

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE
MEETING WITH OFFICIALS
TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2023
14:00-15:00

Meeting Note

Present:

reg 11(2)
reg 11(2) , Area Manager for Highlands and Islands Enterprise
reg 11(2) Chief Executive of the Lochaber Chambers of Commerce
reg 11(2)), Executive Chief Officer for Infrastructure, Environment and Economy,
The Highland Council
reg 11(2)), Interim Chief Executive, Transport Scotland
reg 11(2)), Senior Transport Planner, Transport Scotland

Discussion Points:

- Integrated Transport Plan (ITP) for Fort William
- Fort William 2040 Masterplan
- A82 Taret to Inverarnan and Rannoch Moor

Issue	Action	Owner
ITP	To reconvene re. principles of VHA and discuss agree/ next steps. To revert before Christmas.	reg 11(2)
2040 Masterplan & ITP	To consider potential/ opportunity to reduce local trips on the network in favour of other modes.	reg 11(2)
ITP	Proposal to prepare a draft scope for the ITP to share with TS.	reg 11(2)

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE
MINUTES OF MEETING
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT MEETING WITH reg 11(2)
WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2023: 16:00-16:30
SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Meeting Note

Present:

reg 11(2) , Minister for Transport

reg 11(2) , Private Secretary to Fiona Hyslop

reg 11(2) , Director for Major Projects, Transport Scotland

reg 11(2) , Head of Design, Procurement and Contracts, Transport Scotland

reg 11(2) , Senior Transport Planner, Transport Scotland

Introductions:

- The Minister for Transport welcomed reg 11(2) to the meeting and introduced the Transport Scotland officials in attendance.

Discussion Points:

- reg 11(2) thanked the Minister for Transport for taking the time to meet her and highlighted that the A82 trunk road was a priority for her. She highlighted key issues on the A82 were congestion in Fort William, progress on improvements on the section between Tarbet and Inverarnan and wider road safety along the route.
- A discussion was held on improvements to the A82 between Tarbet and Inverarnan. The Minister for Transport confirmed that the Scottish Government is still committed to delivering improvements on the section between Tarbet and Inverarnan, noting that improvements to the A83 Rest and Be Thankful would need to be completed first as the A82 would be required as an alternative route during construction works on the A83.
- reg 11(2) requested that consideration be given to improving communication of improvements made to the whole of the A82 trunk road. The Minister for Transport indicated that she would take this request away and give consideration to whether there could be more frequent comms from BEAR Scotland on the works going on across the out of scope

- The Minister for Transport thanked reg 11(2) for attending the meeting.

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Action	Owner
Transport Scotland to liaise with BEAR re. potential for improved communication/ details of planned and ongoing maintenance along the length of the A82 trunk road.	Transport Scotland, Roads Directorate
Transport Scotland is committed to ongoing and regular dialogue with FW2040 in respect of the Integrated Transport Plan for Fort William and related matters, and will explore opportunities for improved communication and information-sharing on all FW2040 project progress.	Transport Scotland, Transport Strategy and Analysis Directorate

Meeting with Transport Scotland, Police Scotland and Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council

Friday 8 December 2023

Spean Bridge Community Centre – 10:00–11:30

1. Pedestrian Crossings

Discussion on potential locations for pedestrian crossings.

– A82 near the two bus stops for access to public transport.

- A86 to provide safe access to the Dalour Playpark and Spean Bridge Primary School.

reg 11(2) from Transport Scotland confirmed that they are very happy to explore the possibility of pedestrian crossings. They will be assessed on the number of people crossing, gaps in traffic, and any vulnerable people crossing. The pedestrian crossings will be investigated next year, and it is expected that the investigations would take a few weeks.

reg 11(2) from Police Scotland explained that they look at collision statistics to inform a strong basis of where they are approaching situations from. It was highlighted that Police Scotland always employ resources to areas that most need it.

ACTION

- reg 11(2) from Transport Scotland confirmed they will investigate the possibility of pedestrian crossings next year

2. A82 Speed Limits in Spean Bridge

Transport Scotland have agreed to look at 20mph on the A82 through Spean Bridge and to look at potential traffic calming measures.

It was highlighted by the Community Council that a pedestrian bridge is required to provide a safer route for pedestrians who must walk across the Telford bridge. reg 11(2) from Transport Scotland confirmed that he is happy to pick this up and look at the suggestion of a pedestrian bridge. It was mentioned that Active Travel could help to provide funding for this.

ACTIONS

- Transport Scotland will investigate a 20mph speed limit on the A82 through Spean Bridge and potential traffic calming measures
- reg 11(2) from Transport Scotland will pick up the suggestion of a pedestrian bridge and investigate

3. A86 Spean Bridge to Roy Bridge speed limit review including Inverroy

reg 11(2) from Transport Scotland explained that Inverroy has had attention between what the speed limit and guidance says and what the community is saying.

Transport Scotland will look to see if they can put a bit more emphasis on the place, rather than it just being seen as trunk road that takes people elsewhere. This should be going to Ministers this month. If there is opportunity to look at Inverroy and other places, Transport Scotland will do that

after the findings are published. It is hoped that road markings will be in place in Inverroy before Christmas.

ACTIONS

- reg 11(2) from Transport Scotland confirmed they will try and put more emphasis on Inverroy and if there is opportunity to look at Inverroy, Transport Scotland will do so after the findings from Scottish Ministers have been published.
- reg 11(2) from Transport Scotland confirmed that they hope to have road markings in Inverroy before Christmas

4. A86 Carriageway Width

reg 11(2) from Transport Scotland confirmed that there isn't a scheme currently planned to widen narrow roads, but that the A86 is something he would like to consider improving in sections.

reg 11(2) from Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council explained that Gilkes Energy have ideas for a development which could help lead to the A86 being widened.

5. Spean Bridge to Leanachan Crossroads Active Travel Scheme

Options

The first option – going down the north side of the A82 would mean two crossings of the A82.

The second option – going down the south side would need either a realignment of the A82 from the Bridge Cafe to Glendale or the purchase of land from the owner of Glendale to permit the route to use Fairway Drive and Station Road.

The third option was to run down the south side of the railway through the Spean Bridge Golf Club but that would mean running a caged tunnel nearly the whole length to protect users from wayward golf balls.

reg 11(2) from Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council explained that the Council were not consulted on this. The Community Council will send on further details to Transport Scotland.

ACTION

- reg 11(2) from Transport Scotland explained that they are still committed to delivering the route. They hope to hear back by end of the Financial Year with an outcome of the review and they will respond with an outcome.

6. Spean Bridge to Roy Bridge Active Travel Scheme

reg 11(2) from Transport Scotland confirmed that this scheme is currently subject to money but is in the plans for the budget next year. Transport Scotland have been investigating this throughout the past few weeks and are keen for the scheme to progress.

Fort William Active Travel Action Group Minutes

Date: Tuesday 26th September 2023

Time: 10:45 – 12:45

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees:

reg 11(2) (chair)
reg 11(2) (HITRANS)
reg 11(2) (THC AT)
reg 11(2) (THC – CALFPS & Roads)
reg 11(2) (THC AT)
reg 11(2) (Offbeat Bikes)
reg 11(2) (BSW Timber)
reg 11(2) (TS)
reg 11(2) (BEAR)

Apologies

reg 11(2) (FWITCC)
reg 11(2) Kilmallie CC
reg 11(2) (BEAR)
reg 11(2) (LEG)

Minutes

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Minutes of previous meeting
 - Actions from previous meeting (detailed in minutes below)
4. Active Travel Infrastructure Work Planned / Ongoing
 - Flood defence works & active travel route update – works due to complete in August (THC Update)
 - FPS completed and officially opened in August, three path counters (Q-Free) still to install, wildflower planting has been undertaken, remedial works required following road resurfacing due to low ironworks, ramps to canal being monitored but appear suitable for ecargo bikes and disability access.
 - Very positive feedback from ^{reg 11(2)} on quality of works. ^{reg 11(2)} shared that they had a good contractor and THC and the contractor worked very positively with the Community Council.

- A830 active travel improvements update – path widening around High School due to begin June; also links to Blar Mor? (BEAR/TS Update)
 - Update from ^{reg 11(2)} – designs complete and preliminary works done; due to be scheduled for November (delayed due to summer traffic volume and World Cycling Champs). 4-6 week programme for completion. ^{reg 11(2)} update – widening to be undertaken in next financial year on north side only due to presence of wildflowers in south verge. Proposals put forward for translocation of wildflowers, but some debate over best monitoring period (1 year or 2) which needs to be resolved. ^{reg 11(2)} asked if it would be possible to improve path access where trunk road AT path joins AT path from Blar Mor development; ^{reg 11(2)} thought this should be possible. Counters have been installed along paths on A830 between High School and Industrial Estate & data is available via Cycling Scotland open data portal. ^{reg 11(2)} has requested more signage to be put in place for safety of cyclists, ^{reg 11(2)} advised this could be done but already busy with other areas so the timescale of this to be reviewed.

- Loch Linnhe Holiday Park to Corpach update (BEAR/TS Update)
 - Update from ^{reg 11(2)} – works from Corpach to Holiday park due to start w/b 2/10 and street lighting has already been extended. 4-6 week programme for completion.

- Leanachan Crossroads to Spean Bridge update (BEAR/TS Update)
 - ^{reg 11(2)} update; problems with constraints, land issues etc in delivering path prior to UCI. Looking at alternative routes offline from road which are being appraised. TS remains committed to it with aim to construct in 2024, subject to land acquisition. ^{reg 11(2)} – Funding already in place for construction

- Roy Bridge to Spean Bridge update (BEAR/TS Update)
 - ^{reg 11(2)} update: Investigation commenced & indicated that additional land will be required due to constraints within road boundary. Looking to progress during 2024/2025.

- Spean Bridge to Commando Monument (BEAR/TS Update)
 - **reg 11(2)** update: TS has concluded that route doesn't fit with everyday travel remit for Trunk Road AT funding & advised that community pursue through Sustrans "Places for Everyone fund" as more of a leisure/recreation route.

- Banavie swing bridge crossing options/design update (BEAR/TS Update)
 - ^{reg 11(2)} update: proposal being reviewed based on reduced speed limit with crossing close to bridge, with a view to construction in 2024.

- Fort William speed limit review – report due by Summer 2023 (BEAR/TS Update)
 - ^{reg 11(2)} update; orders are progressing for speed limit reduction to 30mph throughout trunk road in FW. Timescale dependent on statutory process for speed limit reduction Traffic Order.
 - ^{reg 11(2)} update (post meeting addendum) on current status of potential changes to speed limits in FW area:
 - Primary focus of attention at present is on the introductions of the 20 mph speed limits. The introduction of the 20 mph limit in Corpach, replacing parts of the existing 30 mph limit is imminent. Similar to the other 20 mph limits being introduced this will be for an 18 month trial period. If the evaluation of the trial shows it is successful, the trial 20 mph will be promoted to become permanent.
 - The intention is to make the existing 40 mph stretch, which runs from just north west of the Blar Mhor Rbt, over the Caledonian Canal to the existing 30 mph for Corpach a 30 mph limit. This will follow on from introduction of the revised 20 mph limits. Following the 18 month trial period the revised 40 to 30 mph limit will be incorporated into a wider Fort William speed limit order which take account of the 20 mph trial.
 - Once the 18 month period has been completed and if the reduced speed limits become permanent, Transport Scotland will promote the reduced speed limit from 60 mph to 50 mph for the stretch of the A830 from the western end of the existing 40 mph, near the entrance to the industrial estate, through to the Loch Linnhe caravan park. This will be incorporated into a wider Fort William speed limit order which take account of the 20 mph trial.

- Scotrail cycle facilities improvements (HITRANS)
 - Scotrail have funding to improve cycle facilities at Fort William station & will install an enclosed cycle store & cycle repair station in car park outside station entrance. Also an open shelter over HI-BIKE dock at station. Works due to start Nov/Dec and complete by end of March.
 -

- Fort William Wayfinding and Signage Strategy (HITRANS)
 - HITRANS asked designer to revisit strategy & add routes to Glen Nevis and Torlundy for Nevis Range, to update costings for potential funding to deliver next FY.

- ^{reg 11(2)} brought up issues on A830 between Banavie and Corpach; very good AT infrastructure through Caol up to Corpach but no provision between Banavie Primary and BSW Timber & many employees have raised concerns for their safety whether cycling on the road or on the pavement; represents missing link in trunk road AT through Corpach. reg 11(2) agreed that it may be possible to include investigation/design in program for next FY or the following one, depending on team capacity. In first instance, agreed to find out if shared use order is in place for footway between Banavie and Industrial Estate, and if so to put up signage indicating this. **ACTION - In first instance, agreed to find out if shared use order is in place for footway between Banavie and Industrial Estate, and if so to put up signage indicating this.**

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5. Planned Developments

- Blar Mor – No update
- Link Housing, Upper Achintore - No update

6. Monitoring and Performance

- Counter data - Data can be accessed on Cycling Scotland AT open data portal <https://usmart.io/org/cyclingscotland/>

7. Behaviour Change Interventions

- Lochaber Environmental Group / Others – see attached below

8. Funding Opportunities

- Ian Findlay Path fund remains open to community groups

Additional Items:

9. No other items

Date of next meeting: April/May tbc
(to tie in with Spring Lochaber Committee Meeting)

Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) Update

LEG's Bike Kitchen project has met (and in many cases exceeded) its active travel targets for 22-23. We are pleased to announce that we have been successful in obtaining funding for another year, from Paths for All – Smarter Choices Smarter Places. We will continue to run the following services:

- **Refurbished bike sales** – saving bikes from landfill & ensuring low cost access to bikes in the community. (We are also receiving a small amount of Cycling UK funding to give away free bikes to those in need in the community on a referral basis from healthcare/charity/third sector agencies).
- **Maintenance workshops** – arming people with the skills and confidence to care for their bikes, in turn keeping workshop costs down.
- **Active Travel Library** – borrow e-bikes, bike tools and accessories such as kiddy/cargo trailers and kiddy seats.
- **Fix Your Own Bike (FYOB) sessions** – use our workshop and tools, have our mechanic supervise you whilst you fix your own bike.
- **Volunteering** – help our mechanic to refurbish bikes – learn new skills. Our mechanic also works with a number of children from Youth Work and Lochaber High School.

Thanks to HITRANS funding we also have two e-trikes available to borrow for those who may experience difficulty with a regular bike.

Thanks to Cycling Scotland and EST funding we will shortly be able to buy our own e-cargo bike and trailer. This means we can transport tools and bikes to events without the need for a vehicle. We will also be able to promote cargo bike use by offering loans of the bike to community members.

Other

reg 11(2) (Bikeability Co-ordinator - Highland Council) delivered Bikeability Scotland Instructor (BSI) training to 5 individuals on 12th September, providing them with the qualification needed to head up delivery of Bikeability in the community. Of the 5, 2 were FW based, 2 were Strontian based and 1 was Kinlochleven based.

If schools are struggling to find parent/carers volunteers with a BSI to run Bikeability, or fund a mechanic to run a Dr Bike session, small funding pots are available – contact

reg 11(2) @highland.gov.uk

From October onwards Highland Council and Sustrans will employ an I-Bike Schools Officer to work between 8 Fort William schools encouraging active travel. There should be access to a fleet of around 30 children's bikes/helmets.