

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	
EC1 - Rail Links and Services						
EC1a: Reducing journey times to Edinburgh and Glasgow, and further south.	Scotland Route Study	Network Rail held meeting on 4 Aug to present progress in developing the Scotland Route Study, the successor to the Rail Utilisation Statement (RUS). Draft issued for consultation on 10 Dec 2015. Nestrans response considered at Board then agreed with Chair for submission by 10 March.		Network Rail published the Scotland Route Study on 14 July 2016. The full study can be found on Network Rail's website and further details are in the publications and consultations report.		↑
	Queen Street Station Tunnel Upgrade	Queen Street Station High Level tunnel to be closed for 20 weeks from Sunday 20 March until Monday 8 August 2016. This will require the diversion of all services using the station's high level platforms. Upgrading the tunnel will allow faster, longer, greener trains to be run in the future. Trains from Aberdeen to Glasgow will retain their existing number each hour, but will be diverted to Glasgow Central and journey times will be between 30-40 minutes longer, with the last service from Glasgow Central to Aberdeen departing 20-30 minutes earlier than it would normally leave Queen St. Information on journeys during this time can be viewed via the Journey Planner on the Scotrail website or app. Timetables can be picked up in booking offices		The first line of new slab-track through the kilometre-long tunnel structure has been completed and work is underway on laying the second line. So far engineers have removed over 5,000 tonnes of concrete and rock, created a new 945m concrete base and installed 820m of new slab-track units and 2000m of new rail.	Aim to reopen the high level station on 8 August.	↑
	East Coast Main Line Authorities	Manifesto launched 15 July 2014. Budget approved for Nestrans contribution to ECML Regional Forum. Russell Imrie (Sestrans Chair) appointed as vice-chair of group.	£3K Revenue in 16/17 Invoiced in full	Group event planned at Westminster on 12 July cancelled. Events at Westminster and Holyrood to showcase the importance of the ECML to success and contribution of businesses along the route to UK plc. to be rescheduled.	Dates to be confirmed for both events and invites sent.	↑

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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) ®	<p>In June, following consultation with The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) the Contractor implemented a voluntary site shut down to carry out remedial works for water management. All aspects of construction work for the project have now recommenced, following an agreed phased return to work programme with SEPA.</p> <p>The contractor will continue to maintain regular dialogue with SEPA to ensure that watercourses are protected across the site.</p> <p>Earthworks, drainage, structures and utility diversion works continue to progress along the full length of the site. This requires detailed traffic management with flyers published in respect of planned works affecting the key road corridors.</p> <p>Rock earthworks extraction continues in the southern section through the use of blasting and mechanical means. Blasting is complete for the North and Central sections.</p>		<p>Contracting Authority to continue to deliver packages of work to achieve the programme timescales.</p> <p>Further information can be found at the project website: http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/aberdeen-western-peripheral-route/traffic-management</p>	Completion Winter 2017	↑

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EC2a (contd)	<p>Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route - Balmedie to Tippetty (AWPR-BT) ®</p> <p>(continued)</p>	<p>Structural works continue at a significant number of new bridge/culvert locations, along the full length of the route. Piling works for the River Dee crossing piers are complete, with works now taking place on the piers and abutments. Piling works continue at the River Don crossing.</p> <p>Works are continuing at the A96 junction for Phase 1 completion, which is expected this summer.</p> <p>Earthworks are in progress at key junctions including Balmedie, Charleston and Stonehaven.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Briefings to Elected Members and Community Councillors are continuing to raise awareness and keep stakeholders informed of progress.</p>				

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EC2a (contd)	Laurencekirk Flyover	Infrastructure Secretary Keith Brown announced £24M of funding on 28 Jan 2016 to take forward the design and construction of a grade separated junction on the A90 at Laurencekirk junction. Transport Scotland announced on 23 Mar 2016 that they will be seeking to appoint consultants to take forward the next phases of design for the junction upgrade including route option assessment and the development of preferred junction option, leading to the preparation of draft road Orders. Nestrans to be part of the Partnership Group overseeing the project along with Transport Scotland, Aberdeenshire and Angus Councils.		Transport Scotland has started the process to appoint consultants to take forward the next phase of design for the junction upgrade.	Aim to appoint consultants by early Autumn	↑
	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. A96 Preliminary Engineering Services Non-Motorised Users Strategy published on 13 June. Non Motorised User Forum to be established.		Transport Scotland has awarded contract worth up to £50M to Mott MacDonald Sweco Joint Venture to carry out route option assessment and detailed design work for dualling 29 mile section of A96 between Auldearn and Fochabers.	Expect that the route option assessment work will take approx 2 years to complete	↑
	Forth Replacement Crossing (FRC)	Forth Crossing Act came into force on 18 March 2011. Various Contracts let and cost now expected to be in range 1.45bn-1.6bn. Further details can be viewed on Transport Scotland's website.		Although the contract to construct the Forth Crossing bridge runs until June 2017, the target of opening in December 2016 was considered achievable. Due to adverse weather, specifically wind, despite allocation of extra resources, it is now expected to open by May 2017.	Opening May 2017	↑

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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. Grant will provide up to 100% funding for measures and run for 4 years from Sept 2016.		Nestrans will actively be involved in 4 work packages with a number of projects therein around the themes of the City Centre Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP), travel plans/ sustainable travel, transport modelling/dynamic traffic management and freight.	Inception meeting to be held in Antwerp in September.	↑
EC5 - Connections by Air						
EC5a: Support expansion of direct destinations from Aberdeen and frequency of popular services.	New / improved routes	Ryanair announced it will return to Aberdeen and run twice weekly year-round services to Alicante and Malaga from February 2017.				↑