

Annex B – Internal Communications sent to the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport and/or the Minister For Transport from 16 February 2021 to 11 October 2022 in relation to timeline, funding, construction and delivery of the A96 Inverness to Nairn (Including Nairn Bypass) scheme.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 18 February 2021 10:01

To: Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity <CabSecTIC@gov.scot> **Cc:** [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Directors <DLECONPTSD@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Media <DLECONPTSM@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Secretariat <TSS@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED]

Subject: A96 Dualling - Inverness to Nairn - Minute to Cab Sec - Next Steps - 18 February 2021

Importance: High

Cabinet Secretary

URGENT

Please find attached a minute in respect of the A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) scheme.

We are inviting the Cabinet Secretary to note the immediate next steps on the scheme following the Scottish Ministers' Decision that the Orders for the scheme should be made, and the proposed communications handling

Regards

[REDACTED]

Design Manager

Design Team 3

Major Projects

Transport Scotland

Buchanan House

58 Port Dundas Road

Glasgow

G4 0HF

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED] > **On Behalf Of** Minister for Transport

Sent: 20 January 2022 12:45

To: [REDACTED] >; Minister for Transport

<MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <CabSecFE@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero

<DGNetZero@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; Chief Executive Transport Scotland

<ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Directors <DLECONPTSD@transport.gov.scot>;

[REDACTED] ; Shackman L (Lawrence) <Lawrence.Shackman@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED] ;

[REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ;

[REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Routine - A96 Review Update - January 2022

Hi [REDACTED]

Minister wants to be crystal clear that Inverness to Aldearn would not be subject to EAP?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Private Secretary to the Minister for Transport – Graeme Dey

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |

Tel: [Redacted] | **BB:** [Redacted] | Email: MinisterFT@gov.scot

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 19 January 2022 14:54

To: Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <CabSecFE@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Directors <DLECONPTSD@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED] ; Shackman L.(Lawrence) <Lawrence.Shackman@transport.gov.scot>; Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] >; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] >

Subject: RE: [Routine - A96 Review Update - January 2022](#)

[REDACTED]

In answer [to the Ministers query re 'Mr Ewing asked a question in Parliament some weeks/months back about re-running aspects of the work done on the dualling proposal.'](#)

The question raised by Mr Ewing was: *'I ask the minister to confirm today, in his closing speech, that we will deliver on our promises on the A9 and the A96. I am talking specifically about the revised promise, if you like: that the dualling of the stretch of the A96 from Inverness to Auldearn, including in particular the Nairn bypass, will go ahead and will not be subjected to the environmental test. That last point is a fine distinction, but an important one, and I will finish on this. The project should go ahead, as it has already gone through the public local inquiry process. That, for me, is a matter of honour.'*

To which the Minister stated: *'On Fergus Ewing's ask in relation to the A96 stretch from Inverness to Aldearn, which includes the Nairn bypass, the project is already excluded from the environmental assessment process, because it has already*

gone through a formal process. I hope that that provides the clarity that is sought'.

We can confirm that the Minister's statement does not contradict the update provided in the paper in relation to progress on the A96 Review. As per the Bute House Agreement, the Scottish Government will take forward a transport enhancement programme on the A96 corridor which will include dualling from Inverness to Nairn as well as a bypass of Nairn.

An update on the A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) will be provided to the Minister in the coming weeks.

If the Minister requires anything else please let us know.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Project Manager

Major Projects

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF



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From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Transport

Sent: 18 January 2022 17:48

To: [REDACTED] [Minister for Transport](#)
<MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <CabSecFE@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Directors <DLECONPTSD@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; Shackman L (Lawrence) <Lawrence.Shackman@transport.gov.scot>; Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ;
[REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Routine - A96 Review Update - January 2022

Hi [REDACTED]

Mr Dey has a query about this - Mr Ewing asked a question in Parliament some weeks/months back about re-running aspects of the work done on the dualling proposal. Can you confirm that this does not contradict the answer given at the time and if it does, Cab Sec needs armed with a proper explanation of why it does?

Grateful for advice during the course of tomorrow (Wednesday)

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Private Secretary to the Minister for Transport – Graeme Dey
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |
Tel: [Redacted] **BB:** [REDACTED] | Email: MinisterFT@gov.scot

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From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: 18 January 2022 11:20

To: Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <CabSecFE@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Directors <DLECONPTSD@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED] ; Shackman L (Lawrence) <Lawrence.Shackman@transport.gov.scot>; Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot>; _____

[REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] >; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ;
[REDACTED] ;[REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED]
>

Subject: Routine A96 Review Update January 2022

Minister for Transport

Please find attached a Ministerial Briefing Note in respect of the A96 Review. The note provides an update in relation to progress on the A96 Review and its reference in the forthcoming publication of the second Strategic Transport Project Review (STPR2), which is anticipated to be published on Thursday, with the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport making a statement to Parliament on the same day.


Kind Regards

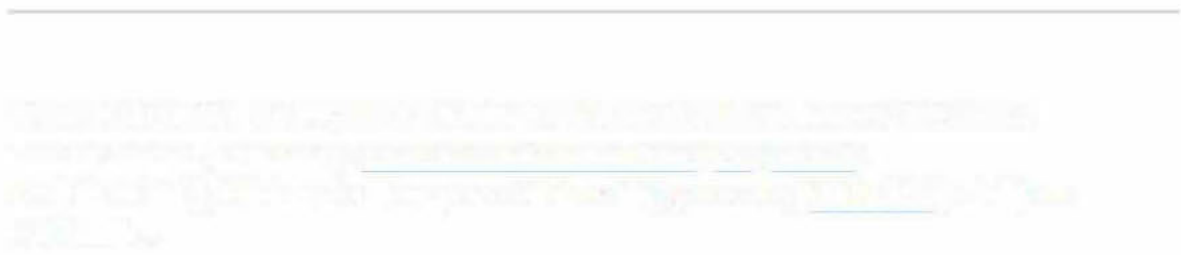
[REDACTED]
Project Manager
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From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Minister for Transport](#)
To: [\[REDACTED\]](#) ; [Minister for Transport](#)
Cc: [\[REDACTED\]](#) ; [\[REDACTED\]](#) ; [\[REDACTED\]](#) ; [Shackman L \(Lawrence\)](#); [\[REDACTED\]](#) ; [\[REDACTED\]](#) ; [\[REDACTED\]](#)
Subject: RE: A96 Dualling Submission Call with Minister - Further update request
Date: 28 February 2022 14:57:23
Attachments: [\[Redacted\]](#)

Importance: High

Hi all,

I've added [REDACTED] for sight of any further comment.

Have spoken to [REDACTED], as agreed, and advice is that the bypass isn't in the review, the policy programme as set out below is clear – what is being reviewed is the current plan to dual the whole of the A96, not the commitments to do bypasses or safety improvements.

The Scottish National Party and Scottish Green Party have and will maintain distinct positions of the dualling of the A96. However, as part of this agreement, the Scottish Government will take forward a transport enhancements programme on the A96 corridor that improves connectivity between surrounding towns, tackles congestion and addresses safety and environmental issues. This will include:

- dualling from Inverness to Nairn
- bypassing of Nairn, Keith, Elgin and Inverurie accompanied by measures to remove through traffic from the by-passed town centres
- targeted road safety improvements where needed, for example between Fochabers and Huntly and Inverurie to Aberdeen
- the development of an A96 "Electric Highway"

The current plan is to fully dual the A96 route between Inverness and Aberdeen. We agree to conduct a transparent, evidence-based review to include a climate compatibility assessment to assess direct and indirect impacts on the climate and the environment. This will report by the end of 2022.

[Redacted]

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

E CTE | Private Secretary to the Minister for Transport – Jenny Gilruth
The Scottish Government | St Andrew’s House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |
E CTE | Email: MinisterFT@gov.scot

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 February 2022 15:11
To: Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] >; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED] >; [REDACTED] ; Shackman L (Lawrence)
<Lawrence.Shackman@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED]
Subject: A96 Dualling Submission Call with Minister - Further update request

Hi [REDACTED] ,

Thank you to the Minister for taking the time to meet with us today as requested to discuss the A96 Dualling submission.

We would be grateful if we could be kept informed on the discussion you have with [REDACTED] on the green SpAds interpretation.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Project Administrator
Major Projects Design Team
Transport Scotland Major Projects

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From: [REDACTED]
To: Minister for Transport
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Updated Briefing for Minister meeting with Nairn BID, Community Councils, [REDACTED] and Fergus Ewing - Date of visit 19th of May 2022
Date: 18 May 2022 11:57:49
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[A96 Dualling - Briefing for Minister of Transport for visit to Nairn to meet with Nairn BID CC and \[REDACTED\] and Fergus Ewing.doc](#)

Good morning [REDACTED],

Apologies for delay in getting this updated.

To confirm there has been some small changes to the programme and the attendees and we have added some lines into Annex E following the additional questions/issues raised by Nairn BID and Community Council. We have also added into the programme the request from [REDACTED] for the interview with Inverness Courier which has been agreed.

As per email last week confirming it was not Minister intention to meet with councillors on this visit, we contacted [REDACTED] from Nairn BID on Friday afternoon confirming this. TS officials have however been in contact with Nairn Ward secretary to offer separate meeting for the councillors with TS officials. [REDACTED] however has confirmed that councillor Michael Green will still be attending in his capacity as Nairn BID director.

Speaking note has not been amended.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Project Administrator
Major Projects Design Team
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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 12 May 2022 18:23

To: Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] **Subject:** Briefing for Minister meeting with Nairn BID, Community Councils, [REDACTED] and Fergus Ewing - Date of visit 19th of May 2022

Good afternoon,

Please see attached combined briefing for the Ministers visit to Nairn on the 19th of May to meet with Nairn BID and Community Councils and further meeting with [REDACTED] and Fergus Ewing.

As requested speaking note also attached separately from the briefing as per Ministers preferences on saltire.

As you should be aware we are still awaiting the finalised Nairn BID attendees from yourselves so changes to brief may still be required once this is finalised. Please let us know once you have received the final Nairn BID attendees so that we can make any changes as required.

I am also aware that Nairn BID have also included councillors within the meeting, we have added an Annex which includes information on the A9 Dualling Programme and Inverness and Highland City Region deal for the Ministers information in case these are raised at the meeting by the councillors.

We will be in touch if any further changes are required to the brief.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Project Administrator
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