8 Information Bulletin

o 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 Access to Laurencekirk Study

The base Paramics microsimulation model of the study area has been built and validated and calibrated. This base model has been agreed as being fit for purpose by independent auditors appointed by Transport Scotland. Future year models are now being developed to test options that contain predicted future year travel demand scenarios as informed by the strategic Aberdeen Sub Area Model (ASAM) and based on committed development only and then also with consideration given to estimated profiles of build out for development allocations within the Local Development Plans of neighbouring authorities. An initial draft of the pre-appraisal section of the Transport Appraisal report has been produced and comments returned by the client group. A revised draft is being prepared along with an initial draft of the part 1 appraisal of options taken forward from the pre-appraisal stage. Thereafter the detailed appraisal will be undertaken and this will include further consultation to allow comment on the findings to date.

It is anticipated that the consultation will take the form of a public drop-in session in Laurencekirk in early 2015. The next progress meeting is scheduled for 8 October.

o Energetica corridor multi-modal study

The brief for the Energetica corridor multi-modal study was issued to consultants through the Scotland Excel Framework on 28th August 2014. Tenders were returned on 26th September 2014 and these will be assessed by officers from Nestrans, Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council and Transport Scotland at a joint meeting on 6th October with the tender awarded thereafter and the intention that an inception meeting will be held with the successful consultants in October.

The study will identify and examine the options for strategic transport connections from Fraserburgh and Peterhead to Aberdeen along the Energetica corridor and will examine all modes of transport including options to reinstate the railway line. The study will form the pre-appraisal and part 1 appraisal stages of the STAG process and will include development and consideration of the objectives for the corridor and consideration of options to take forward to a more detailed appraisal.

o Cycling Development Officer

As previously agreed by the Nestrans Board, progress has been made towards the recruitment of a full-time temporary member of staff to help develop cycling initiatives across the north east. The post is to be funded by Nestrans with support from Sustrans, the sustainable transport charity and will be based at Nestrans' office in Aberdeen and will work

with local authorities and cycling organisations to progress active travel networks across the region.

Interviews were held on 9 September and an appointment has been made. Kathryn Mackay will start with Nestrans on Wednesday 1st October. Her responsibilities will include liaising with local authorities and developing bids for funding for cycling projects, as well as being a link to Sustrans.

o Ministerial Cycling Summit

The second annual Ministerial Summit on cycling will be held in Glasgow on Tuesday 28 October 2014. Invitations have been sent to Heads of Transportation, RTP Lead Officers and Chairs of the appropriate Committee with responsibility for cycling development at all local authorities.

A copy of the invitation and programme is attached as Appendix A for members' information. It is suggested that Nestrans should be represented at the summit at both member and official level.

o NETCF

The latest meeting of the North East Transport Consultative Forum was held in Woodhill House on Thursday 2nd October, providing an update on progress on strategic transport projects and an opportunity to contribute to the draft Active Travel Action Plan.

An oral update can be provided at the Board meeting.

o Social Transport Project

Members may recall that Nestrans has been involved in a project in partnership with Robert Gordon University and Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO). With funding from Aberdeen Change Fund, the project has identified barriers affecting older people in accessing services in Aberdeen and has been able to deliver twelve pilot schemes, enabling transport to facilities such as attending clinics at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Alzheimer Scotland and the MS Society as well as social events like lunch clubs. The project has also supported the provision of a wheelchair-accessible vehicle for the Aberdeen Car Club, Co-Wheels.

At the heart of this initiative is the need to provide preventative care to allow older people to keep active and develop social networks that reduce social isolation and loneliness. The partners hope the funded projects will help address many of the mobility challenges faced by older people in the city.

Further details regarding the project and the report on issues is available from the ACVO website:

http://acvo.org.uk/working-with/social-transport-steering-group/

o Response from Transport Scotland to letter of 16 July

As reported to previous meetings, concerns have been raised regarding the apparent lack of priority being given to addressing inadequacies in the north east's rail infrastructure. A joint letter from six key organisations representing north east interests was sent to Transport Scotland on 16 July, a copy of which is attached as Appendix B.

A Response was received from the Chief Executive of Transport Scotland on 21 August and is attached as Appendix C.

o Insch station

At the last meeting of the Board, concerns were raised regarding the lack of access to the south (westbound) platform at Insch station, which restricts access for people with mobility difficulties, buggies, luggage, etc. It was agreed that Nestrans should write to Transport Scotland raising these concerns in respect of the Disability Discrimination Act and available funding to reduce barriers.

A copy of the letter sent to Transport Scotland on 1 September is attached as Appendix D to this report and a Response, received on 18 September is Appendix E.

At the meeting held with Transport Scotland on Rail matters referred to in Item 3 Directors report, the issue of DDA compliance at the station was raised again with the suggestion that since valuation over a section of land was the issue stopping progress then Transport Scotland should give consideration to the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders to permit full access to the platforms be achieved. Transport Scotland have agreed to investigate this option.

o City Centre Masterplan and City Deal

Aberdeen City Council has appointed a team led by BDP to help prepare a masterplan and delivery programme for the city centre, to address issues raised in the Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SIP). The SIP identifies the regeneration of the city centre as a key priority for Aberdeen. Nestrans attended a workshop for key stakeholders on the topic of "Infrastructure and Place" on Friday 26th September. In addition, separate meetings have also been held between the City Council, Nestrans and Aecom, who have been appointed as transport consultants to BDP, to discuss in more detail the transport considerations relating to the development of the masterplan.

Nestrans officers have also been in discussion with Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council colleagues over the development of the regions City Deal bid. Work is ongoing between colleagues and ACSEF colleagues to ensure that the City Deal, City Centre Mastrerplan and ACSEF strategy all align.

o Nigg Bay Development Framework

Aberdeen City Council, Scottish Enterprise and Aberdeen Harbour Board are preparing a Development Framework for Nigg Bay, Altens and East Tullos which will consider the long term development and regeneration opportunities arising as a result of the proposed expanded harbour at Nigg Bay.

Nestrans will be attending a Planning and Transportation workshop as part of a series of themed workshops seeking the views of key stakeholders. This workshop will be held on 9th October 2014.

o Nestrans Press Releases

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

15 September 2014: Consultation on Nestrans Draft Active Travel Action Plan

o Marketing and Public Relations Update

Since June 2014, Nestrans has received six media enquiries:

- Comment requested on the Transport for London 'Making connections' report
- Comment requested on news that Aberdeen- London City flights are to be cancelled
- Interview request with Cllr Argyle on peak time rail ticket prices increasing by 2.5% in 2015
- Interview request with Derick Murray following the Nestrans monitoring report press release being issued
- Comment requested in regard to possible congestion charges in the city being introduced
- Request for copy of Nestrans Active Travel Action Plan.

Four press releases have been issued since the end of June:

- Nestrans Active Travel Action Plan
- Nestrans Freight Action Plan refresh
- Grampian Volunteer Transport Awards
- Nestrans Cycling Development Officer

Nestrans' press mentions (links included where available and scanned copies of articles are available upon request).

20.6.14	New town set to include 'park and choose'	Evening Express
26.06.14	North-east freight industry welcome refreshed Freight Action Plan	AGCC
30.06.14	Hauliers welcome proposal	Evening Express
5.07.2014	Transport boss welcomes Platinum boost for buses	Evening Express
9.07.2014	Passenger rise backs up calls for rail investment	Press and Journal
9.07.2014	Cycling boom for rush-hour routes in the north-east	Herald
9.07.14	Transport chiefs hail big changes	Evening Express
10.07.14	Passenger numbers continue to rise at Inverurie Station	Inverurie Herald
10.07.14	Call for new city station as rail passenger numbers rise	Press and Journal
11.07.14	Energy bosses pile the pressure on BA	Press and Journal
11.07.14	MSP calls for new station	Evening Express
22.07.14	Transport chiefs cool on congestion charge idea	Press and Journal
28.07.14	UK 'should look to Europe to halt plane drain'	Press and Journal
04.08.14	Grampian Volunteer Transport Awards call for nominations	AGCC News section
04.08.14	Grampian Volunteer Transport Awards call for nominations	Aberdeenshire Council news section
04.08.14	Grampian Volunteer Transport Awards call for nominations	Aberdeen City Council news

		section
06.08.14	New gongs for voluntary drivers and escorts	Evening Express
19.08.14	Doubling of NE rail passengers	Evening Express
19.08.14	Councillors cite report as railway campaign boost	Buchan Observer
21.08.14	One step closer for Newtonhill railway station?	Kincardineshire Observer
21.08.14	One step closer for Newtonhill railway station?	Mearns Leader
22.08.14	Traffic worries slam brakes on new town	Press and Journal
23.08.14	Ownership issue delays park and ride expansion	Evening Express
15.09.14	Families cycle for charity	Press and Journal

Twitter

During the period 3rd June to 26th September 2014, the account (https://twitter.com/ACSEF_Nestrans) had:*

- Number of followers 220
- Number of tweets 365
- Number of retweets 59
- Number of mentions 21
- Number of favourites 26
- Following 160
- Bitly click throughs 140 (from 23 links)

(Bitly is a URL shortening and bookmarking service and used within our tweets)

The most popular links were to:

- Consultation on Nestrans Draft Active Travel Action Plan
- Cycling Development Officer (Nestrans) position

The most popular tweets were:

- *Nestrans& @SustransScot are looking to appoint a Cycling Development Officer for the north-east bit.ly/1ohNetM Please RT*, it received 318 views, 4 link visits and 6 retweets
- *The @get_about Bike Roadshow is @Aberdeenshire Woodhill House today as part of @Bike_Week #bikeweekUK #activetravel*, it received 671 views and 2 retweets

**Please note these stats cover ACSEF and Nestrans related tweets*

Getabout

Working with Aberdeen City Council, a variety of advertising material was produced for events taking place as part of European Mobility Week (16-22 September 2014) and the main focus being on the 'In town without my car day' event on Sunday 21st September. Billboard adverts, bus back adverts, magazine adverts, rickshaw bike adverts, online event listings, posters and leaflets were created and distributed throughout the north-east to promote the event.

New branded promotional material was ordered to support the key messages of Getabout and promote the brand. These include hi-vis slap bands, a keyring torch and cotton backpack. Branded marquee sides and barrier carriers were also created with similar messages.

Two Original 106 radio advert have been produced recently, one to focus on the events taking place during European Mobility Week and subsequently promoting Liftshare, the Getabout car share database.

Space for branding on an ARR Craib curtainsider trailer was kindly donated by Eddie Anderson, Nestrans Deputy Chair and has recently arrived in Aberdeen. It includes a joint message on the Getabout brand and promotion of Liftshare. A photo opportunity with Cllr Argyle has been arranged and a press release will be issued.

Getabout has had a very busy September culminating in our biggest ever "In town without my car" event in Aberdeen attracting thousands of people.

The diary of main events included:

3 Sept	Travel Plan survey and promotion at the Health Village Aberdeen.
4 Sept	Travel Plan Survey and cycle to work day James Hutton Institute
14 Sept	Cycle Scotland Family ride from Duthie Park – Roadshow and events kit
15 Sept	Westpark School Northfield - Roadshow and events kit
16 Sept	ARI Aberdeen - Roadshow and events kit
17 Sept	Primefour business park - Roadshow and events kit
21 Sept	In town without my car event Schoolhill and Belmont Street Aberdeen - Roadshow and events kit
25 Sept	Freshers Fair RGU – Events Kit

Travel Plan help has also been given to Premier oil, Subsea7, TAQA, Nexen and Aker Solutions

The Grampian Volunteer Transport Awards 2014

Working with Andrew Stewart, Health & Transport Action Plan Programme Manager, the inaugural awards were launched in August. A number of nominations have been received and the awards take place on 7th October. Following the awards a volunteer driver recruitment drive will also be launched.

o Recommendation

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

RGM/RD/JA/DK/KC/LC 29 September 2014

APPENDIX A

Heads of Transportation
Convenors of Committees covering cycling and walking
Regional Transport partnerships Lead Officers

12 August 2014

Dear Colleague,

SECOND NATIONAL CYCLING SUMMIT – TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2014 (GLASGOW)

I am writing to personally invite you to a half-day Cycling Summit on Tuesday 28 October. Glasgow City Council has kindly offered to host this second annual summit and the venue will be the City Chambers in George Square, Glasgow.

At the summit I hope to build on the excellent work achieved in the past year, given that this year has seen record levels of investment in active travel, especially cycling and walking infrastructure, the publication of our Walking Strategy and of course the Commonwealth Games.

This annual summit is a high priority for Scottish Government and is our number one action in the 2013 Cycling Action Plan for Scotland. Action number 2 is also relevant to this gathering as I would like to have a discussion around our partnership working in moving towards our shared vision of a 10% modal share for cycling by 2020. Indeed, many of you will already have been in contact with Sustrans to discuss active travel strategies and I look forward to hearing how much progress has been made in this area.

I will be present for the early morning session and I hope the discussion can be positive and visionary. Enclosed is a draft outline of the programme, which will be confirmed nearer the time.

As before, the programme has been designed so that attendees can get as much information as possible on support available from the national delivery bodies funded by Scottish Government to help implement the CAPS and increase active travel.

I hope you are able to attend this summit which I believe will be beneficial to all. Please email your confirmation to jim.oliver@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 0131-244-0846 as soon as possible.

Kind Regards,

.

KEITH BROWN

CYCLING SUMMIT – TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2014 – DRAFT PROGRAMME

0845 Arrival tea/coffee/rolls – City Chambers, Glasgow

0915 Background and outline of the day by the Chair (Ian Aitken)

0920 Welcome by Glasgow City Council

0935 Address by the Minister for Transport and Veterans

1000 Address by a Regional Transport Partnership

1015 Panel discussion (Minister, GCC, RTP rep)

1035 Minister's closing remarks

1040 Presentations from a LA and guest speaker (10 mins each)

1100 Observations and Questions to presenters

1115 Tea/coffee break

1145 Support Available from National Delivery Bodies (15 mins each)

Presentations from

- Cycling Scotland – New CEO, Keith Irving – What the Future Holds for cycling
- Sustrans – What infrastructure has been delivered in the last year and progress on active travel strategies
- Paths for All – Behaviour change projects – looking forward to 2015/16

1230 Observations and Questions to presenters

1245 Chair concludes the summit

1300 Lunch / networking

1400 Optional - Lead ride by Cycling Scotland on the new Glasgow Bike Hire Scheme Bikes (delegates need to register interest when they confirm attendance – there will be around 20 places available on a first come first served basis)

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce

Aberdeenshire COUNCIL

scdi Scottish Council for Development and Industry

Federation of Small Businesses
The UK's leading Business Organisation

nestrans

Nestrans, Archibald Simpson House, 27-29 King Street, Aberdeen, AB25 5AA

Date:- 16th July 2014

Our Ref:- RGM/TH
Your Ref

David Middleton
Chief Executive
Transport Scotland
58 Port Dundas Road
Glasgow
G4 0HF

Dear David

Rail Improvements for the north east of Scotland

This letter is a follow up to a number of meetings and discussions that have taken place across the north east of Scotland over the past few weeks. These include the ACSEF meeting with Scottish Government Directors and a series of meetings that have been organised by the Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce (AGCC), the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) and the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) to discuss a collective view of the current rail strategy and how this can be more effectively pursued.

The discussions led by the business organisations have looked at three areas of consideration. These are central belt to Aberdeen journey time reductions, Aberdeen to Inverness and a local service not only connecting the Aberdeenshire stations to each other but also to and through the Aberdeen stations. The ACSEF meeting also discussed the central belt to Aberdeen issue.

Firstly on the central belt to Aberdeen. The business organisations and their members are very keen that this is understood in the wider context. This was articulated in the ACSEF meeting and concerns the issue of jobs. There is a real difficulty in recruiting in the north east. It is proving very difficult to attract people to here from the central belt because of the high cost of living and the perceived distance to get here. The organisations members are also keen to see the rail journey time reduced by around 45 mins to make the train both attractive and also perceived to be an alternative to car use. This was a very clear message from a survey carried out during 'North East Business Week, April 2014' a partnership between AGCC, SCDI, FSB and Enterprise North East Trust. Your officials did of course attend this event and no doubt briefed you on the discussions.

It is important to build on the developing clusters of knowledge and expertise being created here in the north east and therefore necessary to attract workers here. From the jobs base built here using the knowledge clusters it is felt that this would generate further jobs across Scotland and the rest of the UK through wider access to the opportunities being created in

the North East's energy sector. It is also an important factor that many non energy sectors are finding it difficult to recruit with many staff attracted to the higher salary posts that are available in that sector.

It is therefore felt important that our train links joining Aberdeen to Dundee and the central belt provide a good means of both widening the labour market pool around the north east and making the trip more attractive for carrying out business or trips to see friends and relatives.

We are aware that the Strategic Transport Projects Review identified reducing the journey time by 20 mins as one of the priority projects. We are also aware that through the franchising process a number of the bidders have been looking at timetabling options on this route using express and local services for example. The north east would generally welcome achievement of this STPR priority as a stepping stone for the more substantial improvements thought necessary. We are therefore asking that this project finds a higher priority than currently appears to be the case and that a full review of the lines are undertaken as soon as possible to determine what needs to be done to meet the necessary journey time reductions. This would include an understanding of the NPF3 commitment to improvements by 2019 and the planning for removing the single track sections around Montrose.

In the case of Aberdeen to Inverness and the local rail service these probably need to be considered together since the Aberdeen to Inverness improvements are necessary to achieve any further local service improvements. The announcement recently that the track between Aberdeen and Inverurie is to be dualled and Kintore station re-opened is very welcome. However we are keen to understand what these announcements mean and use this information along with partners in Transport Scotland and the new Scotrail franchisee to determine what improvements may be possible from this new infrastructure.

The GRIP 3 study used to determine the decision on dualling the track has not been published. We are therefore unaware of the detail of what has been proposed and what Network Rail are now working towards. We would be very keen to use this information to carry out a timetabling study to see what local service improvements can be built upon Transport Scotland's own ambitions for improvements to the Aberdeen to Inverness service. Following the options that such a study could identify we would be keen to move forward to developing some options for new local station possibilities looking at demand, feasibility and fit with any new timetabling options without disturbing the longer distance journey times.

It is also important to understand the implications of the announcement for Kintore Station. We are expecting that there will be some discussion about a local contribution to this station and we are happy to have those discussions. However in order to be able to plan financially for such a contribution we do need to have those discussions as early as possible to give maximum flexibility within budgets to permit what would be a large contribution in relation to the overall budget that we have for capital works.

Key to us being able to take all this work forward is understanding the GRIP 3 report and what has been approved by the Minister for the Aberdeen to Inverurie section of line. We would therefore ask that this information be published in order that the next phases of our assessment may progress.

Whilst working to see these projects delivered we are also working on the advanced feasibility works to determine the next generation of proposals necessary to support the continued growth in our region which is essential to the health of the Scottish economy. We have had preliminary discussions with your officials on these studies.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Derick Murray	Robert Collier	Gordon McIntosh	Stephen Archer
Director	Chief Executive	Director of Enterprise	Director of
		Planning &	Infrastructure
		Infrastructure	Services
Nestrans	Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce	Aberdeen City Council	Aberdeenshire Council

Ian Armstrong	Andy Willox
Regional Director	Scottish Policy Convener
Scottish Council For Development And Industry	Federation of Small Businesses

Chief Executive's Office

Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF
Direct Line: 0141 272 7110, Fax: 0141 272 7111
chiefexecutive@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk

NESTRANS
21 AUG 2014
RECEIVED
MAIL ID /171

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

Derick Murray, Nestrans
Robert Collier, Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce
Gordon McIntosh, Aberdeen City Council
Stephen Archer, Aberdeenshire Council
Ian Armstrong, SCDI
Andy Willox, FSB

Your ref:
RGM/TH

Our ref:

Date:
21 August 2014

Dear Derick

RAIL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND

Thank you for your letter of 16 July .

The contribution of the north east to the vitality of the Scottish economy and the crucial importance of transport links in stimulating and sustaining vibrant growth has been recognised by Ministers through the investment and planning of key road and rail improvements in the area including the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route, Inveramsay Bridge, dualling of the A96 and timetable enhancements in May 2014 to improve passenger services and seeking to address overcrowding issues on the Glasgow to Aberdeen rail line. Our continued working with you in the North East on other projects including Access to Laurencekirk, supporting your study into the Energetica Corridor and the work to deliver the improvements to Haudagain Roundabout as well as dialogue with ACSEF on accommodating the site staff required for the AWPR is a clear demonstration of Ministers commitment to the North East.

You will also be aware of Scottish Government's commitment to rail which is reflected in the ambitious £5 billion package of funding and investment for our railways until 2019 which will support improvements to infrastructure and services across the network to support sustainable economic growth.

The Scottish Ministers' High Level Output Specification for 2014-2019 outlines the requirements for substantial improvements designed to increase the capacity and capability of the Scottish Network including improvements to both the Highland Main Line and the route between Aberdeen and Inverness.

In terms of the Aberdeen to Central Belt intervention, Network Rail has recently completed a feasibility report which has been provided to us for comment and assessment. This is a technical report which explores possible options for journey time and capacity improvements on the route which can be implemented in the short term. In the light of our comments a Grip 3 report will then be produced and we will publish a non-technical summary of that report on our website so that the public may be apprised of the solutions that will be delivered as part of Network Rail's Renewals Programme for 2014-19. We will also, of course, provide supplementary information via our engagement with Nestrans so that you are fully aware of the proposals and their impact.

I can confirm that Ministers remain committed to further improvements and additional work on the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) project 23 – Rail Improvements between Aberdeen and Central Belt - will be developed in Control Period 5 (2014-19) for delivery in Control Period 6 (2019-24).

In the case of the Aberdeen to Inverness line improvement, I can advise that we will publish, later next month, a non-technical summary of the Grip 3 study and be in a position to share details of the report with Nestrans to inform your timetabling study.

Further to the improvement programme, Ministers also recognise the benefits of electrification from the Central Belt to Aberdeen in terms of journey times and connectivity between cities, environmental benefits and improved capacity, and therefore are developing a strategy to inform the timescales for the rolling programme of electrification beyond the committed electrification for Control Period 5 (2014019) to include electrification to Aberdeen. The results of this will be determined in due course.

The desire for improvement is also reflected in the Invitation to Tender (ITT) for the next ScotRail franchise and relates to all aspects of the journey experience, including improvements to the passenger environment, on-board services, frequency improvements and reductions to journey times between key cities. Franchise bids are currently being evaluated and the successful bidder will be announced in October of this year but we must wait until that time to discover how your direct representation has been reflected by the successful bidder.

After the new franchisee is announced it may be useful for there to be a further discussion involving myself, my rail colleagues and yourselves in the North East. Perhaps Derick Murray could speak to my office to identify a possible date

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Transport and Veterans with whom this letter was cleared

Yours Sincerely

David Middleton

DAVID MIDDLETON

APPENDIX D

1 September 2014 Our Ref RD/ N13/7

Your Ref

David Middleton
Chief Executive
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House
58 Port Dundas Road
Glasgow
G4 0HF

Dear Mr Middleton

Access for Passengers with Mobility Problems – Insch Railway Station

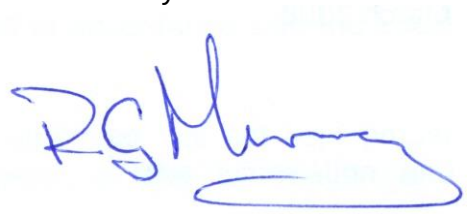
At its meeting on 21 August, the Nestrans Board considered a report on Rail Matters and has asked me to write to you highlighting their concern at the lack of opportunities for people with mobility problems to access the south (westbound) platform at Insch station.

Passengers wishing to access the south platform are faced with an overbridge with steep steps and no alternative. Bearing in mind the responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act as well as the increasing demand for rail users with childrens buggies, luggage, etc. the Board find it unacceptable that this situation persists.

Current proposals to upgrade the Aberdeen-Inverness line include the extension of platforms at Insch as well as other enhancements and it is to be hoped that it might be possible to include accessibility improvements as part of the enhancement project. Nestrans would be happy to work with Transport Scotland in considering suitable options for improvement.

If you wish to discuss or require further information, please feel free to contact me or Rab Dickson on 01224 625524.

Yours sincerely



Director

Chief Executive's Office

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Direct Line: 0141 272 7110, Fax: 0141 272 7111
chiefexecutive@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND
CÒMHDHAIL ALBA

Derick Murray
NESTRANS
27-29 King Street
ABERDEEN
AB24 5AA

NESTRANS
18 SEP 2014
RECEIVED
MAIL ID /189

Your ref:
RD/N13/7

Our ref:
2014/0028251

Date:
15 September 2014

Dear Derick,

Access for passengers with Mobility Problems - Insch Railway Station

Thank you for your letter of 1 September 2014 with regard to Insch Railway Station and access to the south (westbound) platform.

In 2012/13 ScotRail undertook a feasibility study to create a new road, car park and level access to the Inverness bound platform. Transport Scotland supported this project to deliver improvements for passengers. The proposals were dependent on the purchase of private land but unfortunately, the landowner's valuation was substantially in excess of that given by Network Rail. On that basis, Transport Scotland agreed with Network Rail's recommendation not to proceed with the proposals

As you have identified there will be an extension of platforms at Insch station as part of the Aberdeen to Inverness project. Currently there are no plans to make further improvements, beyond those platform extensions, at this stage; however, any future proposals for enhancement to the station could be funded via the Scottish Station Fund (SSF). I have attached the link to the SSF guidance for your information.
http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/rail/stations-and-interchanges

I hope this is helpful.

I am copying this reply to the Minister for Transport and Veterans.

Yours Sincerely

David Middleton

DAVID MIDDLETON