

## **8 Information Bulletin**

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### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide information and updates for the Board on a number of matters not requiring decision.

#### **o Civitas Portis European Project**

As reported to previous Board meetings, Nestrans is a partner in the Portis project, which has been awarded funding through the European Commission's Civitas programme. Nestrans has committed to being a partner in the project, as one of the Aberdeen partners. Four other port cities (Antwerp in Belgium, Trieste in Italy, Constanta in Romania and Klaipeda in Lithuania) form the consortium, along with the follower port of Ningbo in China.

As part of the Horizon 2020 program, CIVITAS 2020 focuses on innovation in energy-efficient urban mobility and transport. The European Commission supports projects in which cities work together to implement measures in an innovative way and learn from the implementation processes and their achieved impact.

A £3.2million grant has been awarded for a north-east transport project involving a consortium of council, university and private partners which is aimed at improving travel in the area.

The CIVITAS PORTIS European Union grant will be used to examine transport solutions with a connection with port operations, supporting sustainable urban mobility through changes in behaviour and attitude of citizens, planners, politicians and industries.

This is the first time that Scotland has been awarded CIVITAS status, and the project partners will use the grant to focus on what can be done in areas adjacent to the existing harbour, including linking to development of the City Centre Masterplan, improving air quality in the area around Market Street, the impact of Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route in rerouting traffic but with the A956 remaining a key transport corridor, and supporting the area to the west of the harbour being further redeveloped for high quality offices etc therefore improving access to an area which is close to the rail/bus station.

The project includes other city-wide opportunities such as development of alternative road hierarchy reflecting the impact of AWPR/B-T, how clean alternative fuel can be utilised, and infrastructure improvements being progressed including Park and Ride to the north-west and south of Aberdeen, and investment in rail improvements to the north-east.

The project could further look at the infrastructure supporting the existing harbour, including the potential to address energy demands from vessels, the impact of AWPR and supporting projects that 'Lock in the Benefits', and cross-city connectivity supporting large areas of employment. It is also hoped there will be future involvement from other transport providers and authorities.

Nestrans will be involved in various Work Packages, relating to :

- Fostering walking and cycling;
- Redesigning collective travel;
- Developing travel plans;
- Collecting and managing data to support Travel Information;
- Supporting sound planning and decision-making;
- Enhancing demand management;
- Enhancing freight gateway interconnectivity;
- Developing smart systems for freight; and
- Minimising large vehicles in City Centre and encouraging clean vehicles.

## o **UK Railfreight Strategy**

On 13 September 2016, the Department for Transport announced the publication of a national Rail freight strategy, which has been developed in collaboration with Network Rail, the rail freight industry and its customers.

Rail freight makes an important contribution to the UK's economic and environmental well-being, with benefits estimated at around £1.6 billion to the national economy every year. It generates around £1 billion from improved productivity, while around £0.6 billion is the value of the reductions in road congestion, carbon emissions and air pollutants (compared to road haulage).

Rail freight currently carries one in four of the containers coming into UK ports, and has the potential to carry an even higher proportion. Each freight train removes the equivalent of up to 76 lorry journeys from the national road network. Transporting freight by rail reduces carbon emissions by around three quarters compared to road, and also provides significant benefits through reduced local air pollution, road damage, traffic noise and road traffic accidents.

Since rail privatisation in the 1990s, the rail freight industry's market share of freight transport nationally has risen from around 5% to around 12%. The industry has invested significantly on its own account, in rolling stock and terminals, in order to win new customers.

Government is also investing on a large scale in the rail network, including important enhancements worth nearly £240 million specifically identified by the rail freight industry as their priority.

This Rail freight strategy sets out the Government's vision for how railfreight can continue to grow, and how the broader logistics sector and rail industry can collaborate and innovate to help relieve pressure on the road network. It looks at challenges facing the rail freight industry – the way in which network capacity is used, the potential for innovation, the skills challenge and public perceptions of rail freight – and identifies ways in which the government and the industry can work together to address them.

A copy of the strategy is available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/552492/rail-freight-strategy.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/552492/rail-freight-strategy.pdf) , together with 2 supporting technical reports.

## o **Low Carbon Hubs**

Transport Scotland announced on 8 September that 39 projects across Scotland will benefit from Pre-Application Support Fund (PASF) grant of up to £10,000 to help develop ideas for active travel hubs and low carbon transport hubs, in the run up to the launch of the ERDF 2014-20 *Low Carbon Travel and Transport* fund later this year.

Four bids in the Nestrans area were successful:

- Aberdeenshire Council (Low Carbon Transport Fueling and Information Hub);
- Aberdeen City Council (Low carbon and active travel hub at the new Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre);
- Sport Aberdeen (Activate Bridge of Don – Active Travel Hub); and
- Huntly and District Development Trust (Room to Roam Green Travel Hub).

Nestrans will work with all four bidders in helping to support their developing low carbon hubs towards detailed submissions over the next few months.

## o **ECOStars**

Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Nestrans have agreed to facilitate a regional EcoStars programme for the north east.

The ECO Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme is a scheme which is free to participants, that aims to help fleet operators improve efficiency, reduce fuel consumption and emissions and make cost savings. The scheme will be led by Aberdeen City Council and partly funded through Air Quality grant funding from Transport Scotland, involving the partners in the North East Freight Forum.

Consultants TTR have been discussing the benefits of membership with local fleet operators, including the Councils and bus operators, and intend to launch the scheme in Aberdeen Town House and Castlegate on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November. Further information on the scheme is available at: <http://www.ecostars-uk.com/eco-stars-schemes/> .

## o **Ferries Accessibility Fund**

The Minister for Transport and the Islands, Humza Yousaf, has announced a second call for bids to the Ferries Accessibility Fund.

There will be £250,000 available this financial year and awards will be made on a match-funding basis (normally 50/50) which means that up to £500,000 could be spent on accessibility improvements across the ferry network. The fund will be open to bids from all operators of the ferries and harbours covered by the 2012 Ferries Plan. Funding will be available to make improvements to existing vessels and harbours that go beyond regulatory standards set for accessibility.

The Fund is not intended for major investments in new facilities but rather in improvements to existing vessels and harbours. Transport Scotland will continue to make significant accessibility improvements through our other funding streams – for example our investment in new vessels and through pier and harbour improvement grants.

The deadline for applications is 31 October 2016.

## o **Getabout Update**

September has been a busy month for the Getabout partnership. Events included:

Love to Ride (Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire). A cycle challenge to encourage people to get on bikes, ride and log their journeys throughout September, with the opportunity to win points and prizes. <http://www.lovetoride.net/aberdeenshire>

### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September

National Cycle2Work Day

### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September

Formal launch of consultation on the Draft Aberdeen Active Travel Action Plan  
School Road Safety Magic Shows – Kingswells, Milltimber, Gilcomston and Braehead

### Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September

School Road Safety Magic Shows – Brimmond, Riverbank, Airyhall and Charleston

### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September

Energy Savings Trust Electric Vehicle Roadshow (AECC)  
Etape Royale, Ballater,  
and Consultation event to develop walking and cycling maps, Banchory.

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September

Cycling Scotland's Wee Jaunt Aberdeen (Duthie Park)  
and Etape Royale, Ballater

### Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September

Bike roadshow at Glashieburn School  
Bike doctor at Middleton Park School  
School Road Safety Magic Shows – Skene Square, Kingsford, Stoneywood and Middleton Park

### Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September

Middleton Park School Big Cycle  
School Road Safety Magic Shows – Danestone, Quarryhill, Kittybrewster and Heathryburn

### Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September

Bike roadshow at Tullos School  
School Road Safety Magic Shows – Sunnybank, Glashieburn, Woodside and Holy Family

### Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

School Road Safety Magic Shows – Scotstown, Culter, Kirkhill and Abbotswell

### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September

West End Reclaim the Streets, Aberdeen City Centre  
Consultation event to develop walking and cycling maps, Macduff.

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September

In Town Without My Car Day, Aberdeen City Centre

### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October

Consultation event to develop walking and cycling maps, Stonehaven.

Advertisements promoting Getabout are also currently being aired on Original FM and STV and Northsound Radio adverts were used to promote In Town Without My Car Day.

The new Getabout website [www.getabout.org.uk](http://www.getabout.org.uk) is now live and the Getabout Liftshare website <https://getabout.liftshare.com> has also been updated to reflect the changes to the new Getabout website and to ensure a seamless look between the two sites.

## o **Nestrans Press Releases**

Since the last meeting of the Board, Nestrans has issued the following press releases (please click on the heading to access the full press release and details from the Nestrans' website).

### **1<sup>st</sup> August 2016**      [Partnership Board Vacancy](#)

The North East of Scotland Transport Partnership (Nestrans) is one of seven statutory Regional Transport Partnerships. A vacancy exists for a non-Councillor Board Member and applications are invited from interested individuals who have the necessary flair, experience and ability to help share the future development of the transport strategy and delivery at the regional level.

### **4<sup>th</sup> August 2016**      [Community volunteers to be recognised](#)

Nominations are now open for the second Grampian Volunteer Transport Awards. The awards were established back in 2014 to celebrate individuals who volunteer their time to provide transport for their communities.

### **16<sup>th</sup> August 2016**      [Scotland's First Smart Multi-Operator Bus Travel Launched](#)

Smarter travel is being introduced across the North East as local bus operators and local authorities today launched Scotland's first smart multi-operator travel. From Monday (22 August), the popular GrassHOPPER pass which currently exists as a paper ticket only, will go smart, bringing greater convenience to bus passengers across Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.

Customers will now be able to store the GrassHOPPER ticket electronically on a smartcard – either a StagecoachSmart card, a First Touch card or a Grasshopper smartcard – meaning they no longer need a paper ticket and can use one smartcard when travelling with any participating operator.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016**      [Nestrans Welcomes A90 Laurencekirk Junction Announcement](#)

Transport Scotland has today announced the intention to award the contract for the next phases of design for the junction upgrade to Amey. The contract award will see Amey undertake route option assessment work and develop a preferred junction option, leading to the preparation of draft road Orders.

### **19<sup>th</sup> September 2016**      [Nestrans welcomes EU CIVITAS grant award](#)

A £3.2million grant has been awarded for a north-east transport project involving a consortium of partners that is aimed at improving travel in the area.

- o **Marketing and Public Relations Update**

Nestrans' marketing and PR activities are attached in **Appendix 1** to this report, which also includes an update on activity in relation to the Getabout campaign.

- o **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board note the contents of this report.

RD/KW 19 September 2016

# Nestrans Communications Report

## o High level project work undertaken

- Development of proposal for large-scale media and ministerial opportunity on site of AWPR to coincide with road surface work underway. Awaiting further information from Transport Scotland.
- Tender process completed and contract awarded for redevelopment of Getabout website. Three bids submitted with web developer selected and new website launched early August. Objective – to deliver a new website that is easy to navigate, easy to use, clear and concise and more easily updated.
- Tender process is being pursued for redevelopment of Nestrans website. Three bids submitted and a preferred developer likely to be appointed soon. As above, the objective will be similar – to deliver a new website that is easy to navigate, easy to use, clear and concise and more easily updated.
- GetAbout working group participation.



## o News Coverage

### Media coverage/enquiries

A summary of the most recent news features, which either mention Nestrans or relate to Nestrans projects.

- Do not derail Buchan line with passenger figures, campaigners say
- New Aberdeen Cycle path on Track to Success
- £3.2m EU grant awarded for north-east transport project (Civitas project).
- Contract awarded for A90 junction (Laurencekirk)
- North-east transport chiefs aim for road-rail mix
- Full steam ahead with Peterhead rail study
- First cars on city bypass
- Work stops on AWPR due to safety concerns

o **Social Media** 

Social media presence and highlights.

 <p><b>nestrans</b> <b>Nestrans</b> @Nestrans</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>TWEETS</td> <td>FOLLOWING</td> <td>FOLLOWERS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>739</td> <td>316</td> <td>487</td> </tr> </table>	TWEETS	FOLLOWING	FOLLOWERS	739	316	487	 <p><b>getabout</b> A to B in Aberdeen City and Shire</p> <p>getabout All your travel information:  </p> <p><b>GetAbout</b> @get_about</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>TWEETS</td> <td>FOLLOWING</td> <td>FOLLOWERS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2,508</td> <td>374</td> <td>537</td> </tr> </table>	TWEETS	FOLLOWING	FOLLOWERS	2,508	374	537
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**Nestrans** @Nestrans · Sep 13

**New cycle route for South Anderson Drive**  
[news.aberdeencity.gov.uk/new-cycle-route](https://news.aberdeencity.gov.uk/new-cycle-route)

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**Nestrans** @Nestrans · Sep 7

Nestrans welcomes A90 Laurencekirk junction announcement

**Transport Scotland** @transcotland  
 A90 Laurencekirk Junction – Major Step Forward In Design Work  
[bit.ly/2c6wO57](https://bit.ly/2c6wO57)

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**Nestrans** @Nestrans · Aug 31  
nestrans Time is running out to nominate for the Grampian Volunteer Transport Awards - [surveymonkey.co.uk/r/volunteertra...](https://surveymonkey.co.uk/r/volunteertra...)



You Retweeted  
 **AberdeenshireCouncil** @Aberdeenshire · Aug 24  
There is still time to nominate for the Grampian Volunteer Transport Awards. [surveymonkey.co.uk/r/volunteertra...](https://surveymonkey.co.uk/r/volunteertra...) @AberdeenCC @Nestrans @TheMorayCouncil



 **GetAbout** @get\_about · 2h  
Advanced booking for the Waterslide, which will be in town on Sunday as part of "In town without my car day" IS... [fb.me/4TRgHLWbU](https://fb.me/4TRgHLWbU)



 **GetAbout** @get\_about · Sep 13  
Its [#CycleToWorkDay](https://cycletoworkday.org) tomorrow, you can pledge your commute [cycletoworkday.org](https://cycletoworkday.org)



nestrans

Nestrans @Nestrans · Aug 16

Grasshopper smart bus tickets launched today! [grasshopperpass.com](http://grasshopperpass.com) Hop on, hop off. Any bus, no fuss!

