

Sub Strategy 1: The external connections strategy <span style="float: right;">® = MTS project</span>						
Strategy Strand RTS actions	Current Actions/ Progress			Future Actions/ Progress		Status
	Project/Action	Progress	Budget	To be done	Target	
<b>EC1 - Rail Links and Services</b>						
<b>EC1a:</b> Reducing journey times to Edinburgh and Glasgow, and further south.	Rail Franchises	DfT took over ECML franchise on 14 Nov 09. Serco awarded contract for Caledonian Sleeper and 15 year franchise starts April 2015. <b>Abellio to take over Scotrail franchise in April 2015 for 7-10 years. Inter City Railways, comprising Stagecoach and Virgin to be awarded the ECML franchise from Sunday 1 March 2015 for 8-9 years. Further details in Rail Matters report.</b>		Arriva run CrossCountry to - First run Scotrail to - <b>Abellio run Scotrail from Apr 15 to -</b> <b>Inter City (Virgin/ Stagecoach) run East Coast MainLine from Mar 15 to -</b> Virgin to run West Coast franchise to -	Nov 2019 Mar 2015  <b>Apr 2022/25</b>  <b>Apr 2023/24</b>  Apr 2017	↑
<b>EC2 - Strategic Roads</b>						
<b>EC2a:</b> 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) ®	<b>Procurement of the project is almost complete with the construction of the scheme due to begin following achievement of Financial Close. Alcatel letters were issued Fri 28 Nov 2014, whereby the standstill period will end at midnight on Mon 8 Dec 2014.</b> <b>Various Pre-Start works by Connect Roads have already begun or are due to commence soon along the AWPR/B-T route such as fencing, further environmental surveys and additional ground investigations in advance of the Main Works contract commencing. Similarly 3rd party advance works are now nearing completion in readiness for commencement of the Main Works Contract. Additionally, the AWPR/B-T Construction Joint Venture is continuing to advertise various sub-contract opportunities on the AWPR/B-T microsite of the Public Contracts Scotland procurement portal.</b>	Contract Award late 2014	Continue to plan for packages of work to meet the programme for delivery.	<b>Contract Award late 2014</b>  <b>Completion Winter 2017</b>	↑

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	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 and full details can be viewed on ACC's website.	£160K Revenue in 14/15 Invoiced to date = <b>£112.8K</b>	STAG part 2 commissioned. <b>Landowner and statutory consultations ongoing. Topographical and initial ground investigation works complete. The Environmental Assessment is ongoing. Proposal to increase budget in separate budget report</b>		↑
	Laurencekirk Flyover	CH2M Hill appointed by Nestrans to undertake STAG/DMRB study in partnership with Transport Scotland (who contributed £100K) and Aberdeenshire Council. Angus Council and Tactran have joined client group. Project specific objectives agreed. Traffic surveys undertaken in March and May 2014.	£168.5K Capital Invoiced to date = <b>£97K</b>	<b>Option appraisal nearing completion. Modelling and initial cost estimates of various options complete. Public consultation event being arranged for 21 Jan 2015. Further details in information bulletin</b>		↑
	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.		Tier 1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Strategic Business Case published on Transport Scotland website. <b>Nestrans has written to Minister querying population and employment statistics quoted in business case.</b>		↑

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<b>EC4 - Connections by Sea</b>						
<b>EC4b:</b> 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. The £33M project to modernise the quayside in Torry is complete. 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. Economic Impact report undertaken and estimated the benefit of the development to be nearly £1 billion per annum. <b>Aberdeen Harbour Board's £30 million redevelopment of Torry Quay, completed earlier this year, has received an Improving Sustainability Award from CEEQUAL and praised for various aspects of the project including the re-use of 78% of the total on-site demolition waste as fill for Torry Quay, the use of an extensive silt curtain, during the infilling operation, and the application of Marine Mammal Observer's during dredging works, which was particularly important given that the construction project was taking place on the lower stretches of the River Dee, which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation.</b>		Aberdeen Harbour Board has received £600,000 European funding from the TEN-T 2013 transport infrastructure initiative, to support on-going studies for expansion into Nigg Bay. This will allow the development of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and modelling of wave climate in the proposed port using a specially constructed scaled model. The EIA will include individual studies into noise mapping, air quality, visual impact, socio-economic factors, hydrodynamics, fish and bird life, archaeology, traffic/transport and water sediment/quality. The modelling will look into wave analysis, climate and mooring conditions. Both reports are due for completion in 2015.		↑

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<b>EC5 - Connections by Air</b>						
EC5a: Support expansion of direct destinations from Aberdeen and frequency of popular services.	Air Passenger Duty	The Smith Commission has recommended that <b>Air Passenger Duty be fully devolved to the Scottish Parliament.</b>		The recommendations will form the basis of draft legislation due to be <b>published by 25 Jan 2015.</b>		↑
	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 underway and will take 3 years with completion due in 2017. Works ongoing.		A charged forecourt area is to be implemented to help tackle local congestion and safety concerns. It will be managed by a number plate recognition system and exit barriers with a £1 charge for those staying up to 10 min in the forecourt. Drivers wishing park for more than 10 min are advised to use the Short Stay car park. Customers can also use the Long Stay car park and take the free rapid shuttle service to the terminal entrance. A free 30 min period is offered for those with a valid badge to use the blue badge spaces within the Short Stay car park. The changes will come into effect from 7 January 2015		↑

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<b>EC5c:</b> Ensure protection of slots for Aberdeen services at key hubs such as London	Peripheral Regions Policy Lobbying	Aviation Campaign being undertaken to protect landing slots at Heathrow. UK Gov has published it's Aviation Policy Framework. Nestrans submitted response to the Airports Commission call for evidence on aviation connectivity and the economy. A joint Scottish RTP response was also submitted.		Further meeting of National Connectivity Task Force have taken place and details in Director's report.		↑