

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.	High Level Output Specification	The HLOS for Control Period 6 was published in July 2017. This sets out what the Minister for Transport wants to be achieved between 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024.		Further details in info bulletin.		
	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, Tacran, the ScotRail Alliance and freight and passenger rail service operators	The second meeting of the Aberdeen to Central Belt Team planned in Sept has been cancelled and new date to be arranged.	
	East Coast Main Line Authorities	Manifesto launched 15 July 2014.	£3K Revenue in 17/18 Invoiced in full	Contribution for membership in 17/18 agreed and has been invoiced.	Next meeting of group on 3 Oct and Tacran representing RTPs	↑

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	Rail Franchises	DfT took over ECML franchise on 14 Nov 09. Serco awarded contract for Caledonian Sleeper and 15 year franchise starts April 2015. Abellio took over ScotRail franchise in April 2015 for 7-10 years. Inter City Railways, comprising Stagecoach and Virgin awarded the ECML franchise from Sunday 1 March 2015 for 8-9 years.		The Government announced in June 2017 the names of the companies shortlisted for the West Coast Partnership rail franchise that will operate the existing InterCity west coast services and the development, delivery and running of HS2 in 2026.	Further details in info bulletin.	↑
EC1b: Improved train capacity, comfort and reliability.	Fare Structure	Rail price increases for 2018 have been announced. Abellio ScotRail can raise fares by as much as the Retail Prices Index and this will see a 3.6% increase in regulated rail fares. The price rise will affect season tickets and anytime fares while off-peak fares will go up by 2.6%.		Transport Minister issued a statement that the S Gov had restricted the rise to ensure Scotland has the lowest price rises in the UK and have introduced initiatives including offering a free weeks travel to season ticket holders (equal to the cost of a rail fare freeze) that was taken up by 90% of those eligible.	Rail fare increases to take place from January 2018	
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. HS2 Ltd has published their report 'Broad options for upgraded and high speed railways to the North of England and Scotland' study and Transport Scotland has published their findings into High Speed Rail between Edinburgh and Glasgow.		Nestrans arranged a local briefing session on behalf of Transport Scotland on progress developing HSR in and to Scotland proposals. This was held at the Town House in Aberdeen on 30 August.		↑

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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 or around Dundee and dualling the A96 to Inverness. EC2a (contd)	Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route - Balmedie to Tipperty (AWPR-BT) ®	Laying of Cement Bound Granular Material (CBGM) and Continuously Reinforced Concrete Paving (CRCP) have continued across all areas. Road markings and road restraint systems are also being installed in some areas, along with planting and landscaping works. Water management, drainage and structural works continue 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 nearing completion. The CFT (Cantilever Forming Traveller) at the Don crossing is expected to be set up soon. Traffic on the A90 is soon to run on the southbound carriageway of the new Balmedie-Tipperty (B-T) route between Tipperty and Foveran. This is the first time road users are able to access a section of the new B-T mainline. When open, this will allow surfacing and tying in works on the northbound carriageway of the mainline to progress. Traffic on the A90 at Balmedie is now running over the recently completed southbound carriageway section of the Balmedie junction underpass. This has allowed works to begin on constructing the second half of the new underpass structure below the northbound carriageway. Works are also progressing on the slip roads. Bridge deck works have been completed on both the North and South Blackdog Junction Underbridges with works on the new slip roads also progressing.		Contracting Authority to continue to deliver packages of work to achieve the programme timescales. Further information can be found at the project website: http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/aberdeen-western-peripheral-route/traffic-management	Completion Winter 2017/18	↑

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EC2a (contd)	Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route - Balmedie to Tipperty (AWPR-BT) ® (continued)	Both the Orrock Road Overbridge and Foveran Road Overbridge are now open to traffic along with the new alignment for Tarty Road at Tipperty. A new alignment for the B977 at Goval has been opened to traffic. Works are also progressing on the new alignment of the A947 at Goval. Road users are now able to access across the new A93 North Deeside Road Overbridge, which has allowed the temporary diversion and the earthworks 'plug' underneath to be removed. Major temporary traffic management measures continue to be in place at A93, as junction works continue in that area. The A944 roundabout at the South Kingswells Junction is almost fully operational and is now tied in with all the adjoining side roads. Traffic on the A90 at Stonehaven has been switched to run over the recently completed southbound carriageway section of the new B979 Netherley Road Underbridge. That has allowed the demolition of the northbound section of the old structure and works to begin on the replacement. The C13K Lairhillock to Portlethen Road reopened following the earlier than expected completion of works on the new bridge over the AWPR at Rothnick. Traffic has now been permanently diverted over the new structure which has allowed the earthworks 'plug' at this location to be removed and the mainline carriageway to be progressed underneath.		Major temporary traffic management (with average speed cameras) continues to be in place on the A90 at Stonehaven, Charleston, Blackdog and Balmedie. 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 by carrying out lane closures off-peak and at weekends where possible. The Contact and Education Space, located at the main site office (Stonehaven) remains open to the general public.		

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	Laurencekirk Flyover	Infrastructure Secretary Keith Brown announced £24M of funding on 28 Jan 2016 to take forward the design and construction of a grade separated junction on the A90 at Laurencekirk junction. Transport Scotland has appointed Amey to undertake route option assessment work and develop a preferred junction option, leading to the preparation of draft road Orders. Nestrans has shared previous work and will be part of the Partnership Group overseeing the project along with Transport Scotland, Aberdeenshire and Angus Councils.	S Gov has committed £24 million	Topographical survey to be arranged. 'Meet the Team' event was held for public on Friday 17 February in Laurencekirk and material from the event can be viewed on the Transport Scotland website and give details on the design and assessment process.	Next meeting of Partnership Group scheduled for 8 Sept in Dundee	↑
	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. Project included within NPF3: Proposed Framework. Transport Scotland announced on 4 April 2017 that Aecom, Amey Arup Joint Venture, Atkins WSP Joint Venture and Jacobs were to be invited to bid for the contract for a 26 mile stretch of the A96 from east of Huntly to Aberdeen.		On 26 June Transport Scotland announced the intention to award the contract worth up to £50M to Amey Arup Joint Venture for the route option assessment and detailed design work to dual the A96 between east of Huntly and Aberdeen. Following the mandatory standstill period, work will get fully underway in July.	RTP/LA Stakeholder meeting held in Elgin 31 Aug	↑

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	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.		The new bridge will open to traffic on 30 Aug 2017, then close 2-3 Sept for the Queensferry Crossing Experience, when 50,000 members of the public will walk across the bridge following a ballot that attracted almost 250,000 entries. HM The Queen will officially open the bridge on 4 Sept and a community day will take place on 5 Sept, to give up to 10,000 people from local schools and community groups on both sides of the Forth the chance to walk on the bridge.	The bridge will re-open to traffic with no pedestrian access from 6 Sept 2017 onwards.	↑

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EC4 - Connections by Sea						
EC4b: Improved access and facilities at ports and interchange with passenger ferries.	Northern Isles Ferry Services	The Minister for Transport has announced that a scheme to significantly reduce fares on Northern Isles ferry services will be rolled out in the first half of 2018. Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) will be introduced on the Pentland Firth routes, whilst a variant of the scheme will be brought in on the routes from Aberdeen to Kirkwall and Lerwick.		The proposals will see foot passenger fares cut by an average of more than 40%, whilst car fares will be reduced by an average of more than 30%. This will bring fares into line with those on the Clyde and Hebrides network.	Detailed analysis is being carried out on the potential impact on demand and options to mitigate capacity issues will also be investigated, given the likely rise in passenger numbers	↑
	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 = £4.4K	Nestrans continuing to work with partners to progress the various work packages we are involved with through Civitas. RD attending Civitas Portis Annual General Meeting in Trieste, 13-15 Sept 2017.		↑

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EC4b (contd)	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. New facility will be known as Aberdeen South Harbour. It was announced that Scottish Enterprise is to contribute £11.7 million towards the harbour's £350 million expansion during visit by First Minister on 17 July.	Preconstruction Activities: May to Oct 2017; North Breakwater: May to Dec 2017 and Coast Rd/St Fitticks Rd re-alignment: Oct-Nov 2017	↑

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	Peterhead Harbour	Plans have been unveiled for a £49M investment into Peterhead Harbour and include constructing a much larger fish market and provision of covered landing areas, stores, ice, boxes, water, fuel and all manner of repair services. The inner harbours will be deepened to 6.5m. The necessary consents have all been obtained. Contract awarded to civil engineering contractor, McLaughlin & Harvey and dredging contractor, Boskalis Westminster. Work will commence in the middle of October 2016 and should be complete in April 2018. Construction of the new fish market will be under a separate contract and take place between March 2017 and 31 March 2018. Further details on Port Authority's website		Boskalis has awarded Peterhead Port Authority with a contract to harbour the suction bucket jacket foundations for Vattenfall's 11-turbine European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre in Aberdeen. The port will moor one of the world's largest floating cranes and up to 6 barges that will transport the 11 foundations, along with 2 supporting offshore construction vessels. A project site office will be established at the harbour.	Work is due to start later this year, with the port supporting the installation operations for at least 4 months and the offshore work expected to take around 4-6 weeks.	↑
EC5 - Connections by Air						
EC5a: Support expansion of direct destinations from Aberdeen and frequency of popular services.	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.		The new domestic arrivals baggage reclaim facility was opened ahead of schedule to passengers on 14 July 2017, following on from the new Northern Lights Executive Lounge that opened on 1 July and the International Arrivals Facility that opened in May. This completed the first phase of the 3 year terminal transformation project.	The next phase is underway and will bring an enlarged and improved security area and new World Duty Free retail space for 2018.	↑

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EC5c: Ensure protection of slots for Aberdeen services at key hubs such as London Heathrow.	Access to Heathrow	On the 25 Oct 2016 the UK Government announced its decision to permit the expansion of Heathrow Airport by permitting the construction of a third runway to the north west of the airport.		The Secretary of State for Transport guaranteed additional slots for Scottish airports at Heathrow as part of the expansion during talks with S Gov and further details in information bulletin.		↑