

PROJECTS AND STRATEGY PERFORMANCE REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report and its appendix update the Committee on the performance of the Partnership's strategy and project workstreams over the last quarter.
- 1.2 It was agreed at the Partnership's December Board meeting that project performance and progress against targets would, in future, be scrutinised by the Committee with any comments and concerns highlighted to the next Partnership Board as needed.

2 BUSINESS PLAN & FUTURE PERFORMANCE AND ISSUES REPORTING

- 2.1 The additional work on the new People and Place Active Travel programme has necessitated a delay in the development of the next Business Plan and subsequent monitoring format.
- 2.2 If the SEStran People & Place plan is approved by Transport Scotland (estimated mid to late March 2024) it will be a significant change in the funding and scale of work that the Partnership will be delivering. It is prudent that we align current workstreams with the new work and this will take some time to do post confirmation from Transport Scotland.
- 2.3 It is proposed that a new integrated business plan and monitoring framework be presented to the forthcoming Performance and Audit Committee in June and then to the subsequent Partnership Board.

3. KEY ISSUES AND FUNDING

- 3.1 Unless otherwise highlighted in 3.2 below all existing 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 £1,037,500 in additional funding so far in the 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 Committee is asked to:
 - a) Review the progress to date and discuss

- b) Note progress recorded in the past quarter, summarised in the attached Appendix
- c) Agree on the new timeline for an integrated Business Plan and monitoring approach

Keith Fiskien
Senior Partnership Manager
 1st March 2024

Appendix: SEStran Projects & Strategy Tracker – February 2024

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Policy Implications | Outlined project work contributes to the objectives identified within the SEStran Regional Transport Strategy. |
| Financial Implications | All project work is delivered 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 the creation of, or support for more sustainable transport options. |

Appendix 1: SEStran Projects and Strategy Activity Update – February 2024

Project Tracker

Key:

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 |
| Blue | Complete |

1. Active Travel

| Project Name | RTS Alignment | | | Start | End | Status |
|---|---------------|---|---|-------|---------------|---------------|
| SEStran Strategic Network | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2017 | 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 | |
| ▪ 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"> ▪ Communications – Social media promotion was successfully carried out to support the active travel consultations and drop-in events in Fife and Falkirk. was completed. ▪ Funding agreement signed with TS for additional £180,000 to progress Falkirk routes to point of being almost construction ready ▪ Funding application submitted to Sustrans Places for Everyone programme for 24/25 to enable all remaining design tasks to be completed prior to handover of project as construction ready to Falkirk Council ▪ Ongoing progress meetings with the consultant and Fife and Falkirk Council to monitor progress | | | | | | |
| Planned Activity | | | | | Date | |
| ▪ Promote virtual reality engagement rooms and input to consultation for Falkirk and Fife routes | | | | | February 2024 | |
| ▪ Engagement with Sustrans on 24/25 funding outcome | | | | | March 2024 | |
| ▪ Completion of current stage of work on Fife routes, and handover to Fife Council | | | | | March 2024 | |
| ▪ Completion of current commission of work on Falkirk routes, and finalisation of work required to complete in early 24/25 | | | | | March 2024 | |
| Risks | | | | | Status | |
| Funding timescales mean that programme is very compressed, leaving no time contingency if delays occur, which runs risk of underspend and/or additional funding being required in 24/25 to complete delayed tasks | | | | | | |
| Issues | | | | | Status | |
| None at this time | | | | | | |

| Project Name | RTS Alignment | | | Start | End | Status |
|---|---------------|---|---|-------|---------------|---------------|
| GO e-Bike Community Hubs | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2017 | Ongoing | |
| Summary of Project | | | | | | |
| 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 e-bike trial to employers. | | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| Review project data and produce final report | | | | | April 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 and have engaged with 3 large employers to run trials ▪ A series of one day employer trials will be run alongside the delivery of the promotional campaign ▪ Communications – An integrated promotional campaign is planned to go live on 18 March 2024. This campaign will run across social, digital and radio channels, with employer field events | | | | | | |
| Planned Activity | | | | | Date | |
| ▪ Increase engagement with community hubs | | | | | March 2024 | |
| ▪ Launch, monitor and evaluate awareness campaign | | | | | April 2024 | |
| Risks | | | | | Status | |
| Unable to deliver effective promotional campaign | | | | | | |
| 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 Invoice 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, 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. QMU will have a Brompton hire 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 Currently in discussion with Midlothian Council to identify a suitable site for a second locker | | | | | | | |
| Planned Activity | | | | | | Date | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule in Scottish Power to disconnect 2 sites | | | | | | March 2024 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for quotes from civils companies for work required to remove docking stations | | | | | | March 2024 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove existing system and transfer all assets to Hitrans | | | | | | March 2024 | |
| Risks | | | | | | Status | |
| Delay in identifying suitable site for second locker | | | | | | | |
| Issues | | | | | | Status | |
| 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 |
| ▪ Identify 23 camera locations for monitoring and identify relevant assets and required permissions | | | | | November 2023 | |
| ▪ Request for quotes for electric hook-up of cameras | | | | | November 2023 | |
| ▪ Cameras operational and monitoring started | | | | | March 2024 | |
| Activity since last report | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5 remaining cameras sites have been reviewed In Midlothian and with Vivacity, awaiting final decision to ensure they are best locations ▪ Contractor working to connect cameras to power planned completion by March 2024 | | | | | | |
| Planned Activity | | | | | Date | |
| ▪ Finalise sites for remaining 5 cameras | | | | | March 2024 | |
| ▪ Complete installation and connection of all cameras | | | | | March 2024 | |
| ▪ Share information from camera feeds with Cycling Scotland Open data portal once cameras are connected | | | | | March 2024 | |
| Risks | | | | | Status | |
| ▪ 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.</p> <p>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. | | | | | Apr 22 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training on new content management system completed with local authority representatives. | | | | | Aug 23 | |
| <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. | | | | | Apr 22 | |
| Activity since last report | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fife is surveying new sites for additional e-ink screens and the new Levenmouth rail link – screens have been ordered and are being prepared for installation Lothian Bus data integration work is progressing – testing of new API underway 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 Midlothian has placed an order for 32 new screens Scottish Borders have completed procurement for new screens and the installation is progressing | | | | | | |
| Planned Activity | | | | | Date | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install Midlothian 32-inch and Fife e-ink screens | | | | | March 2024 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to 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 | | | | | March 2024 | |
| <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. ▪ 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 ▪ A temporary mitigation for the above has been implemented with the screens directing the public to the Lothian Buses app and website which is providing accurate real time data for their services. | |

| 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 | |
| ▪ Second round of local authority training complete | | | | | Feb 2024 | |
| Activity since last report | | | | | | |
| ▪ Working with Local Authorities on designing a new module for bus stop integration. | | | | | | |
| ▪ Local authority officers from within the SEStran region participated in an online training course covering an introduction to the system facilitated by Trapeze, this included a number of new officers which will help increase capacity within this area for local authorities and increase the system resilience | | | | | | |
| Planned Activity | | | | | Date | |
| ▪ Develop new bus stop management and mapping module with LAs & Trapeze | | | | | Q1 2024 | |
| ▪ Plan the next round of training | | | | | March 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 | TBC | |
| 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 multi-model transport appraisal builds on work already undertaken by the NTSG and focuses 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 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Case or Change and Initial Options work completed | | | | | 2021 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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"> ▪ Met with Transport Scotland in January to discuss comments on the revised report ▪ The project team has been working with consultants SYSTRA on a response to TS | | | | | | |
| Planned Activity | | | | | Date | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop plan with budget for an addendum to the report to present to TS | | | | | Feb 2024 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Newburgh Train Station Group to hold public information event in March | | | | | March 2024 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meet with Transport Scotland to review responses to questions raised | | | | | April 2024 | |
| Risks | | | | | Status | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transport Scotland does not approve the next stage of work | | | | | | |
| Issues | | | | | Status | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 became 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 are 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 Tayside, 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"> • Novation Agreement signed, to assign the contract for the MaaS platform over to Ember instead of Fuse Mobility. | | | | | | February 2024 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SEStran welcomed the Minister for Transport to East Lothian to see a demonstration of the GoSEStran app and to discuss the next steps for MaaS in Scotland. | | | | | | January 2024 | |
| 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, other MaaS pilots and MaaS Scotland for plans for multi-year funding and future of the pilots. ▪ Conversations are ongoing with the Smart Ticketing Board and the Traveline & Trapeze team about how the work from all projects 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. | March 2024 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to funding and Board approval, proceed with procurement process and select platform for after March 2024 and hosting supplier and any other parties necessary to move IMPs project forward on multi-funded basis. | March 2024 |
| Risks | Status |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of funding to proceed. Mitigation is to continue discussions with potential funders. A bid has been submitted to SCSP and conversations are ongoing with Transport Scotland to encourage national funding for MaaS. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confusion with other apps e.g. Traveline, Google, Citymapper. Focus is on emphasising differences/advantages of genuine MaaS products 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 and successful developed IMPs, the challenge is now to develop a governance structure and working relationships with other public bodies to provide a multi-party funded model for the 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. | | | | | | March 2023 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated the new DDRT service in East Lothian in March 2023, and the DRT Berwickshire service in Scottish Borders into the GoSEStran MaaS app. | | | | | | March 2023 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After evaluating the 109-DRT pilot, a decision has been made with Prentice Coaches and East Lothian Council to withdraw the tech due to the cost and lack of passenger uptake. Prentice Coaches will continue to run the service as DRT offering users chance to book via the phone or email, instead of booking app. | | | | | | March 2024 | |
| 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. Communications: Key partners are being engaged to discuss the transition away from DDRT in 24/25 and the relevant communication requirements. | | | | | | | |
| 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. | | | | | | Ongoing | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. | | | | | | Bid submitted to EU-Horizon with Ride Tandem January 2023. Awaiting response. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue discussions with Scottish Borders Council to explore funding opportunities to support the extension of the PINGO service in Berwickshire after March 2024. | | | | | | March 2024 | |
| 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. | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low passenger uptake. | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No national leadership on analysing DRT pilots, or providing ongoing funding and resource support. SEStran continue discussions with Transport Scotland and the Department for Transport to encourage more of a national leadership for DRT. | | | | | | | |
| Issues | | | | | | Status | |

- 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 the 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 | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentireal are working through enhancements to the platform due to be complete end February Sentireal have met with 2 potential developers who are interested in working on VoyagAR in the future Creative design of marketing materials is in development. | | | | | | | |
| Planned Activity | | | | | | Date | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop the system with Sentireal – fine-tuning and enhancements. | | | | | | Feb 2024 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise the launch of the app with marketing materials. | | | | | | April 2024 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Anderson Strathern develop a legal approach to transfer the system and intellectual property from Sentireal to a new developer. | | | | | | Feb 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 illnesses. 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 the programme with new creative and website | | | | 2021 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New app developed | | | | 2021 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guide for transport operators developed | | | | 2022 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mailout system for card distribution in place | | | | 2022 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National yearly budget agreed with all RTPs contributing | | | | 2020 | |
| 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 ▪ Key stakeholders are being engaged to understand how staff employees are being engaged and made aware of the campaign. | | | | | |
| Planned Activity | | | | Date | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop new stakeholder engagement plan to increase awareness with key stakeholders | | | | May 2024 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utilise launch of the new journey planner VoyagAR (see item in technology section) | | | | March 2024 | |
| 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 | | | | | | Sep 22 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scottish Ministers approved RTS | | | | | | Mar 23 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SEStran Partnership Board approved and adopted new RTS | | | | | | Mar 23 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Programme Investment Plan (PIP) baseline work complete | | | | | | 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 ▪ Develop action plan matrix and integrate into 2024 to 2027 SEStran Business Plan | | | | | | | |
| Planned Activity | | | | | | Date | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop RTS Delivery Plan with ESECRD; ▪ Create single source of truth of data and update with local authorities ▪ Develop matrix ▪ Start mapping baseline & Gap analysis ▪ Set up working group ▪ Decide what is 'Regional' and what is 'Cross-boundary' – need to agree criteria ▪ Gather thinking on funding models for projects. | | | | | | Mar 2025 | |
| Risks | | | | | | Status | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding not available for specific actions within the plan | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Changing national or political priorities, less aligned to the RTS This is mitigated by refreshing the RTS at regular intervals. | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Actions are superceded by events or others' activities. This is mitigated by refreshing the RTS at regular intervals. | | | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| ▪ Agree on structure, governance and funding | | | | | Mar 24 | |
| ▪ Approval to proceed to delivery via the Concordat between SEStran and the ESESCRD | | | | | Apr 24 | |
| ▪ Task force formed to progress delivery | | | | | Apr 24 | |
| ▪ Task force ready to issue tender for Charge Point Operators | | | | | Oct 24 | |
| ▪ Award contract to successful CPO | | | | | May 25 | |
| ▪ Handover to appointed CPO complete | | | | | Dec 25 | |
| Activity since last report | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Received agreement from the 8 local authorities plus Dumfries & Galloway to progress a collaborative approach to the procurement of public EV charging infrastructure ▪ Commissioned Urban Foresight to begin work on a regional EV Delivery Plan ▪ Developed draft Project Initiation Document and governance structure to support a regional approach to procurement of public EV charging infrastructure | | | | | | |
| Planned Activity | | | | | Date | |
| ▪ EV Forum meeting to begin work to clearly define the Project Initiation Document prior to review by the City Region Directors | | | | | 27/02/24 | |
| ▪ City Region Directors meeting to agree to proceed in line with the Project Initiation document | | | | | 04/04/24 | |
| ▪ Set up a task force in line with the structure agreed | | | | | April 2024 | |
| Risks | | | | | Status | |
| ▪ Timescale for completion of first tender phase are comparatively short and set by TS | | | | | | |
| ▪ Limited resource in some LAs to take forward work around EVs and therefore actively participate in the regional approach | | | | | | |
| ▪ 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. Grant award from Transport Scotland Community Bus Fund for £150K to undertake the work. | | | | | June 2023 | |
| Activity since last report | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement for consultant support for the project undertaken using Scottish Govt. framework. Appointed consultant, Systra/ Stantec | | | | | | |
| Planned Activity | | | | | Date | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Package 1 Case for Change Work Package 2 Options Appraisal Work Package 3 Strategy Development Work Package 4 Finalise Strategy & Consultation As part of this, we have considered the role of bus in improving transport to health, which will be its own project in 2024/25 | | | | | Aug 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"> Guidance from Scottish Government delayed | | | | | | |

| 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 | | | | | 2022 | |
| Activity since last report | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Diageo & Forth Ports to discuss options (multi user freight train) Developing workshop plan with AECOM | | | | | | |
| Planned Activity | | | | | Date | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise transport planning objectives and refine options | | | | | Ongoing | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder engagement - workshop | | | | | March 2024 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess against STAG criteria, establish cost to govt and undertake risk/uncertainty analysis | | | | | March 2024 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit a final report to TS | | | | | 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. Communications and Marketing

Communications and marketing's primary aim remains to develop and maintain a robust presence across digital platforms. As well as engaging external stakeholders through proactive meetings to establish or build relationships.

SEStran-owned channels have started to be utilised with great effect. The ongoing focus on organic social media activity is focused on providing regular updates on project development and ensuring timely engagement with key stakeholders. Our SEStran's website is undergoing updates to reflect the latest activities including business updates.

External stakeholder engagement remains a primary focus in our communication approach. We are actively meeting with key stakeholders associated with Thistle Assistance, GO e-Bike, DRT, and MaaS, building relationships based on reliability, and consistency.

Additional communication activities are geared towards improving the organisation's agility and recognition. This involves creating recognisable brand assets, and elevating SEStran's profile among external stakeholders. This includes the development of virtual meeting backgrounds and customisable social media assets.

As part of our business plan, the development of a communication and engagement plan is underway. Aligned with the key strategic objectives of the RTS, this plan encompasses project-specific communication activities tailored to their respective goals.

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 Assistance | £40,000 |
| Transport Scotland | Active Travel Transformation Fund - Design Support | £180,000 |
| Transport Scotland | Community Bus Fund | £150,000 |
| Total | | £1,037,300 |

Proposals that are being developed:

| Funding Body | Title | Submitted |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| DFT Catapult | Rural Accelerator (Catapult) | Feb 2024 |
| Horizon Europe | Sustainable Freight | Sep 2024 |

8. Meetings & Forums Update

A meeting with the Scottish Transport Minister took place on the 31st of January 2024. The meeting highlighted 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 focussed on discussions with the Chair and Vice Chairs of the 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 the 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