

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

13 DECEMBER 2022

BUS ALLIANCES UPDATE

REPORT BY PROJECT MANAGER

Purpose

This report provides the Partnership with updates on the Tayside and Forth Valley Bus Alliances.

Summary

The Tayside Bus Alliance has completed the Case for Change and Preliminary Options Appraisal. There will be Local Authority elected member workshops on emerging options in December, with the deadline for completion extended to March 2023. The Forth Valley Bus Alliance has completed the Case for Change with the Preliminary Appraisal to be completed by end of November.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Partnership notes the ongoing work in the Tayside and Forth Valley Bus Alliances and the direction and defined deliverables of the projects.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Bus Alliance projects are funded under the Transport Scotland Bus Partnership Fund (BPF) to deliver bus prioritisation schemes with the intention to improve bus operating speeds, reliability and attractiveness. In so doing the alliances will support the improvement of bus services and facilitate new use, reducing the reliance on other less environmentally friendly modes. BPF funded projects are supported through a series of phases, the current phase related to the completion of a STAG appraisal.
- 2.2 There are two such BPF projects being progressed in the Tactran area. The Tayside Bus Alliance is one with the other being the Forth Valley Bus Alliance.
- 2.3 The Tayside Bus Alliance was awarded funding support from the Transport Scotland Bus Partnership Fund of £497,000 to undertake a STAG appraisal of 20 bus priority corridors, and an additional £90,000 for the provision of a Project Manager. The Tayside Bus Alliance comprises local bus operators, RTPs, Bus Users group, Local Authorities: Perth & Kinross, Dundee City, Angus and Fife.

- 2.4 The award to Forth Valley Bus Alliance by Transport Scotland was £500,000 to undertake the STAG appraisal of 5 corridors included in the bid and to focus on evidence of how the proposals on these corridors will encourage modal shift and reduce emissions. The Forth Valley Bus Alliance comprises local bus operators, RTPs, Bus Users group, Local Authorities: Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire.
- 2.5 Both Alliances maintain close contact through the sharing of information and participation in a BPF project managers meeting.

3 DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The BPF work is based on the requirements of the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG), with work packages being allied to the stages of that guidance. The key deliverables being a Case for Change: Preliminary Options Appraisal; Detailed Options Appraisal and a Strategic Business Case.

Tayside Bus Alliance

- 3.2 The Tayside Bus Alliance is progressing through the STAG appraisal as outlined below:
- Case for change document - completed;
 - Preliminary options appraisal, including the development of Transport Policy Objectives - completed;
 - Detailed Options appraisal - in process; and
 - Strategic Business Case - to be delivered at the completion of the STAG.
- 3.3 Further tasks are defined as work packages specific to the delivery of the outputs listed including concept design and consultation, including public, stakeholder and council elected member engagement.
- 3.4 The engagement has been achieved through the use of:
- Public Surveys
 - Public focus groups
 - Options based optioneering workshops,
 - Council elected members workshops and presentations
- 3.5 The elected member workshops concerning the transport options emerging from the STAG study are being scheduled with the four Councils elected members during December 2022.
- 3.6 A [website](#) is maintained to present the work of the Tayside Bus Alliance and accompanied by regular briefing notes that can be subscribed on the website.
- 3.7 Latter elements of the appraisal have been affected by extended periods of engagement, and the wish to ensure a full consultation be achieved in respect of the detailed appraisal findings. These concerns have led to the request for an extension in the deliverable dates.

- 3.8 By agreement of the Project Planning Meeting and the full Alliance meeting on 1 November 2022, it was agreed to submit a modification request to Transport Scotland to extend the delivery deadline to the 31 March 2023.
- 3.9 The above work will inform the development of effective priority measures to support the objectives defined in the Bus Partnership Fund, and the further submission for BPF funding to support the design and development of effective bus priority measures.
- 3.10 A presentation on the Tayside Bus Alliance STAG will be given at the Partnership meeting.

Forth Valley Bus Alliance

- 3.11 The Forth Valley Bus Alliance has completed the Case for Change stage with options developed for review. These options are now being further appraised and additional public engagement has been done to assess these options. The draft preliminary appraisal is programmed to be completed by end of November and further information is available [here](#).

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 The report has been prepared in consultation with the relevant Local Authority transport officers.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The work defined falls within the BPF grant as awarded to the Alliances. There are no further financial implications.

6 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Equality Impact Assessment and no major issues have been identified.

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