

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.	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. Trains from Aberdeen to Glasgow will retain their existing number each hour, but will be diverted to Glasgow Central and journey times will be 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 can be viewed via the Journey Planner on the Scotrail website or app. Timetables can be picked up in booking offices		The rail tunnel at Glasgow Queen Street reopened on 7 Aug after being closed for 20 weeks during improvement works that saw trains to/from Aberdeen being diverted to Glasgow Central. The tunnel closure was part of a wider project to revamp Queen Street and allow longer, faster trains to run from the station.	Work to redevelop Glasgow Queen Street station is due to begin later this year with completion expected in 2019.	↑
	Strategic Transport Projects Review	Ministerial announcement on STPR 10 Dec 08 includes rail service enhancements between Aberdeen and the Central Belt and reconfiguration if the national rail timetable (incl trying to reduce journey times to the Central Belt by up to 20mins) as priority projects On 28 Jan 2016 the Scottish Government announced £200million to help improve journey times and increase capacity between Aberdeen and the Central Belt as part of a £254million package in addition to the City Region Deal.		On 28 Aug, the Transport Minister announced at a transport summit in Dumfries that a review is to be undertaken of the National Transport Strategy (NTS) which will set out transport policy across Scotland for the next 20 years. This review will inform an update to the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) – reassessing recommendations for strategic transport infrastructure priorities throughout Scotland.		↑

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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>Earthworks, drainage, structures and utility diversion works continue to progress along the full length of the site. Detailed traffic management flyers continue to be published in respect of planned works affecting the key road corridors.</p> <p>Rock earthworks extraction has continued in the southern section at Charleston through the use of mechanical means, with further blasting expected in October.</p> <p>Structural works continue at a significant number of new bridge/culvert locations, along the full length of the route. Works continue on the River Dee crossing piers and abutments. Piling cap works continue at the River Don crossing.</p> <p>Mainline pavement works have commenced in the north and south sections, with the Continuously Reinforced Concrete Paving (CRCP) train now in operation.</p> <p>Topsoiling works are progressing across the site in a bid to reduce surface water run-off from the site particularly in the run up to winter season approaching.</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)	Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route - Balmedie to Tippetty (AWPR-BT) ® (continued)	<p>The A96 junctions at Dyce Drive and Craibstone roundabout are now open to traffic, as is the new Dyce Link Road (constructed by Aberdeen City Council).</p> <p>Earthworks continue to 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 currently being planned for the end of the year to raise awareness and keep stakeholders informed of progress.</p>				
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.	S Gov has committed £24 million	Transport Scotland has appointed Amey to undertake route option assessment work and develop a preferred junction option, leading to the preparation of draft road Orders.	Meeting of partnership group to be arranged	↑

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	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.		Three 'Meet the Team' events to find out more about the design and assessment process to be followed for the Hardmuir to Fochabers scheme are being held from 12 noon to 7pm on Tues 4 Oct at Bellie Church Hall, Fochabers, Wed 5 Oct at Ramnee Hotel Forres and Thurs 6 Oct at Elgin Library, Cooper Park, or can be viewed on the Transport Scotland scheme website from 4 Oct.	Expect that the route option assessment work will take between 18 - 24 months to complete	↑
EC4 - Connections by Sea						
EC4b: Improved access and facilities at ports and interchange with passenger ferries.	Ferries Accessibility Fund	The Minister for Transport has announced a second call for the fund which has £250,000 available this year. Further details in information bulletin.				
	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. 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.		Nestrans attended inception meeting held in Antwerp in September. Nestrans has been awarded a notional budget of £260-270k over four years, within a total Aberdeen allocation of around £1.5million. Details of Nestrans involvement in the various work packages is contained in the information bulletin.		↑

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	Aberdeen Harbour	As part of a consenting strategy, AHB has submitted applications for consent in support of their potential expansion plans into Nigg Bay. The applications seek to gain statutory approvals for the project as part of 3 consenting regimes: from Transport Scotland, in the form of a Harbour Revision Order, from Marine Scotland, as Marine Licenses, and from Aberdeen City Council as Planning Permission in Principle. Full updates can be viewed on the Harbour Board's website in the Nigg Bay Development pages. Funding is included towards the Aberdeen Harbour expansion proposals within the City Region Deal announced on 28 Jan 2016. Council approved application on 11 May for planning permission in principle for the construction of new infrastructure to help create a new deep water harbour		Aberdeen Harbour has announced that following a lengthy selection process, which involved an initial 5 potential tenderers, that Dragados has been selected as its preferred bidder for the main construction contract.	Contractor's tender proposals to be finalised and once all planning consents obtained, it is hoped that the construction contract can be signed later this year for work to commence in 2017.	↑