

NORTH EAST TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Transport Partnership

Aberdeen, 12 December, 2012

Present: Councillor Argyle (Chairperson); Councillor Milne (Deputy Chair); Eddie Anderson (Deputy Chair); and Councillors Finlayson, Grant, and McCaig (Aberdeen City Council), Councillors Buchan, Clark, and Latham (Aberdeenshire Council) and Maggie Bochel (Adviser to the Board).

In attendance: Tom Buchan (Aberdeenshire Council), Rebecka Coull (Aberdeen City Council), Rab Dickson (Nestrans), Kirsty Morrison (Nestrans), and Derick Murray (Nestrans).

Apologies: Stephen Archer (Adviser to the Board), Jennifer Craw (External Member), Derek Provan (External Member), and David Sullivan (External Member).

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be located at the following link:

<http://www.nestrans.org.uk/48/board-meetings.html>

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 9 October, 2012.

The Board resolved:

to approve the minute as a correct record.

LIAISON BETWEEN REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS AND THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS

2. With reference to article 2 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 October, 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided an update on liaison with other Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs), the Scottish Government and others.

The meetings included –

- ACSEF Holyrood Reception in Edinburgh on 2 October, 2012
- Regional Transport Partnership Lead Officers' meetings in Perth on 3 October, 2012, in Glasgow on 1 November, 2012 and in Aberdeen on 14 November, 2012
- Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group in Aberdeen on 12 October, 2012
- Department for Transport/ Transport Scotland seminar on Aviation Consultation in Glasgow on 12 October, 2012

- Fast Track Group (High Speed Rail) in Glasgow on 15 October, 2012
- Transport Scotland seminar on High Speed Rail in Glasgow on 12 and 13 November, 2012
- Transport Scotland in relation to the dualling of A9 and A96 in Inverness on 12 October, 2012
- Scottish Government/ Nestrans/ Councils on Smart ticketing in Aberdeen on 16 October, 2012
- Scottish Parliament All Party Group on Aviation in Edinburgh on 31 October, 2012.

The Board discussed at length the A9 and A96 proposals, and the newly proposed high speed rail link between Glasgow and Edinburgh. The Board intimated its disappointment at this announcement. The Director also advised that the Chef du Cabinet for Transport in the European Union parliament had indicated he was keen to visit and north and north east of Scotland to hear directly what the issues are, and that a visit was currently being programmed.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to note progress on liaison arrangements with other Regional Transport Partnerships, the Scottish Government, and others;
- (ii) to note the arrangements for future meetings as detailed within the report;
- (iii) to note that the Director was to write to Transport Scotland to state that it was the view of officers and the Board that when the A96 is upgraded, that this should include a retrospective refit of the junctions at Blackburn and Kintore; and
- (iv) to note that the Director was to write to Transport Scotland to state that it was the view of officers and the Board that if the upgrades of the A9 and A96 include a provision for grade separated junctions, that this strengthens the case for a grade separated junction at Laurencekirk.

PRESENTATION BY ABERDEEN INSPIRED

3. The Board heard from Alan Bree, Project Manager for Aberdeen Inspired (previously Aberdeen Business Improvement District), who outlined the footprint of the BID, the businesses included and the Board of Directors; and spoke through the themes of the project.

The Board listened with interest and asked a number of questions of Mr Bree. The Chair thanked Mr Bree for attending.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY REFRESH

4. With reference to article 4 of the minute of its meeting of 29 August, 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Director which brought members up to date with the refresh of the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) that was being undertaken, and advised as to the consultation that had been undertaken to date.

The report advised that the next steps were as follows –

- to review and take on board the consultation responses

- to undertake an environmental assessment of the proposed changes to the RTS and the alternatives, as per the SEA guidelines
- to undertake an equalities impact assessment of the proposed changes to the RTS and the alternatives
- report the Environmental Report and proposed RTS to the Board in February 2013 for approval
- to submit the Environmental Report and proposed RTS to the SEA consultation authorities for comments as well as making this available to the public
- refer the RTS and Environmental Report to the two Councils for consideration
- take on board the comments of the SEA consultation authorities and partner Councils
- submit the RTS to Scottish Ministers for approval.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to note the content of the report; and
- (ii) to approve the proposed next steps as outlined above.

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND – UPDATE

5. With reference to article 4 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 October, 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Director which brought members up to date on the implementation of the Strategic Transport Fund further to the adoption of the guidance “Delivering Identified Projects through a Strategic Transport Fund”.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to note the update on payments into the Strategic Transport Fund; and
- (ii) to agree the amended timescales for consultation, as detailed within the report.

NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 3

6. The Board had before it a report which had been prepared for the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA), which presented proposed responses to Scottish Government consultations on the National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy. Appended to the report was (1) a note of the joint SDPA/ Nestrans seminar on 9 November, 2012; (2) a draft response to the National Planning Framework 3 – Early Engagement; (3) National Planning Framework – National Development Submissions; (4) a draft response to the Scottish Planning Policy Review consultation; (5) the “Directions for Growth” document published by Aberdeen Harbour; and (6) a stakeholders summary report which had been collated to inform a Development Framework for South Peterhead.

Officers advised that a discussion would be had at the meeting of the SDPA on Friday 14 December, 2012 around whether Aberdeen Airport should be included as a National Development.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to concur with the view of the SDPA at its meeting of 14 December, 2012 in relation to whether Aberdeen Airport should be included as a National Development;
- (ii) subject to the above, to agree appendices 2 – 4 as responses to the Scottish Government consultations

ANDERSON DRIVE – LOCKING IN THE BENEFITS STUDY

7. The Board had before it a report by the Director which informed members of the Anderson Drive – Locking in the Benefits Study which could be accessed via the Nestrans members' site.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to approve the principle of the findings within the draft study to allow the report to be finalised and published; and
- (ii) to remit the study to Aberdeen City Council for consideration along with a recommendation that the proposed changes to the existing signalised junctions on Anderson Drive at Great Western Road and Westburn Road be progressed for implementation so that they are in place for the opening of the AWPR.

PROGRESS REPORT

8. With reference to article 5 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 October, 2012, the Board had before it a progress chart summarising the work in the three sub strategies of the Regional Transport Strategy as at 6 December, 2012.

The Board resolved:

to note the content of the progress chart.

PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

9. With reference to article 6 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 October, 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Director which summarised and advised on a number of different publications and consultations as follows and sought approval of draft responses as appropriate –

- Network Rail (Route Utilisation Strategies): Alternative Solutions
- Maidencraig Masterplan and Loirston Development Framework

The Board resolved:

to note the report and the documents referred to therein.

NORTH EAST TRANSPORT CONSULTATIVE FORUM

10. The Board had before it a report by the Director which presented information on the outcomes from the most recent meeting of the North East Transport Consultative Forum which was held at Woodhill House on 30 October, 2012.

The Board resolved:

to note the content of the report.

BOARD MEETING DATES – 2013

11. The Board had before it a report by the Director which presented proposed dates of meetings for 2013.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to approve the dates as follows (all meetings to commence at 2pm in Woodhill House) –
- Wednesday 20 February, 2013
 - Wednesday 17 April, 2013
 - Wednesday 12 June, 2013
 - Wednesday 28 August, 2013
 - Wednesday 30 October, 2013; and
- (ii) to note that a date for the December meeting would be agreed at a later date.

BUDGET MATTERS

12. With reference to article 8 of the minute its previous meeting of 9 October, 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which provided an update on spend and programming of the Partnership's 2012/13 budget and forecast outturn in this regard, and outlined a number of virements for both the capital and revenue budgets as follows –

Proposed capital adjustments –

RTS Strand	Approved Budget (£)	TS funding	Proposed Virement	New Budget (£)
Strategic Road - Safety Improvements	190,000			190,000
Strategic Road - Prioritised Maintenance	450,000		40,000	490,000
Bus Improvements	760,000	15,000	65,971	840,971
Transport Interchange	100,000		(100,000)	0
Walking and Cycling	619,000	12,471	(7,471)	624,000
Various	13,000		1,500	14,500
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,132,000</i>	<i>27,471</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2,159,471</i>

Proposed revenue adjustments –

Budget Headings	Approved Budget (£)	TS funding	Proposed Virement	New Budget (£)
Core Costs	505,780			505,780
Health and Transport Action Plan	25,000			25,000

Bus Action Plan	114,570		(9,000)	105,570
Rail Action Plan	71,000	22,529	(71,000)	22,529
Freight Action Plan	40,000			40,000
General	10,000		80,000	90,000
Project Feasibility and Monitoring	175,000			175,000
Contingency	10,000			10,000
Travel Planning	75,000			75,000
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,026,350</i>	<i>22,529</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1,048,879</i>

The Board resolved:

- (i) to note the monitoring position and forecast;
- (ii) to note the additional £50,000 funding received from Transport Scotland from developer contributions for sustainable transport measures (in lieu of physical migration) in the Dyce area of Aberdeen; and
- (iii) to approve the proposed budget virements detailed within the report.

2013/14 FUNDING

13. The Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which outlined the capital and revenue funding requests for 2013/14.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to instruct the Director to write to the local authorities outlining the Board's considerations and to request that contributions be allowed for in the Councils' budgets; and
- (ii) to instruct that a further report be brought to the next meeting detailing the proposed 2013/14 capital and revenue budget expenditure.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

14. With reference to article 9 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 October 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided information and updates for the Board on a number of matters not requiring a decision as follows –

- AWPR decision
- Dyce station update
- A947 Parkhill – Banff Route Study Report
- Aviation Update
- New Aberdeen – Heathrow Service
- HGV and road users survey
- Nestrans' press releases

In particular the Board welcomed the Supreme Court decision taken in relation to the AWPR.

The Board resolved:

to note the information as presented

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

15. With reference to article 10 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 October, 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Director summarising recent and forthcoming conferences of interest to the Partnership along with presentations by Nestrans and its partners.

The Board resolved:

to note the information as presented.

PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

16. With reference to article 11 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 October, 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Director detailing pending business and information on reports to be submitted to future Board meetings.

The Board resolved:

to note the information.

AOCB

17. (A) Taxis

Vice Chairperson Milne advised that he had been approached by constituents concerned about a lack of sheltered waiting areas, and a lack of taxis at both Aberdeen Airport and Aberdeen Railway Station.

The Director undertook to circulate a briefing in relation to taxis at the railway station, and contact the airport regarding the concerns raised and advise members of the outcome of this in due course.

(B) Harbour Tour

The Director advised that Colin Parker (Chief Executive, Aberdeen Harbour Board), had offered to take members on a tour of the harbour by boat. The Board intimated it was minded to accept this offer.

(C) Regional Transport Partnerships/ Scottish Government Working Group

The Director reminded members that the above document had recently been circulated and requested that members provide any comments they had on the paper to the Director in the next few days.

- **PETER ARGYLE, Chairperson.**