and are finalising the final report for circulation soon. 						November 2023	
Activity since last report							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussions are ongoing with Transport Scotland about what their plans are for the future of MaaS in Scotland. SEStran are encouraging conversations with other RTPs and other MaaS pilots in Scotland for long term plans for funding the pilots. ▪ Conversations are ongoing with Traveline and Trapeze about how their work for the DTDS project can link in with the work on MaaS. 							

Planned Activity	Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Confirm funding for collaborative procurement with Tactran to secure platform and hosting licences for existing GoSEStran and Tactran apps. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Subject to funding and Board approval, proceed with procurement process and select platform and hosting supplier and any other parties necessary to move IMPs project forward on multi-funded basis. 	
Risks	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of funding to proceed. Mitigation is to continue discussions with potential funders, which have been very promising. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Confusion with other apps e.g. Traveline, Google, Citymapper. Focus is on emphasising differences/advantages of genuine MaaS product being funded by public sector for policy reasons. Regular meetings now to be set up with Traveline. 	
Issues	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Having shown promising results in relation to the initial MIF pilots, challenge is now to develop a governance structure and working relationships with other public bodies to provide a multi-party funded model for development of MaaS across Scotland. 	

Project Name	RTS Alignment				Start	End	Status
Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)	1	2	3	4	2023	Ongoing	
Summary of Project							
SEStran received funding as part of the MaaS Investment Fund to trial a new DRT service in East Lothian. This service began in March 2023, after a procurement process to award The Routing Company a contract to provide the booking office dashboard and mobile booking app for the 109 supported bus service run by Prentice Coaches. SEStran also continues to engage with the local authorities in the region running their own DDRT/ DRT pilots including Borders Council and Fife Council.							
Milestones						Date	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched a new DDRT service in East Lothian. Integrated the new DDRT service in East Lothian, and the DRT Berwickshire service in Scottish Borders into the GoSEStran MaaS app. 							
Activity since last report							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing discussions with community transport operators in the region to assess if their services could benefit from engaging with DDRT tech companies, to improve the efficiency of booking their passengers. Continue discussions with the local authorities in the region to assess potential of other routes or services that may benefit from the technology offered by DRT. 							
Planned Activity						Date	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to investigate further potential DRT pilots in the region, potentially around community transport operators, or workplace mobility and employee transport. Depending on available funding, explore the potential of DRT for workplace mobility, such as trialling a DRT service for a big company in the region that employees tend to run to a shift pattern to see if by offering tailored bus service, it can reduce the number of employees driving. Continue discussions with East Lothian Council and Prentice Coaches to evaluate the success of the current DRT pilot, and if funding allows, extending the pilot or trialling a new one in the region. 							
Risks						Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tech does not work as well as it could – mitigation has been joint work with operator, tech provider and Council to resolve issues. Low passenger numbers – discussions ongoing on promotional events including Ministerial visit. 							
Issues						Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Lothian pilot has demonstrated so far that DDRT is not always an easy solution, and availability of drivers and extra rolling stock is as essential as tech. 							

Project Name	RTS Alignment		Start	End	Status
Thistle Assistance VoyagAR		3	4	2020	Ongoing
Summary of Project					
<p>VoyagAR is an end-to-end journey-planning and journey-tracking system to allow disabled people to utilise public transport in a safer, more convenient, and more enjoyable way. The system is designed to make disabled people feel more confident and comfortable when journeying on public transport services.</p> <p>The traveller accesses the system through a smartphone app. Appropriately authorised carers or family members can assist with journey planning and track the traveller's progress using a companion website. During a journey, the traveller receives wayfinding guidance and support at key points, using a flexible combination of digital mapping, simple directional indicators, and Augmented Reality.</p>					
Milestones				Date	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received £300,000 funding from Scottish Enterprise to develop project through phase one proof of concept and phase two prototype development 				2020	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot developed by Sentireal (developer) 				Sep 23	
Activity since last report					
<p>The VoyagAR system consists of three cooperating software applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A smartphone app used by the traveller undertaking a journey wholly or partially on public transport. A website used by carers to plan journeys on the traveller's behalf and track the traveller's progress during ongoing journeys. A central cloud-based software application that facilitates communication between the traveller app, carer website and third-party mapping and directions services. 					
Planned Activity				Date	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop system with Sentireal – fine tuning and enhancements. 				Dec 2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise public launch with development of marketing campaign. 				Jan 2024	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop legal approach to transfer of the system and intellectual property from Sentireal to a new developer. 				Nov 2023	
Risks				Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Software failure 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> User accident whilst using 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third party supplier changes or fails 					
Issues				Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of resources to promote and engage at a national level 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> System complexity 					

4. Accessibility

Project Name	RTS Alignment		Start	End	Status
Thistle Assistance Programme		3 4	2008	Ongoing	
Summary of Project					
<p>The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership has developed the Thistle Assistance Programme to make using public transport easier for older people and those with disabilities or illness. Thistle Assistance is supported by a wide variety of voluntary organisations across Scotland and by most bus, train, tram, ferry and airport operators. It is credit-card sized and comes with a supply of peel-off stickers, which advise the driver or conductor of your disability and the help you need in an easy-to-read format. www.thistleassistance.com</p>					
Milestones				Date	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New branding launched for programme with new creative and website 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New app developed 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guide for transport operators developed 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mailout system for card distribution in place 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National yearly budget agreed with all RTPs contributing 					
Activity since last report					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On going print media campaign using 'A Little Help Goes a Long Way' creative targeting specialist audience publications ▪ Developing new strategy with the new Marketing & Communications Officer 					
Planned Activity				Date	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop new stakeholder engagement plan to increase awareness with key stakeholders 				Nov 2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utilise launch of the new journey planner VoyagAR (see item in technology section) 				Nov 2023	
Risks				Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transport Operators use their own approach – increases complexity for public 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ App fails or stops working 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cards and leaflet distribution delayed or fails 					
Issues				Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No current issues 					

5. Strategy

Project Name	RTS Alignment				Start	End	Status
	1	2	3	4			
SEStran 2035 Regional Transport Strategy	1	2	3	4	Mar 2023	2035	
Summary of Project							
<p>The Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) provides the framework and a direction for transport in the southeast of Scotland area covered by the eight partner local authorities: The City of Edinburgh, Clackmannanshire, East Lothian, Falkirk, Fife, Midlothian, the Scottish Borders and West Lothian.</p> <p>SEStran 2035 fulfils the key statutory duty of the South-East of Scotland Regional Transport Partnership (SEStran) which was set up under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005. This Act also set the requirement to produce a statutory RTS to provide a strategic framework for transport management and investment for the Partnership area.</p>							
Milestones						Date	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Board approval of draft RTS ▪ Scottish Ministers approved RTS ▪ SEStran Partnership Board approved and adopted new RTS ▪ Programme Investment Plan (PIP) baseline work complete 						Sep 22	
						Mar 23	
						Mar 23	
						Aug 23	
Activity since last report							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engaged with ESECRD grouping to align with transport delivery plan workstream ▪ Refining PIP work by looking at integration of case studies with consultants S82 							
Planned Activity						Date	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop action plan matrix and integrate into 2024 to 2027 SEStran Business Plan 						Mar 2024	
Risks						Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding not available for specific actions within the plan 							
Issues						Status	

Project Name	RTS Alignment			Start	End	Status
Electric Vehicle Strategy	1		4	2023		
Summary of Project						
<p>In January 2022, The Scottish Government published a new draft vision statement for public electric vehicle (EV) charging in Scotland. The vision places people and businesses first, outlining the accessible, affordable and reliable public network required for the future. A just transition is at the heart of the new approach, where no one is left behind from the benefits afforded by the transition to a net zero transport system.</p> <p>SEStran is exploring with stakeholders the potential benefits of a regional approach to the development of EV infrastructure and potential models for partnership working to maximise efficiencies and delivery opportunities.</p> <p>Builds on the recently approved Concordat between SEStran and the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal (ESESCRD), which is supported by Clackmannanshire and Falkirk Councils.</p>						
Milestones					Date	Status
▪ Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Forum set up and meeting					Aug 23	
▪ Agreement by all partners to adopt a regional approach					Dec 23	
▪ Agree structure, governance and funding					Jan 24	
▪ Finalise procurement approach and documentation					Apr 24	
▪ Tender for EVI partners					May 24	
▪ Appoint partner(s)					Sept 24	
Activity since last report						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A commission for a SEStran Regional EV Strategy has been agreed with Urban Foresight (UF), Part 1 has been progressed and the EV Position Statement & Maturity Assessment has been produced ▪ Undertook work with Scottish Futures Trust and Local Authorities to understand the current 'state of play' ▪ Forum met on 17/8 and 23/10 to discuss EV Positioning Statement & Strategy for the SEStran region 						
Planned Activity					Date	
▪ Present updated Urban Foresight work and agree positioning statement, baseline, and need for regional EV strategy at EV workshop					24/11/23	
▪ Present proposed approach to Falkirk and Clacks and get their agreement					27/11/23	
▪ Present proposed approach to ESESCRD Directors and get their agreement					07/12/23	
▪ Formulate operational and governance structures and applicable costs; get agreement from partners					Jan 2024	
▪ Establish operational and governance groups					Feb 2024	
Risks					Status	
▪ Not all partners sign up to need for a regional EV strategy						
▪ Not all partners sign up to need for a collaborative approach to procurement						
▪ Failure to agree operational or governance structure, or to fund the structure						
Issues					Status	

Project Name	RTS Alignment			Start	End	Status
Regional Bus Strategy	1		3 4	Jun 2023	Jun 2024	
Summary of Project						
SEStran will develop a Regional Bus Strategy with the aspiration for a 'World Class Bus Service' that aligns with objectives in SEStran's Regional Transport Strategy and the National Transport Strategy 2. The proposed Regional Bus Strategy will support the objectives of equality, opportunity and community and incorporate the outcome of Transport Scotland's Fair Fares Review to be published later in 2023. Options being considered include a series of BSIPs, an overarching regional BSIP, a complementary data BSIP, the development of a franchise network or the extension of the operation of the municipally owned network, as the foundation of a world class bus network.						
Milestones					Date	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval from SEStran Partnership Board in June 2023 to progress the work. 					June 2023	
Activity since last report						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted an application for £150,000 worth of funding from the Community Bus Fund Developed scoping brief and timeline for work 						
Planned Activity					Date	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following formal grant offer letter being received from Transport Scotland undertake procurement of consultant to partner on the work. 					Dec 2023	
Risks					Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complexity of appraisal process – number of revisions needed takes time 						
Issues					Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None currently 						

Project Name	RTS Alignment			Start	End	Status
Freight Strategy	1		4	2020	2024	
Summary of Project						
<p>The GO SEStran Forth Freight Strategy is being funded by Transport Scotland through the Local Rail Development Fund, with the central aim being to help provide the evidence base for local areas to bring forward schemes that can enter the Scottish Government Rail Enhancement and Capital Investment Strategy pipeline.</p> <p>https://sestran.gov.uk/projects/regional-freight-study/</p>						
Milestones					Date	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STAG Case for Change and Initial Options phases completed 						
Activity since last report						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Scotland have approved funding for the final stage of the study SEStran & AECOM (consulting partners) have developed an updated program and timeline for the Detailed Options phase SEStran has engaged with Forth Ports and Green Free Ports group (via Fife Council). 						
Planned Activity					Date	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise transport planning objectives and refine options – 					Nov to Dec 2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder engagement 					Dec to Jan 2024	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess against STAG criteria, establish cost to govt and undertake risk/uncertainty analysis 					Jan to Feb 2024	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit final report 					March 2024	
Risks					Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complexity of appraisal process – number of revisions needed takes time 						
Issues					Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme delay 						

6. Marketing and Communications

A communication and engagement plan has begun to be developed with initial understanding of objectives and scope to be determined. The communication and engagement plan will be based on the key strategic objectives of the RTS. Project-specific communications activities will be developed and delivered with their respective objectives.

7. Funding

Summary of additional funding in current financial year.

Funding Body	Title	Amount
Transport Scotland	Active Travel Grant	£467,500
Paths for All	Smarter Choices Smarter Places – GOSEStran	£100,000
Paths For All	Active Nation	£100,300
Paths for All	Smarter Choices Smarter Places – Thistle A	£40,000
Transport Scotland	Active Travel Transformation Fund - Design Support	TBC
Transport Scotland	Community Bus Fund	£150,000
Total		£857,800

Proposals being developed.

Funding Body	Title	Submitted
Innovate UK	Artificial Intelligence and Bus Forecasting	Nov 2023
Horizon Europe	Sustainable Freight	TBC

8. Meetings & Forums Update

A meeting with the Scottish Transport Minister has been arranged to the 31st of January 2024. The purpose of the meeting is to highlight the work done on the GoSEStran MaaS app in partnership with East Lothian Council, and to showcase the new Demand Responsive Transport Service in the area run by Prentice Coaches and The Routing Company. Both pilots were partly funded by the MaaS Investment Fund from Transport Scotland. The second half of the meeting with the transport minister is dedicated to the Chair and Vice Chairs of SEStran Board to highlight the key transport challenges in the region and the work SEStran are doing to meet the national and regional transport objectives.

Integrated Mobility Forum: aims to facilitate discussions between stakeholders to make progress in reducing the number of single occupancy car journeys, maximise the use of public transport and maximise active travel opportunities. The forum meets twice a year and is open to all. Last Meeting 5th October 2023

Logistics and Freight Forum: aims to support economic growth and resilience across the region by developing, promoting and implementing sustainable business and distribution solutions. The forum meets twice a year and is open to all. Last Meeting 21st November 2023

Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum: aims to deliver our Equality Outcomes and legislative requirement to consult Health Boards and those who represent those with or who share a protected characteristic. The forum meets twice a year and is open to all. Last Meeting 28th September 2023