



## **Encouraging a new generation to connect with public transport and active travel options**

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*A news release issued on behalf of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership (Tactran) – working to provide sustainable transport options – protecting the environment, improving health and saving people money.*

Cabinet Secretary for Transport Fiona Hyslop visited projects in the Tactran region (on Wednesday Dec 4) to see changes made to make it easier for people to choose public transport and to walk, wheel or cycle for everyday trips in the area. Fiona Hyslop heard from organisations including Tactran, ScotRail, Living Streets, Sustrans, Xplore Dundee/McGills, Dundee City Council and Angus Council about the positive impact of sustainable transport projects operating across Tayside.

The visit began with a tour of the multi-modal interchange at Dundee Railway Station. The changes make integrating various modes of transport, including active travel, easier for people living, working and visiting Dundee.

The tour aboard a new electric bus operated by Xplore Dundee – allowed for discussions on bus infrastructure and fleet development.

At Eastern Primary School, Living Streets demonstrated the transformative impact of the WOW Walk to School challenge programme – where a ‘walking bus’ is encouraging more young people at the school to take positive steps for the climate and their health. Through access to bikes schemes – the pupils discussed the positive cycling culture in the area, with the school having won the Dundee Cyclathon challenge for three years in a row.

The Cabinet Secretary also witnessed improvements at Carnoustie where the coastal path has been upgraded, linking communities with improved signalling offering priority to people walking, wheeling and cycling with investment of over £845,000 from the Scottish Government.

Reflecting on the visits, **Cabinet Secretary for Transport Fiona Hyslop said:**



“I was very encouraged by this visit organised by Tactran to see the many services and enabling infrastructure, which is making it easier for people to leave the car at home and to choose more sustainable transport options.

“I particularly enjoyed spending time with the pupils of Eastern Primary School and to hear their reflections on active travel, public transport and free bus travel for under 22s. It’s clear that they want to take that positive step in their own transport choices for the climate and for their health – and it’s fantastic that there is so much on offer across the region which is helping to support that.

“There’s more we can and must do – that’s why the Scottish Government has allocated over £155 million to Active Travel in this financial year, which continues to transform communities across Scotland. That’s why we’ll also continue to support free bus travel for under 22s which is making a huge difference in the lives of young people and their families across the country.

“For our health, wellbeing and climate, we will continue to invest in similar projects to help people choose walking, wheeling and cycling for shorter everyday journeys.”

**Tactran Chair, Andrew Parrott said:** “It is fully deserved that the excellent Active Travel initiatives being undertaken in the Tactran area can be demonstrated as examples of good practice. We welcome the Cabinet Secretary on her visit to observe the work we are undertaking and our future plans to grow active and sustainable travel across Tactran.

“Tactran has always strived to reach beyond existing limitations, we welcome the work of all of our schools delivery partner colleagues, local authority and national government support to contribute to future generations of active and sustainable transport users.”

**Dundee City Council convenor of Fair Work, Economic Growth and Infrastructure Cllr. Steven Rome** said: “I am pleased that the Transport Secretary has been able to visit some of the many sustainable transport improvements that are being made across our region and meet pupils at Eastern Primary to see the wide range of active and sustainable pursuits that the children participate in.



"Tactran and our Council partners are keen to encourage these pupils to learn lessons that will not only help their health as they grow but will also have a positive impact on the environment.

"It is inspiring to see their enthusiasm to take part in these initiatives."

**Highlighting improvements in Carnoustie, Angus Council's Convener of Communities, Cllr Mark McDonald said:**

"The recent improvements in Carnoustie have significantly enhanced safety for both cyclists and pedestrians, promoting a healthier, more sustainable way of travel in Angus.

"We are proud to be the first in the UK to implement traffic signals using Lidar technology. These innovative signals detect people walking, wheeling or cycling in advance, improving safety by prioritising them over vehicles.

"The project was developed and delivered through partnership between Angus Council, Tayside Contracts and Sustrans."

**ENDS**