

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.	East Coast Main Line Authorities	Manifesto launched 15 July 2014. Budget approved for Nestrans contribution to ECML Regional Forum.	£3K - Revenue in 15/16 Invoiced in full	ECML Authorities article in Sept edition of Holyrood magazine. Russell Imrie (Sestrans Chair) appointed as vice-chair of group.	Group to appoint a PR consultant.	
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 Tippetty (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. A new temporary bridge has been installed above the A944 with another soon to be installed crossing 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 and Charleston area on the Southern Leg, along with the preparation of earthworks reprocessing locations along the length of the route.		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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	Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route - Balmedie to Tipperty (AWPR-BT) ® (contd)	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.				
EC4 - Connections by Sea						
EC4b: Improved access and facilities at ports and interchange with passenger ferries.	Civitas - Portis	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Nestrans, RGU, University of Aberdeen and Aberdeen Harbour Board have made a bid in partnership with 4 other ports to the Civitas programme. The north east proposals are based on mode shift in support of the City Centre Masterplan proposals and freight measures for the Nigg Bay harbour proposals.		The bid has progressed through the preliminary round and is now in the second stage of the bid process. The bid is for £4M Euros over 2016-2020 for each port (ie 1M Eu/annum for each port)		↑

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EC5 - Connections by Air						
EC5a: Support expansion of direct destinations from Aberdeen and frequency of popular services.	New / improved routes	Icelandair to introduce direct flights to Reykjavik from 9 March 2016 operating 4 times per week on Mon, Wed, Fri and Sat. The flights will provide easy connections to their 15 gateways in North America and reduce current travel times by up to several hours. Icelandair destinations in North America include New York, Seattle, Toronto and recently announced Chicago starting in 2016. Flights will go on sale on 24 August.		Wizz Air to introduce direct flights from Aberdeen to Warsaw. This builds on the twice weekly service to Gdansk that started in June 2015. Wizz Air now offers a total of 122 routes to 20 countries from Poland. The new service will provide direct flights twice weekly from 13 May 2016 and seats are now on sale and can be booked on wizzair.com.		↑
	Air Passenger Duty	The Smith Commission has recommended that Air Passenger Duty be fully devolved to the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Gov held the first meeting of the Scottish APD stakeholder forum in August as part of the Scottish Government's commitment to cutting APD by 50 per cent during the lifetime of the next Parliament		S Gov Ministers have announced that the launch of a policy consultation on Scottish APD will take place this autumn.		↑