Sub Strategy 1: The external connections strategy

® = MTS project

Strategy Strand RTS actions	Current Actions/ Progress			Future Actions/ Progress		
	Project/Action	**Progress**	**Budget**	**To be done**	**Target**	**Status**
EC1 - Rail Links and Services						
EC1a: Reducing journey times to Edinburgh and Glasgow, and further south.	Rail Utilisation Strategy	Network Rail published a draft consultation Generation Two Rail Utilisation Statement (RUS) for Scotland on 15 Nov. Letter submitted in response to consultation. This included report considered by Board in Dec 10 and request that proposals be costed to a level where decisions on the viability can be assessed against their impact.		**Network Rail held meeting on 4 Aug to present progress in developing the Scotland Route Study, the successor to the RUS. Further details in Director's Report.**		↑
	East Coast Main Line Authorities	Manifesto launched 15 July 2014.	**£3K - Revenue in 15/16** **Invoiced in full**	Budget approved for Nestrans contribution to ECML Regional Forum.		

Status Key: ↑ progressing, ↔ no change, ↓ delayed

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EC2 - Strategic Roads						
EC2a: 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 Tipperty (AWPR-BT) ®	**Works are now progressing along the full length of the site with Aberdeen Roads Limited concentrating their efforts on utility diversions and earthworks. This requires detailed traffic management with flyers published in respect of planned works affecting the A93, A944 and A96 road corridors. New temporary bridges are soon to be installed crossing above the A944 and A96. These bridges will facilitate construction plant movements. With reference to the bulk earthworks operations, rock extraction through the use of blasting has commenced at the East Crossley area on the Fastlink along with the preparation of earthworks reprocessing locations along the length of the route. Structural foundation works are now underway and visible at a small number of new bridge locations, such as the B977 Overbridge and the A944 Underbridges.** **Every effort is being made to minimise disruption to road users and local communities during construction. The Contact and Education Space, located at the main site office (Stonehaven) is open to the general public. Briefings to Elected Members and Community Councillors are also being undertaken as a part of systematic efforts to raise awareness and keep stakeholders informed of progress.**		Contracting Authority to continue to deliver packages of work to achieve the programme timescales. **Further information can be found at the project website: http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/ road/aberdeen-western-peripheral-route/traffic-management**	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 in 14/15 Invoiced to date =£147.5K	**Stag report published on Nestrans website and remitted to Transport Scotland and Aberdeenshire Council for their consideration with a recommendation that further detailed appraisal is undertaken to develop and implement a preferred solution. To be considered by AC ISC on 20 Aug.**		↑
EC4 - Connections by Sea						
EC4b: Improved access and facilities at ports and interchange with passenger ferries.	Aberdeen Harbour	AHB received £600K Eu funding to support on-going studies for Nigg Bay expansion. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and modelling of wave climate in proposed port due for completion in 2015. Nigg Bay Development Framework is being prepared jointly by Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen Harbour and Scottish Enterprise for adoption as Supplementary Guidance for the Local Development Plan. It considers the opportunities presented by investment in new harbour facilities at Nigg Bay in terms of economic development , regeneration and environmental improvements for the Nigg, East Tullos and Altens area. Exhibition material can be viewed on ACC and AHB websites and includes consideration of essential infrastructure, and identified opportunities for strategic improvements to the road and rail networks.		Individual Masterplans will be prepared for each of the sub areas (Nigg Bay, Altens and East Tullos) following adoption of the Development Framework as Supplementary Guidance. **After more than 2 years of consultation and an ongoing feasibility study, Aberdeen Harbour has submitted a Proposal of Application Notice (PoAN) to Aberdeen City Council. This is the first stage of the formal planning application for a potential expansion of the current harbour into Nigg Bay and precedes the formal application, which will be made in early August.**		↑

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EC4b (contd)	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.		**A £2.6M upgrade of an electricity line for businesses at the harbour is progressing with the cable laying starting on 3 Aug 2015 and expected to last 12 weeks. This is being funded by the Harbour Commissioners, Scottish Enterprise, Aberdeenshire Council and Marine Scotland.**		↑
EC5 - Connections by Air						
EC5c: Ensure protection of slots for Aberdeen services at key hubs such as London Heathrow.	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.		**The Airports Commission published its Final report on 1 July with its recommendations to government for expanding aviation capacity in the UK and further details in info bulletin.**		↑

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