

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	
<b>EC1 - Rail Links and Services</b>						
EC1a: Reducing journey times to Edinburgh and Glasgow, and further south.	Aberdeen - Central Belt rail improvement	Ministerial announcement on STPR 10 Dec 08 includes rail service enhancements between Aberdeen and the Central Belt and reconfiguration if the national rail timetable (incl trying to reduce journey times to the Central Belt by up to 20mins) as priority projects On 28 Jan 2016 the Scottish Government announced £200million to help improve journey times and increase capacity between Aberdeen and the Central Belt as part of a £254million package in addition to the City Region Deal.		The Minister for Transport announced in March that a team will be set up to review options for capacity improvements between Aberdeen and Dundee, as well as options for double tracking Usan Junction and the South Esk viaduct at Montrose. Members will include representatives from Transport Scotland, Nestrans, Tactran, the ScotRail Alliance and freight and passenger rail service operators	<b>The Aberdeen to Central Belt Team met for first time on 22 May 2017 and further details in Director's Report. Next meeting to be arranged for around Aug/Sept</b>	
	East Coast Main Line Authorities	Manifesto launched 15 July 2014.	<b>£3K Revenue in 17/18 Invoiced in full</b>	<b>Contribution for membership in 17/18 agreed and has been invoiced.</b>		↑
<b>EC2 - Strategic Roads</b>						
EC2a: 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	Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route - Balmedie to Tipperty (AWPR-BT) ®	<b>Earthworks and laying of Cement Bound Granular Material (CBGM) and Continuously Reinforced Concrete Paving (CRCP) have continued across all areas. Water management, drainage and structural works have continued along the full length of the site. Works have continued to progress on the River Dee and River Don crossings, with works on the decking part of the structure and the CFT (Cantilever Forming Traveller) at the Dee continuing.</b>		Contracting Authority to continue to deliver packages of work to achieve the programme timescales.	Completion Winter 2017/18	↑

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to Inverness.  EC2a (contd)	Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route - Balmedie to Tipperty (AWPR-BT) ®  (continued)	<b>Beams are now in place at the new Blackdog junction and edge parapet works for the new Charleston bridge continues. A new section of B977 opened to traffic at Goval junction, with traffic now using the new Goval East roundabout. Works have commenced for the new C13K (Lairhillock to Portlethen road) bridge with a 14 week road closure in place. Major temporary traffic management measures continue to be in place at A944 and A93. Major temporary traffic management (with average speed cameras) continues to be in place on the A90 at Stonehaven, Charleston, Blackdog and Balmedie.</b> Press releases continue to be published in respect of planned works affecting all the key road corridors. Every effort continues to be made to minimise disruption to road users and local communities during construction. The Contact and Education Space, located at the main site office (Stonehaven) is open to the general public.		Further information can be found at the project website: <a href="http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/aberdeen-western-peripheral-route/traffic-management">http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/aberdeen-western-peripheral-route/traffic-management</a>		
	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. Options for A96 Hardmuir to Fochabers to go on public display with exhibitions from 19-22 June and full details of venues and times can be viewed on the Transport Scotland website A96 dualling project pages with exhibition material available from noon on 19 June.		Transport Scotland announced on 4 April 2017 that Aecom, Amey Arup Joint Venture, Atkins WSP Joint Venture and Jacobs are to be invited to bid for the contract for a 26 mile stretch of the A96 from east of Huntly to Aberdeen. The contract for up to £50M of works is expected to be awarded later this year.	Once awarded the route option assessment work will commence and design work for the eastern section will get fully underway.	↑

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EC2a (contd)	Forth Replacement Crossing (FRC)	Forth Crossing Act came into force on 18 March 2011. Various Contracts let and cost now expected to be in range 1.45bn-1.6bn. Further details can be viewed on Transport Scotland's website.		Due to adverse weather, specifically wind the opening of the new Queensferry Crossing has been delayed	Opening now expected between mid July and end Aug 2017	↑
<b>EC4 - Connections by Sea</b>						
EC4b: Improved access and facilities at ports and interchange with passenger ferries.	Civitas - Portis	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Nestrans, RGU, University of Aberdeen and Aberdeen Harbour Board have made a bid in partnership with 4 other ports to the Civitas programme. Grant will provide up to 100% funding for measures and run for 4 years from Sept 2016. Nestrans has been awarded a notional budget of £260-270k over four years, within a total Aberdeen allocation of around £1.5million.	Nestrans received half of grant up front £133K  2017/18 Costs to date = £2.5K	Nestrans continuing to work with partners to progress the various work packages we are involved with through Civitas.		↑
	Aberdeen Harbour	AHB has received all the necessary consents in support of their expansion plans, namely from Transport Scotland, in the form of a Harbour Revision Order, from Marine Scotland, as Marine Licenses, and from Aberdeen City Council as Planning Permission in Principle. It is estimated that the development will generate an additional £1 billion per annum to the economy by 2035, and create an additional 7,000 equivalent jobs. Funding arrangements for the project incorporated commercial borrowing from the European Investment Bank, and funding from the Aberdeen City & Region Deal. Construction contract signed with Dragados UK on 20 Dec 2016 for the £350 million project that will include 1,400 metres of new quay, with a water depth of up to 10.5 metres and create an additional 125,000 square metres of lay-down area..		Construction has now commenced. A section of Greyhope Road closed to the public from 17 April 2017 and will remain closed until the completion of construction works in June 2020. Full updates can be viewed on the Harbour Board's website in the Nigg Bay Development pages.		↑

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<b>EC4d:</b> Continue dialogue with the Scottish Government and Northern Isles ferry service operator to	Scottish Ferries	Final Plan published December 2012 with strategic guidance for the provision of ferry services in Scotland through to 2022.		S Gov undertaking a policy review into the legal, policy and financial implications relevant to future procurement of ferry services. Further details in info bulletin.	Stakeholder engagement until June and aim to publish report Autumn 2017	↑
	Northern Isles Ferry Services	Following a hearing at the Court of Session, Serco appointed as operator of the Northern Isles Ferry Services for a period of 6 years from 5 July 2012.				↑
<b>EC5 - Connections by Air</b>						
<b>EC5a:</b> Support expansion of direct destinations from Aberdeen and frequency of popular services.	New / improved routes	<b>airBaltic launched new route to Riga, Latvia on 2 May and will run three times a week. Ryanair also launched their year round twice a week flights to Faro, Portugal later that day.</b>		Thomson and First Choice have announced a new route from summer 2018 for customers from Aberdeen to Reus in the Costa Dorada area of Catalonia in Spain.		↑
	Aberdeen International Airport Improvements	Details of a £20 million investment in the airport over the next 3 years were unveiled during a visit by the First Minister on 1 Feb 2016. This will allow a 50% increase in the size of the terminal building and include the creation of two new passenger lounges, an expanded baggage reclaim area, a new security search area, new immigration facilities and new retail and catering facilities within the main departures lounge. This will see the construction of a 2 storey extension to the south of the existing terminal, making space for new arrivals and immigrations facilities, and new business lounges on the upper level.		Phase 1 of the project was launched on 30 May 2017 with the opening of the new international arrivals facilities that offer more space and a new longer baggage reclaim belt.	The next stage will see the Northern Lights Executive Lounge open on 1 July	↑