

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.	Rail Franchises	DfT took over ECML franchise on 14 Nov 09. Prospectus published on 25 Oct for East Coast bidders. Arriva, First Group and Serco to submit Caledonian Sleeper proposals by 12 Dec 2013 for franchise start on Apr 2015. Draft Invitation to Tender for the Scotrail Franchise issued 19 Nov 2013 to Abellio, Arriva, First Group, MTR and National Express. Winning bid to be announced Autumn 2014 and franchise start April 2015. Further details in separate rail matters report.		Arriva run CrossCountry to First to run Scotrail franchise to Virgin to run West Coast franchise to East Coast contract to be awarded and start operation	Nov 2019 Mar 2015 Apr 2017 Apr 2015	↑

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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 Dundee.	Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route - Balmedie to Tipperty (AWPR-BT) ®	The Competitive Dialogue process to select a Consortium to Design, Build, Finance and Operate the combined AWPR-BT scheme in accordance with Non Profit Distribution private finance principles is progressing well and in accordance with the dialogue process timetable established at the commencement of dialogue in May 2013. Additionally, a number of preparatory and advance works are being undertaken. Demolition works at the Former International School of Aberdeen is now nearing completion along with supplementary ground investigations and invasive archaeological work contracts which are reaching a similar stage. Hydrological monitoring works are ongoing alongside various ecological mitigation and habitat enhancement work being taken forward in accordance with Environment Statement obligations. Invasive archaeological works at selected sites along the AWPR/B-T route will commence in the New Year, alongside procurement procedures for a specialist Mains Out contractor in accordance with a Future Contract Opportunity notice published on the Public Contracts Scotland procurement portal in Nov 2013.	Issue Tenders Spring 2013. Contract Award Autumn 2014 Completion Spring 2018	Continue to plan for packages of work to meet the programme for delivery.	Issue Tenders Spring 2013. Contract Award Autumn 2014 Completion Spring 2018	↑

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EC2a (contd)	A90 Access from the South study ®	Study to identify improvements and P&R site - final report published on Nestrans website spring 08. Individual capital projects are detailed separately elsewhere within this progress update. Bridge of Dee Study being undertaken in line with STAG/DMRB. Full details of the study and draft preliminary design drawings of the concepts being taken forward from the pre-appraisal stage can be viewed on ACC's website. Briefing given to Councillors and Nestrans Members on 11 March.	£150K Revenue in 2013/14 Invoiced to date = £41.8K	Draft feedback on public consultation received and comments returned. Draft STAG part 1 report being prepared and to be completed by end of financial year.		↑
	Laurencekirk Flyover	Consultancy brief for STAG/DMRB study issued by Nestrans in partnership with Transport Scotland and Aberdeenshire Council and tenders returned 22 Nov 2013. Meeting held with representatives of local community on 14 November to outline need for study and process to be undertaken.	£100K from TS and £25K Capital in 2013/14	Tenders being assessed on quality basis and partners to agree scores by video conference on 11 Dec before financial submissions considered. Consultant to be appointed thereafter.		↑
	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. Project included within NPF3 Main Issues Report and Draft Framework that is currently being consulted upon. Transport Scotland to hold next A9 and A96 dualling meeting for Council and RTP officers on 23 Oct in Perth . Traffic surveys and economic appraisal undertaken.		Public consultations held in November at venues along the route and were well attended. Further details in publications and consultations report.		↑

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EC4 - Connections by sea						
EC4b: Improved access and facilities at ports and interchange with passenger ferries.	Aberdeen Harbour	Aberdeen Harbour Board has awarded a £5.2m contract to the Westminster Dredging Company for major improvements to the port entrance and for widening and deepening the navigation channel. Works nearing completion. AHB has commenced a major feasibility study into the potential expansion of facilities at the port and the accompanying "A case for Growth" booklet can be downloaded from their website. Proposed enhancements identified in NPF3 Main Issues Report. Proposed NPF3 and SPP being drafted in 2013.		Aberdeen Harbour Board is inviting companies to register an interest to provide an Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Statement for the potential development of a new extension to the harbour within Nigg Bay.		↑
	Peterhead Harbour	The Port authority has unveiled plans for £40M redevelopment that includes deepening of both the port's north and south harbours and approaches from 3.5m-7m, construction of a new fish market on the site of the former Greenhill market and covered landing areas.		Information being gathered through test bore holes and Environmental Impact Assessment required for Harbour Revision Order. If application supported and funding agreed, preliminary work would take 12-18 months with construction further 12-18 months.		↑