

Sub Strategy 1: The external connections strategy						® = MTS project
Strategy Strand RTS actions	Current Actions/ Progress			Future Actions/ Progress		Status
	Project/Action	Progress	Budget	To be done	Target	
<b>EC1 - Rail Links and Services</b>						
<b>EC1a:</b> Reducing journey times to Edinburgh and Glasgow, and further south.	East Coast Main Line Authorities	Manifesto launched 15 July 2014.	£10K - Revenue in 15/16	Budget approved for Nestrans contribution to <b>ECML Regional Forum.</b>		↑
	Rail Franchises	DfT took over ECML franchise on 14 Nov 09. Serco awarded contract for Caledonian Sleeper and 15 year franchise starts April 2015. Abellio to take over Scotrail franchise in April 2015 for 7-10 years. Inter City Railways, comprising Stagecoach and Virgin to be awarded the ECML franchise from Sunday 1 March 2015 for 8-9 years.		Arriva run CrossCountry to - <b>Abellio run Scotrail from 1 Apr 2015 to -</b> <b>Inter City (Virgin/ Stagecoach) run East Coast MainLine from 1 Mar 2015 to Serco run Caledonian Sleeper from 1 April 2015 to</b> Virgin to run West Coast franchise to -	Nov 2019 <b>Apr 2022/25</b> <b>Apr 2023/24</b> <b>Apr 2030</b> Apr 2017	
<b>EC2 - Strategic Roads</b>						
<b>EC2a:</b> Overcoming constraints on the network that have a direct impact on travel to/from the north east, such as the A90 through or around Dundee and dualling the A96 to Inverness.	Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route - Balmedie to Tippetty (AWPR-BT) ®	<b>Aberdeen Roads Limited (ARL) are implementing their mobilisation requirements. and have begun to carry out further environmental, geotechnical and topographical surveys. Planned permanent fencing works are due to commence soon. Third party advance works are nearing completion in readiness for commencement of the Main Works Contract. Additionally, the AWPR/B-T Construction Joint Venture is continuing to advertise various sub-contract opportunities on the AWPR/B-T microsite of the Public Contracts Scotland procurement portal.</b>	Contract Award late 2014	Continue to plan for packages of work to meet the programme for delivery.	Contract Award achieved.  Completion Winter 2017	↑

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	Laurencekirk Flyover	CH2M Hill appointed by Nestrans to undertake STAG/DMRB study in partnership with Transport Scotland (who contributed £100K) and Aberdeenshire Council. Angus Council and Tactran have joined client group. Project specific objectives agreed. Traffic surveys undertaken in March and May 2014.	£168.5K Capital Invoiced to date =£126.9K	Study information can be viewed on AC website. Deadline for commenting on outcomes to date closed 28 Feb and good response received. Responses to be included in Stag report, which is nearing completion. Further details in information bulletin.		↑
	A96 Dualling	The Scottish Gov's Infrastructure and Investment Plan set out the aim to dual the A96 (T) between Aberdeen and Inverness by 2030. Traffic surveys and economic appraisal undertaken. Project included within NPF3: Proposed Framework.		Transport Scotland held an A96 dualling non motorised users (NMU) forum in Aberdeen on 17 March.		↑
<b>EC4 - Connections by Sea</b>						
<b>EC4a:</b> Closer joint working through the North East Freight Forum.		A North East Ports Forum established. Ongoing discussions with Harbour Board and Zettrans. Meeting of NE Freight Forum held on 9 March and included formal launch of Freight Action Plan.		Issues to be channelled through the Freight Action Plan.		↑
<b>EC4b:</b> Improved access and facilities at ports and interchange with passenger ferries.	Fraserburgh Harbour	A grant of £7.57M has been announced from the European Fisheries Fund to deepen part of Fraserburgh Harbour to give access to more boats and improve local facilities.		The major deepening project of the North Harbour Basin is now almost complete with the final works of achieving the identified water draft availability of -4.7m at chart datum expected to conclude in the early Spring of 2015. This basin will be operational immediately post this.		↑

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<b>EC5 - Connections by Air</b>						
EC5a: Support expansion of direct destinations from Aberdeen and frequency of popular services.	New / improved routes	<b>Wizz Air to launch direct service between Aberdeen and Gdansk in Poland.</b>		Flights will start on 19 June as a twice weekly service, on Monday and Friday, and will be operated with a 180 seat <b>Airbus A320 aircraft.</b>		↑
	Aberdeen International Airport Improvements	£13M investment announced to redevelop the terminal. This will include expansion of departures lounge, new catering + retail opportunities, upgraded baggage belts, new security search area and increased executive lounge capacity. Work underway and will take 3 years with completion due in 2017. Works ongoing. New forecourt charging system came into effect on 7 January 2015		<b>New website launched on 17 Feb 2015 at <a href="http://www.aberdeenairport.com">www.aberdeenairport.com</a>. Along with info about the airport and the facility to book flights and parking, it also offers destination guides, travel tips and latest weather reports to help passengers choose their holiday destination. The new 'My Flights' functionality allows users to 'pin' one or more live flights to their browser to provide up to the minute status updates on their screen. For those accessing the site via their smartphone, users can enjoy a streamlined, easy-to-use experience optimised for their device that allows them to keep up to date with their flight info on the move.</b>		↑

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<b>EC5c:</b> Ensure protection of slots for Aberdeen services at key hubs such as London	Peripheral Regions Policy Lobbying	Aviation Campaign being undertaken to protect landing slots at Heathrow. UK Gov has published it's Aviation Policy Framework. Nestrans submitted response to the Airports Commission call for evidence on aviation connectivity and the economy. A joint Scottish RTP response was also submitted.		<b>The National Connectivity Task Force launched their report on 16 March and further details in separate report to Board.</b>		↑