

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 Action Plan	Network Rail submitted draft GRIP3 report to Transport Scotland, which investigates a preferred single option for Aberdeen - Inverness line improvements.		Publication of final study was delayed to allow further work and is now expected to be end 2013. Believe that Transport Scotland have study, but still awaiting publication of the report.		↑	
	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. Meetings being held with franchise bidders and 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	↑	
EC1c: Support for High Speed Rail connections to London, which benefit the north east.	High Speed Rail	Transport Sec approved plans for HSR route between London and Birmingham on 10 January 2012. The line from London to the West Midlands and the connection to HS1 are expected to open in 2026, followed, in 2032-33, by phase 2 onward legs to Manchester and Leeds and the connection to Heathrow. Talks to start immediately between the delivery company HS2 and S Gov on plans for the line beyond Birmingham and how to bring the service to Scotland. Details on Scottish Partnership Group meeting on HSR given in Director's Report.		Consultation on phase 2 will begin in early 2014, with a final route chosen by the end of that year. Works to start	2017	↑	

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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 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 complete. Further invasive archaeological works are soon to resume targeting specific locations. Hydrological monitoring works are ongoing alongside various ecological mitigation and habitat enhancement work being taken forward in accordance with Environment Statement obligations. A specialist Mains Out contractor has now been appointed and has commenced survey works of some properties. Selective tree feeling operations commenced at the end of January 2014 and will continue for an estimated 6 weeks.	Issue Tenders Spring 2013. Contract Award Autumn 2014 Completion Spring 2018	Continue to plan for packages of work to meet the programme for delivery.	Preferred Bidder Summer 2014 Contract Award Autumn 2014 Completion Spring 2018	↑
	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.	£150K Revenue in 2013/14 Invoiced to date = £86.7K	Draft STAG part 1 report submitted and can be viewed on Member's website. Subject of separate report to Board.		↑
	EC2a (contd)	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	CH2M Hill appointed and start up meeting held on 10 January. Proposed works programme being developed and initial consultation planned.	

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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.				↑
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 included within NPF3: Proposed Framework.		Geological investigation of the seabed in Nigg Bay and Traffic Impact Study completed. Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Statement for the potential expansion at Nigg Bay to be commissioned.		↑
EC5 - Connections by Air						
EC5a: Support expansion of direct destinations from Aberdeen and	Aberdeen International Airport Improvements	£13M investment announced to redevelop the terminal. This will include expansion of departures lounge, new catering + retail opportunities, upgraded baggage belts, new security search area and increased executive lounge capacity.		Work has started and the bulk of work on site will be visible from the third quarter of 2014. It will take 3 years and be complete in 2017.		↑