

Strategy -

3a Director's report on liaison between RTPs, and with the Scottish Government and Others

- Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on liaison with other RTPs and with the Scottish Government and other organisations.

- Background

This report details meetings with other RTP's across Scotland, Transport Scotland and other national transport bodies highlighting issues of interest across Scotland. It also notes meetings of the Health and Transport Steering Group and the Local Authority Bus Operators Forum.

- Recent Developments

The last Board meeting was held on 20 February 2013, since which the following meetings have been held (or just prior to the last Board, in which case written updates were not available at the time, but have now been included for completeness):

- ❖ **Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Aviation, Edinburgh, 27 February 2013**

The second meeting of this group discussed:

- Air Passenger Duty (APD)
 - The Group had received a letter from the treasury in response to the Group's letter requesting a review of APD and consideration of devolving APD to the Scottish Government
 - The response set out a case for the continuation of APD and its place in the overall tax regime of the country and suggested a number of respondents were concerned about devolving APD given the potential to distort markets
 - The Group discussed a report by PWC which was commissioned by the major airlines. The PWC report highlights:
 - The UK has the highest rate of APD in Europe at double that of the next highest (Germany)
 - APD distorts business decisions
 - If APD were abolished it would increase GDP by ½% resulting in a net increase in tax take for the Government
 - A 50% cut would pay for itself in 5 years
 - The Group agreed to write to the Treasury and ask for someone to attend the next meeting of the Group
- Route Development Fund

- Scottish Enterprise are reviewing a route development fund with particular attention to state aid rules
 - Scottish Enterprise believe that a route development fund may be permissible for the regional airports to EU airports (i.e. Aberdeen, Inverness, Prestwick and HIAL)
 - Glasgow airport expressed a view that Prestwick shouldn't receive assistance that wasn't available to Glasgow
 - Noted that Keith Brown suggested at the Aberdeen Aviation summit that Nicola Sturgeon may be making an announcement soon on route development fund
 - No announcement has yet been made
 - The Group agreed to ask Keith Brown to clarify the current situation
 - Scottish Enterprise are to prepare a briefing note
- US Border controls at UK Airports
- Whether this could be introduced in Scotland to match the service in Dublin
 - Glasgow have investigated this in the past
 - Very expensive to operate
 - Not received well in the US due to cost implications
 - Edinburgh would operate a system if the US were keen and it was affordable but this seems unlikely
 - Not relevant to Aberdeen at this time
 - The Group decided to write to US consulate to ask their view
- Festive period performance
- The airports described how business levels had been over the festive period
 - Most airports reported that the festive period wasn't a particularly heavy period with summer being a larger impact.
 - Agreed that the Country needs to work on a year round proposition for inbound tourism
- Regional access to Heathrow
- The airlines current and proposed schedules, following the IAG takeover of BMI were discussed
 - Nestrans and Aberdeen Airport suggested that the Group should write to the Airports Commission to highlight Scotland's requirement for access and to invite the Commission to Scotland
 - BA highlighted the night time flying consultation noting a significant number of passengers arrive at Heathrow to catch the first flights to Scotland

❖ RTP Chairs meeting, Inverurie, 6 March 2013

The RTP Chairs received a presentation from Ian Jessiman of Aberdeen Harbour Board on the Harbour Board's plans for extension.

The meeting discussed:

- Access to London Strategy
 - The Chairs had written to the Department for Transport suggesting that air, high speed rail and East and West Coast franchises needed to be

considered within the context of an overall access to London strategy. They received a reply dated 30 January 2013 noting the Davies Commission Inquiry and agreeing that a coherent overarching strategy was required. It also noted that the Department for Transport will be publishing a "Transport Strategy" in the spring.

- The Chairs agreed to welcome the strategy and the invitation to discuss the strategy but to also question the consultation on the development of the strategy.
- The Chairs agreed to continue to be involved with Transport Futures.
- Bus issues
 - The Chairs discussed various bus issues including progress with the Bus Investment Fund, Bus registration, Quality Partnerships and Contracts and Ian Gray MSP's Private Members Bill on bus regulation
 - The Chairs agreed these as topics for discussion with CPT in the afternoon.
 - The Chairs received an update from the Bus Stakeholders group including noting the establishment of a Bus Registration working group.
- Rail issues
 - The Chairs discussed the high speed rail proposals for Manchester/ Leeds, the rail franchise process and community rail partnerships
 - The Chairs agreed that the Scottish Partnership Group should be reconvened as soon as possible and to request to Transport Scotland that this happens. *(As a post meeting note this group has been reconvened for 22 April)* The inclusion of a possibility of stopping through trains at Edinburgh was noted as was Transport Scotland's work on Edinburgh to Glasgow HSR line. Cllr Argyle noted the need to keep an all Scotland voice on HSR.
 - The Chairs discussion on the rail franchise process centred on the Transpennine route and East Coast route. There was concern that additional local services could be added to the long distance franchises and that in Transpennine case that service could be added to the Northern franchise. The Chairs considered the East Coast Mainline Authorities Group and expressed concern regarding the groups seeming ambitions for franchising and including local services and agreed to write to the Group. They noted the RTP status as observers as unhelpful.
 - The Chairs noted the recent Government conference on Community Rail Partnerships.
- Airports Commission
 - The Chairs noted the Commissions timetable and agreed to submit a joint RTP response to supplement the individual RTP submissions.
- Cycling Action Plan for Scotland
 - The Chairs agreed a joint RTP response to the proposals.
- Health and Transport
 - The Chairs noted the progress with the Short Life Working Group and the meetings with the Scottish Ambulance Service and agreed to invite the SAS to a future meeting after publication of the short life working group report.
- RTP's/ SG working paper
 - The Chairs noted the paper and requested that it be viewed as a continually evolving paper to be used to advise future meetings with Transport Scotland. The paper is to be finalised at this time and agreed with the Minister.
- COSLA liaison – Report on Proposals and Policies
 - The Chairs considered a COSLA report on the Governments RPP2. It was agreed to support the COSLA report and subsequently an RTP

response was submitted noting support for COSLA and giving further detail on Transport issues.

- Draft National Tourism Development Plan
 - The Chairs agreed a joint RTP response to the draft Plan.
- Mobility and Access Committee Scotland
 - The chairs agreed to invite the Chair of MACS to the September meeting
- Roads Policing
 - There was some discussion on roads policing. The Chairs agreed to receive a paper following a SCOTS meeting on 17 May where this will be discussed.

The Chairs met with the Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT) following their own meeting. This meeting covered a wide range of issues exploring the industry view on issues and the common ground for taking matters forward. Issues discussed included:

- Concessionary travel
- Bus Service Operators Grant
- Bus reliability
- Smart ticketing
- Travel information
- Health and Transport
- Park and Ride
- Bus Stakeholders Group
- Ian Gray MSP's Private Members Bill

❖ **Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group, Aberdeen, 8 March 2013**

The HTAP Steering Group met at the Nestrans' office in Aberdeen on Friday 8th March. The minute of the meeting is attached as Appendix A for members' information.

❖ **LABOF Steering Group, Aberdeen, 13 March 2013**

The Steering Group of the Local Authorities/Bus Operators' Forum met at the Nestrans' office in Aberdeen on Wednesday 13th March. The minute of the meeting is attached for members' information as Appendix B.

❖ **ScotRail, Aberdeen, 14 March 2013**

Since the last meeting of the Board, there have been a number of meetings regarding progressing rail improvements in the north east. Rab Dickson and Maggie Bochel met with Des Bradley and Chris Hassall of ScotRail's Commercial Projects team on Friday 8th March to discuss proposals at Dyce (which are the subject of a separate item on this agenda) and on Thursday 14th March, Rab Dickson and Derick Murray met with Jerry Farquharson, ScotRail's Director of Business Planning. This meeting covered a wide range of issues including the Sunday enhancements to Inverurie, possible timetable improvements from May 2014 as part of First's continuation agreement extending their franchise through to March 2015 and a number of station issues including potential improvements at Dyce and Portlethen.

❖ **Scottish Parliament's Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee, Edinburgh, 20 March 2013**

The Parliament's Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee has been considering a remit from the Petitions Committee in respect of Laurencekirk junctions. This Committee was attended by Derick Murray & Ewan Wallace.

The Petitions Committee agreed in November 2012 to refer the petition calling for the Scottish Government to improve safety measures on the A90 by constructing a grade separated junction where the A937 crosses the A90 at Laurencekirk to the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee. This Committee requested that Transport Scotland, Nestrans, Aberdeenshire and Angus Councils and a Laurencekirk Community representative attend to give oral evidence. This evidence was heard on 20 March 2013 and the Committee agreed to further consider the petition at a future meeting.

The official report of the Committee hearing can be found at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7858&mode=pdf> in columns 1573 – 1604.

Evidence from Nestrans and Aberdeenshire Council concentrated on:

- There is a safety and capacity issue at the junctions
- The junction warrants grade separation now given the flows
- The road has 3 times the traffic anticipated on opening
- Transport Scotland proposals for grade separation on the A9 and to look again at the A96 junctions on already dualled section
- The development in Laurencekirk is at the north (as approved by the Local Development Plan Reporter) and developer contribution is most likely for this junction
- Current Planning advice is that developer contributions shouldn't be used to resolve existing problems i.e. the south junction
- Laurencekirk is anticipated to grow at significantly greater rate than the other towns and villages on the A90 corridor

Subsequent to the meeting Transport Scotland have been in contact with Nestrans and Aberdeenshire Council seeking a meeting to discuss further the issues raised during the evidence session.

❖ Scottish Parliament's Local Government and Regeneration Committee, Edinburgh, 27 March 2013

The north east's Health and Transport Steering Group had submitted evidence in response to a call from the Local Government and Regeneration Committee's consideration of how public services were being delivered differently in view of the restricted budgets and the Christie Commission's recommendations.

Written evidence was supplied detailing how:

- The footpath at Inch
- The bus interchange at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary
- The Information Centre at Elgin and
- The shared mail delivery service

had been implemented together with the operation of the H&T Steering Group noting how seven public sector bodies were working together to make improvements to service and to share budgets in providing those improvements.

Oral evidence was given to the Committee by Derick Murray and Alex Geddes on 27 March. The Official report of the Committee hearing can be found at: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7925&mode=pdf> in columns 1943 – 1973.

❖ **Transport Scotland, Aberdeen, 4 April 2013 re Haudagain**

Derick Murray and Maggie Bochel along with Joanna Murray met with Transport Scotland to discuss the Haudagain junction. Transport Scotland are in the process of appointing consultants to carry out the design of this junction with a view to having all design and order processes complete in time to allow a start of construction immediately following completion of the AWPR in spring 2018.

Discussion centred on the road construction being part of the overall regeneration proposals for the Middlefield area, the need to relocate tenants in a managed way and the need to manage empty property within the area to maintain a reasonable living environment.

After discussion Transport Scotland agreed to set up a Project Advisory Group to take an overview of the development of the scheme and to try and ensure that the regeneration message and development is taken forward in parallel with the road development and to foster the view that the two objectives are interlinked.

Nestrans and Aberdeen City Council are to be invited to attend the inception meeting with the appointed consultant in early May. The role and remit of the advisory group will be further considered at this meeting.

● Future Programme of Meetings

- ❖ **Transport Scotland, Aviemore, 17 April 2013 re A9 & A96 dualling**
- ❖ **Transport Scotland, Glasgow, 22 April 2013 re high speed rail partnership group**
- ❖ **RTP Lead Officers, Perth, 15 May 2013**
- ❖ **RTP Chairs meeting, Shetland, 5 June 2013**

● Recommendation

The Board is recommended to note progress on liaison arrangements with other RTPs, the Scottish Government and others and arrangements for future meetings.

RGM/RD 08 April 2013

HTAP Steering Group Meeting

Friday 8 March 2013

Nestrans Board Room. 29 King Street, Aberdeen

Present:

Gerry Donald; NHS Grampian [Chair]
 Derick Murray; Nestrans
 Rab Dickson; Nestrans
 Maggie Bochel; Aberdeen City Council
 Ewan Wallace, Aberdeenshire Council
 Ian Donald; Scottish Ambulance Service
 Allan Reid; Scottish Ambulance Service
 John Gallagher; NHS Grampian
 Gordon Holland, Moray Council

Apologies:

Alex Geddes (AG), HTAP Project Manager
 Jillian Evans; NHS Grampian
 Stewart Rogerson, NHS Grampian
 Karen Campbell-Gray, NHS Grampian
 Mark Skilling, Aberdeenshire Council
 Heather Kenny, Scottish Ambulance Service

Minutes of Meeting

Item	Note	Action
1	<p>Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>Gerry Donald welcomed all present, and apologies were noted.</p> <p>Gerry also noted that changes with the move to a Scottish Police Force had created some uncertainty regarding the continued secondment of the HTAP Programme Manager and that ongoing funding from the Scottish Government was looking increasingly unlikely. However, Gerry has discussed with Derick and agreement has been reached on funding to ensure the continuity of the post and if necessary by NHS Grampian offering a one year fixed term contract.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting of 18 December 2012 were accepted as a true record, subject to the addition of Ewan Wallace as an attendee.</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>The representation to the Local Government & Regeneration Committee of the Scottish Parliament had been submitted and was circulated with the papers for members' interest. A copy had also been submitted to Mark O'Donnell at the Scottish Government Health Department and a follow-up meeting requested. Gerry to chase a date to meet with Health Dept.</p> <p>HTAP will be asked to provide evidence to the Committee in Holyrood on 27 March – in Gerry's absence, Derick and Alex should attend.</p> <p>The Short-Life Working Group paper has now been discussed within the Health dept. and shared with Ministers, but still no timetable for publication.</p>	<p>GD</p> <p>DM/AG</p>

	<p>Gerry and Derick had visited THInC on 10 January and a second staff member (Heather Russell) has now been appointed. Gerry has since visited again and was complimentary regarding the staff and operation.</p> <p>Shared Delivery service – In Alex's absence, there was no update available, but Maggie will seek clarification on what's happening in the City and report back.</p>	MB
4	<p>Access to Healthcare</p> <p>Concern was expressed that the sub-group had not been meeting, with both November and December meetings cancelled. Ian indicated that it was hoped to arrange a meeting during March and to look again at membership of the sub-group. Gerry has raised his concerns with Heather Kenney.</p> <p>It was agreed that the 'ad hoc' arrangement wasn't working, that there should be monthly diared meetings, with a root and branch review of the group, its remit, membership, chairmanship and a full work programme produced for the coming year.</p> <p>Ian and Allan to progress and present at next HTAP.</p> <p>THInC – Ian indicated that the number of calls dealt with was now around 60 and although not large, did indicate a need. It had always been the intention to start small, and assess scale of demand before full launch. It was noted that the communications had worked well, effective with range of calls from GP referrals, SAS referrals as well as appointment letters. In next phase, it was felt that posters and patient cards might be worthwhile.</p> <p>Ian to speak to Alex about roll-out and consider appropriate date for going region-wide.</p> <p>John speaking to appointments people to further improve on the clarity of the letter to patients. It may be possible to link clearer letters to the full launch of THInC.</p> <p>Gordon noted that one of the key outputs should be to identify gaps in provision and that additional value of Hitrans' contribution should be clear.</p> <p>The THInC team may visit ARI to get a clearer picture of the issues and Ewan suggested they may also wish to meet the team at Aberdeenshire's PTU. Ian will discuss. Gerry asked that a formal acknowledgement be prepared to go to Hitrans, thanking them for their contribution. Alex to draft a letter for Gerry's signature.</p> <p>It was agreed that we should be doing what we can to make national media aware of the THInC. Alex to raise with Laura Grant of BIG. There is also an outstanding requirement to review the success and provide independent assessment of THInC, but RGU had not been able to provide support. Alex should raise with John Nelson at University of Aberdeen, ideally to provide evaluation before region-wide rollout.</p> <p>The next phase of developing the project is around making appointments with greater account of accessibility. John to speak to Alison Forest and feedback to next meeting on opportunities and the barriers. There is also a</p>	<p>ID/AR</p> <p>ID/AG</p> <p>JG</p> <p>ID</p> <p>AG/GD</p> <p>AG</p> <p>AG</p> <p>JG</p>

	<p>need to assess correlations, for example non-attendance by geographic areas (with transport gaps?) and the potential for zoning of appointments. Ian will ask THInC team to provide analysis.</p> <p>ARI leaflet – Rab tabled copies of an “Access to ARI by bus” leaflet which had been produced through Getabout. The Steering Group were very positive about the leaflet and were wholly supportive of the initiative. Rab indicated that the leaflet had been produced through the Local Authorities Bus Operators’ Forum, but that there was a need for support from HTAP for its distribution, future updates and reprints.</p> <p>John offered to take a box for distribution to outpatients and GP practices and to speak to Stewart Rogerson about the further distribution of the leaflets as well as the protocol for future reprints.</p>	<p>ID</p> <p>JG/SR</p>
5	<p>Active Lifestyle</p> <p>In the absence of Mark Skilling, Ewan reported that the two Councils are investing significantly and making good progress on Active Travel. Derick however noted the lack of any collective reporting mechanism and the need to report on the whole package, demonstrating the overall progress.</p> <p>It was agreed that Gerry should meet with each of the Sub-Group chairs, and emphasise the need for regular meetings and a work programme for the coming year from each group.</p>	<p>GD/MS</p>
6	<p>Links between Transport and Health</p> <p>In the absence of Jillian Evans, there was no update on this area of work. As above, it was agreed that Gerry should meet with the Sub-Group chair to consider the need for a work programme for the coming year.</p>	<p>GD/JE</p>
7	<p>Highlight Report</p> <p>Alex had circulated a report highlighting any areas requiring to be noted. The issue of the continuing use of Maryhill for the THInC was raised, but Gerry indicated that there was unlikely to be a problem as NHS Grampian had no immediate plans to change the use of the Health Centre.</p>	
8	<p>a) Air Quality Action Plan Progress Report - Aberdeen City Council’s report on Air Quality issues was circulated for information and was welcomed. Derick noted that there were further developments which may also contribute to improving air quality such as new stations, Park & Ride development and the Harbour proposals. Ewan stated that a statistic relating to the number of journeys into the City from Aberdeenshire should be included.</p> <p>It was noted that there is an opportunity for NHS Grampian to get more involved and Jillian should be encouraged to make contact with Aileen Brodie at ACC.</p> <p>b) Scottish Transport Awards 2013 – copies of the nominations relating to</p>	<p>JE</p>

	<p>Access to ARI and for HTAP in the category of partnership were circulated for information and noted.</p> <p>c) Short-Life Working Group Draft Report – Rab tabled a short summary of the key points contained in the Draft Report, which was noted.</p> <p>d) Citizens’ Panel Survey – Results of the Aberdeenshire Citizens’ Panel survey relating to Access to Healthcare were noted. Moray and Aberdeen City Council panels will be asked similar questions in the coming months. These should be reported to the next meeting.</p> <p>e) HTAP 2 – Rab had circulated a report noting that it is five years since the HTAP was produced and asking Steering Group to consider whether a review should be considered. The paper was welcomed and it was agreed that the timing was right to undertake a review, which should take the form of an update of the existing HTAP including an assessment of what had been achieved and where the priorities now lay.</p> <p>The idea of an external/independent review was discussed, but not supported. It was agreed to ask Alex, John and Rab to revisit the HTAP in partnership with other organisations and report back to a future meeting.</p>	<p>AG</p> <p>AG/JG/RD and others</p>
9	<p>AOCB</p> <p>There were no other items of business discussed.</p>	
10	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting should be held in May or June and should be held quarterly thereafter. Fridays are the preferred day with morning start.</p> <p>Alex to identify suitable dates and room availability.</p>	<p>AG</p>

RD/Nestrans/HTAP Steering Group/March 2013
11 March 2013

LABOF STEERING GROUP

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 13th March 2013

Nestrans Board Room, 29 King Street, Aberdeen

In Attendance: Derick Murray, Nestrans (DM), Rab Dickson, Nestrans (RD), Andrew Jarvis, Stagecoach Bluebird (AJ), Maggie Bochel, Aberdeen City Council (MB), Chris Cormack, Aberdeen City Council (CC), Ewan Wallace, Aberdeenshire Council (EW), Richard Mackenzie, Aberdeenshire Council (RMcK); Duncan Cameron, First (DC).

1. **Apologies:** Kirsty Chalmers, Nestrans (KC)

2. **Minutes of Meeting of LABOF Steering Group, 3rd December 2012**

The minute of the meeting on 3rd December was agreed, subject to one minor correction – the reference at item 8 relating to Park & Ride should state “A90”.

3. **Matters Arising**

Wi-fi – the issue relating to lack of availability of free wi-fi at Aberdeen Airport is still outstanding, although it is understood that the airport are looking into the possibility of providing a free service. **Action: DM**

Smart Ticketing – CC and Marion Mackay will meet with Transport Scotland on 14th March to progress the pilot initiative in the north east.

BIF – no announcement as yet, although it is understood that an announcement is due within the next month or so for a scheme within the financial year 2013/14. RTP suggestions are understood to have been taken on board.

DM highlighted that since the last meeting, there has now been commitment to construct AWPR and Balmedie-Tipperty dualling with Haudagain to follow; College Street upgrade and moves towards pedestrianisation, 3rd Don Crossing, A96 link road and Park & Ride site; Kintore railway station with Aberdeen-Inverness railway enhancements in the following five-year period. This aggregates to a £1 billion of funded and committed proposals, mostly over the next 5-6 years.

4. **BPIP Minutes**

The minutes of the Bus Punctuality Improvement Partnership meetings held on 1st February and 28th February were noted.

4a) Changes to national monitoring regime and operator feedback from VOSA

Stagecoach have now had three meetings with VoSA Bus Operations Accounts Managers (BOAMs) regarding them not achieving the 95% targets. It has been agreed that they should identify current levels of attainment and agree targets for improving performance. It was noted that departure and mid-point targets can now be amalgamated and that present data should be represented for review at next LABOF Executive meeting. Need to agree new report and submit to Transport Commissioner.

Action: Operators to provide up-to-date punctuality data to KC.

Action: KC to update BPIP report and recirculate for discussion at LABOF Executive.

4b) A96 corridor – Auchmill Road

DM expressed concern that the Executive was recommending extending the bus lane on Auchmill Road since the forthcoming investment in AWPR, Haudagain and 3rd Don Crossing will provide a considerable reduction in traffic which will make this investment unnecessary. Constructing an additional lane could take up to three years and could be expensive.

The group agreed to progress other elements of the A96 corridor package, focussing on short-term small-scale solutions which are complementary to the long-term major infrastructure investment. However, it was agreed to seek further information on the Auchmill Road proposal in the form of developing further detail, including an estimate of costs and likely impact.

Action: ACC to provide cost estimates, further detail on a possible bus lane and extract detail from the traffic model indicating the impacts, both at implementation and after construction of committed schemes.

Action: Executive to look at the whole corridor from Inverurie to City Centre to identify possible small scale interventions.

4c) Buchan/King Street Corridor: East North Street junction

A paper had been circulated, indicating that the BPIP group had identified this junction as a major constraint on buses. Although it was recognised that this is a complex junction and that proposals such as removing the left filter from King Street to East North Street could have implications for other traffic, it was agreed to investigate the operation of the junction and to seek proposals for enhancement.

Action: ACC signals team and traffic management team to be asked to investigate the potential for improvements at this junction which would offer improvements for buses.

4d) Review of bus lane hours of operation

A paper had been circulated which indicated that a review of bus lane operating hours had been considered and data was provided that operators' peak hours of operation had extended, there was evidence of peak spreading and that video surveys and traffic modelling confirmed the need to extend operational hours to provide effective bus priority. The Executive had recommended that the hours of bus lane operation on City roads other than Union Street should be amended to 07:00am to 09:30am and 3:00pm to 6:30pm.

Action: AJ and DC agreed to provide further information on journey times to support the body of evidence.

Action: MB/CC to seek further data from traffic counts and models and undertake further analysis with the intention of collating the evidence required to recommend extension of bus lane operating hours.

4e) Other Corridors and next priorities

There was some discussion regarding the need to identify the next corridors for consideration as BPIP priorities. Although Buchan/King Street and A96 corridors could not be described as complete, it was felt that it might be opportune to also consider other routes. Wellington Road was felt to necessitate urgent consideration and should be the subject of the next investigation.

Action: Executive to continue to progress initiatives on Buchan/King St and A96 corridors and to initiate consideration of Wellington Road corridor.

AJ asked about the junction on the A947 at Parkhill which can delay buses by up to 45 minutes, and EW offered to give further consideration to possible solutions and to revisit costs although he cautioned that previous investigations had indicated insurmountable difficulties. This situation will be resolved by the new alignment of the A947 included in AWPR contract.

Action: EW to investigate and report back

Any proposals should be developed and progressed - if Steering Group approval needed, this should be sought by email not waiting for the next meeting.

5. LABOF Executive Progress

A paper was circulated containing the minutes of the LABOF Executive meetings of 6th December 2012 and 17th January 2013 and a short report highlighting progress. The Steering Group noted the report and minutes.

6. AOCB

Locking in the Benefits – DM indicated that the work on Locking in the Benefits of the AWPR had focussed on Anderson Drive, giving consideration to the needs of cyclists, pedestrians and buses, including bus routes across Anderson Drive. He indicated that a review of the hierarchy of roads would be undertaken with priority changed to favour the arterial routes. Operators expressed a desire to get involved. It was emphasised that Park & Ride sites will need bus priorities to be successful and that Locking in the Benefits of all of the major infrastructure improvements proposed should be a prerequisite.

DM will be attending the Scottish Government's Local Government & Regeneration Committee on 27th March to present evidence regarding the Health & Transport Action Plan, but wished the group to note that this had linkages to the work of LABOF.

Operation of Bus Lanes – Nestrans has prepared a paper on the benefits of bus lanes, which will be presented to media next week in the hope of emphasising the importance of bus priority in aiding free flow of all traffic. As an example, AJ indicated that an estimated 540 passengers came in Auchmill Road every morning in the peak (DC subsequently indicated that a further 800 were using First buses in the peak). It is likely that the bus lane is carrying at least as many people as the two "all traffic" lanes at peak times.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Steering Group will be on **Thursday 4th July 2013** at 10:00am in the Nestrans office.

The next Executive Group meeting is on Thursday 11th April 2013 at 10am in the Nestrans office.

The next meeting of the BPIP Task Group will be on Thursday 16th May at 10:00am in the Nestrans office.

RD/14 March 2013