



Title Aberdeen to Central Belt: Key Stakeholder Meeting

Date Wednesday 1 March 2023

1500-1600

via Microsoft Teams

Participants

	Transport Scotland
[REDACTED]	Project Sponsor
[REDACTED]	Project Sponsor
	Network Rail
[REDACTED]	Senior Sponsor
	ScotRail
[REDACTED]	Business Development Executive
	Nestrans

Rab Dickson (RD)

Director

[REDACTED]

Strategy Manager

Tactran

[REDACTED]

Senior Partnership Manager

Key Points/Actions

		Actions
1	Welcome and Introductions All participants were welcomed to the meeting. [REDACTED] introduced himself to RD, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who introduced themselves to him.	
2	Actions from Previous Meeting The only action from the previous meeting had been addressed.	

3	<p>Project Progress Update</p> <p>[REDACTED] presented a slide setting out how the Aberdeen to Central Belt enhancement project comprised the first phase of a three-phase programme to transform passenger and freight services on the corridor. The second phase would consist of an enhancement of the freight gauge along the route, with the third phase being the route’s decarbonisation.</p> <p>[REDACTED] then presented a slide summarising progress with the project. He set out the key activities in closing out option selection as being alignment of the enhancement project and decarbonisation project design, finalising the exact location of freight/overtaking loops and confirmation of the final configuration of station layouts. He added that ground and site investigations were being undertaken across the route, that condition surveys were being undertaken on the track asset and that engagement was being undertaken with Dundee City Council around interfaces in and around Magdalen Green. He confirmed that smaller projects supporting the wider introduction of the A-CB timetable were progressing to programme.</p> <p>[REDACTED] final slide set out a rough proposed programme for completing the project. It set out how would see commencement of the outline design phase of the project, how 2024 would see the installation of new signalling at Aberdeen, 2025 would see new signalling and loop construction at Dundee whilst 2026 would see signalling work at Montrose and loop construction along the route, with the new infrastructure being brought into use by the end of 2026.</p>	

[REDACTED] said he was pleased to note the integration between the enhancement and decarbonisation projects. He had noted a response to a Parliamentary Question from Liam Kerr MSP stating that only £6.5m had been spent so far of the £200m that had been pledged for the project. [REDACTED] responded that the early stages of the project had been carried out efficiently and added that, by the end of the outline design stage of the project, he anticipated only 10% of the total budget having been spent. The bulk of the expenditure, [REDACTED] said, was always likely to be incurred during the final two years of the project in 2025 and 2026, when significant disruptive access to the line was likely.

[REDACTED Section 30 (b)(i)]

[REDACTED] asked about the smaller projects that [REDACTED] had mentioned that would support the introduction of the wider A-CB timetable. [REDACTED] responded that work to Barnhill Junction, that had been completed in December 2022, would support line speed increases and minor journey time savings immediately north of Perth. He added that improvements to turn-back facilities at Dunblane, to be completed within 2023, would free up line capacity for additional passenger and freight traffic.

RD asked for details of the work to confirm the configuration of Aberdeen Station. [REDACTED] said that the project team was looking at whether bringing Platform 8 back into use as an additional through platform would produce more benefits than reopening Platforms 1 and 2, which would both be bay platforms. He said that a decision should be made within a few weeks. RD said that local politicians would welcome a decision on this.

4	<p>Aberdeen City Region Deal/Nestrans Update</p> <p>[REDACTED] said that Friday 12 May was looking as the most likely date for the next meeting of the Aberdeen City Region Deal Joint Committee. He said he would circulate the date as soon as it was confirmed.</p> <p>[REDACTED] outlined research that Nestrans had commissioned on rail freight depot capacity in the north east, to cater for the freight traffic that would be enabled by the enhancement and decarbonisation projects.</p> <p>[REDACTED] highlighted the impact that rail freight gauge enhancements would have on local roads, giving the bridge at Oatyhill, Laurencekirk as an example. He emphasised the importance of the TS rail and roads teams and their contractors continuing to liaise with each other.</p> <p>Finally, [REDACTED] emphasised the importance of politicians in the north east being updated regularly on what was to be delivered by the enhancement project, where it was to be delivered and how much of the pledged £200m was being spent.</p>	<p>[REDACTED] to circulate date of next CRD [REDACTED] when confirmed.</p>
5	<p>Tactran/Tay Cities Deal Update</p> <p>[REDACTED] said he had recently met [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of Network Rail to discuss the Perth Station Masterplan/Project Perth Station.</p> <p>[REDACTED] outlined the progress of proposals to reopen Bridge of Earn Station using the Local Rail Development Fund</p>	

	and progress with the Tay Cities Park and Choose scheme. [REDACTED Section 30 (b)(ii)]	
6	<p>Venue/Date for next meeting</p> <p>[REDACTED] said he would circulate potential times in early June for the next quarterly meeting of the key stakeholders.</p>	<p>[REDACTED] to circulate potential dates/times for the next meeting.</p>
7	<p>Any Other Competent Business</p> <p>[REDACTED] commented that the Campaign for North East Rail, which was campaigning to reopen the line from Dyce to Fraserburgh and Peterhead via Ellon, was not yet set up to receive Just Transition Funding.</p>	



Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



nestrans



Title Aberdeen to Central Belt: Key Stakeholder Meeting

Date Thursday 28 July 2022
1500-1600
via Microsoft Teams

Participants

	Transport Scotland
[REDACTED]	Project Sponsor
[REDACTED]	Rail Timetable Modelling Manager
	Network Rail
[REDACTED]	Senior Sponsor
	ScotRail
[REDACTED]	Head of Business Development
	Nestrans

Rab Dickson (RD)

Director

[REDACTED]

Strategy Manager

Tactran

[REDACTED]

Senior Partnership Manager

Key Points/Actions

		Actions
1	Welcome and Introductions All participants were welcomed to the meeting.	
2	Actions from Previous Meeting The only action from the previous meeting had been addressed.	

<p>3</p>	<p>Project Progress Update</p> <p>[REDACTED] summarised progress over the past three months as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing internal stakeholder buy-in to the project’s scope and plans, especially from Network Rail’s Operations and Signalling teams. • Completing timetable assurance and assessing the impact on scope, programme and cost. • Completing PACE 1 Governance. • [REDACTED Section 30 (b)(i)] • Drafting and reviewing the Outline Business Case. • Further alignment with the decarbonisation and gauging projects. <p>[REDACTED] then set out how, over the next two months, Network Rail would be, in tandem with OBC preparation, be gearing up to commence PACE 2/Project Development and Design. This would involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing the timetable assurance exercise and ratifying the timetable and infrastructure requirements • Formalising PACE Stage 2 requirements. • [REDACTED Section 30 (b)(i)] • Onsite preliminary activities. <p>[REDACTED] gave an update on work on the Outline Business Case for the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first draft of full OBC document had been produced in early July. • Work was continuing to update this document in close collaboration with the wider project team. • [REDACTED Section 30 (b)(i)] 	
----------	--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All parties would continue to consider lessons learned from the successful IDM sessions for Fife/the Borders decarbonisation. <p>[REDACTED Section 30 (b)(i)]</p> <p>[REDACTED] said that the Tactran Board would be meeting in early September. He wondered whether NR would be able to provide an update by 30 August, when papers for the board meeting would need to be sent out. Alternatively, NR could deliver a presentation on a later date to Nestrans – potentially a joint presentation to Nestrans as well as Tactran.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED Section 30 (b)(i)]</p>	
--	---	--

		<p>[REDACTED] to respond to [REDACTED] E- Mail of 15 August</p>
--	--	---

4	<p>Aberdeen City Region Deal Update</p> <p>[REDACTED] noted the substantial changes to the composition of the City Region Deal Joint Committee, resulting from the council elections of May 2022.</p> <p>All parties felt that the Team Scotland appearance in front of the Joint Committee on 10 June had gone quite well. Committee members had noted with interest the freight elements to the enhancement project.</p>	
5	<p>Nestrans Update</p> <p>RD said that there was a possibility of the Local Rail Development Fund project between Aberdeen and Laurencekirk being revived.</p>	
6	<p>Tactran/Tay Cities Deal Update</p> <p>[REDACTED] said that the Tay Cities Region Deal had also seen changes to its board as a result of the local authority elections.</p> <p>[REDACTED] provided updates on the Bridge of Earn Local Rail Development Fund project and the Tay Cities Park and Choose Project.</p>	

7	<p>Venue/Date for next meeting</p> <p>3pm on Tuesday 25 October was agreed as the time for the next quarterly Teams meeting.</p>	
8	<p>Any Other Competent Business</p> <p>[REDACTED] gave an update on the ScotRail Fit for the Future timetable. He said that through stopping trains from Glasgow to Aberdeen, linking Perth to stations in Angus, would probably not be feasible from December 2026, owing to the state of the decarbonisation programme and different types of rolling stock in use on different parts of the line. ScotRail would look, however, for optimum connections at Dundee during the interim period until electrification was complete along the route.</p>	