

## TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

17 MARCH 2026

## REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY: DELIVERY UPDATE

## REPORT BY SENIOR PARTNERSHIP MANAGER

Purpose

This report provides an update on progressing the delivery of the Tayside and Central Regional Transport Strategy (RTS).

Summary

The report presents an update on the governance, delivery and reporting of the RTS delivery process.

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.1 That the Partnership:

- (i) Note the update on delivering and monitoring the Tayside and Central Regional Transport Strategy

**2 BACKGROUND**

2.1 At its meeting on 11 June 2024 the Partnership adopted the Tayside and Central Scotland Regional Transport Strategy 2024-2034 (RTS) (Report RTP/24/12 refers).

2.2 The RTS identifies the strategic objectives, outcomes and targets which set out the shared aspirations of the regional partners. The delivery of the RTS is the responsibility of a range of partners and will need to be progressed via those partners' relevant delivery programmes.

2.3 Given the scale of the challenge, the limited finances and resources, and the urgency behind targets (especially the Climate Change targets), the RTS notes the following is required:

- **A step change** in delivery, requiring a change in how we do things
- **Prioritising** those locations and populations where support is most required to achieve the adopted outcomes of the RTS
- **Co-ordinating** work to provide integrated solutions which provide a realistic alternative to the car for the whole journey.

2.4 The RTS also noted that it would be necessary to demonstrate that Tactran and partners were maximising the effectiveness of existing resources, when it came to discussing additional help with the Scottish Government.

- 2.5 At its meeting on 9 September the Partnership requested a RTS Delivery Plan update every 6 months (Report RTP/24/22 refers)

#### Governance

- 2.6 The Partnership (report RTP/24/22 refers):
- Noted the establishment of a Senior Officer Delivery Group to consider and guide the delivery and co-ordination of RTS recommendations
  - Endorsed the establishment of a RTS Delivery Board to assist the prioritisation and co-ordination of activity across relevant Partners. The Partnership agreed that a political chair of the Board would be desirable.

#### Delivery

- 2.7 The Senior Officer Delivery Group developed an RTS Delivery Plan. This plan highlighted the key actions and the owners of those actions (Report RTP/25/07 refers). The Delivery Plan is an organic document, needing updates as Partners developed their plans and programmes.
- 2.8 The Senior Officer Group considered the risks to the Delivery Plan and consequently developed a RTS Improvement Programme to address those risks (Report RTP/25/07 refers).

#### Monitoring

- 2.9 To help understand whether progress today's adopted outcomes was being achieved, the Partnership endorsed the following reporting of outputs and outcomes (report RTP/25/07 refers).
- RTS Annual Outputs Monitoring Report
  - An RTS Outcomes Update Report every 2/3 years
- 2.10 The first RTS Annual Outputs Monitoring Report was presented to the Partnership in September 2025 (report RTP/25/29 refers).
- 2.11 Given the last reporting on outcomes was included in the RTS in 2024, it was proposed that the next reporting on outcomes is presented in 2026.

### **3 DISCUSSION**

#### Governance

- 3.1 Whilst the Senior Officer Group has been established, the RTS Delivery Board is yet to be established. Nonetheless conversations with Partners concerning alignment of priorities and programmes continues.
- 3.2 The Partnership Board noted that Tactran and the Councils should attempt to make progress regarding prioritisation and co-ordination prior to then co-ordinating activity with others.

- 3.3 Given that discussions are ongoing with the RTS Senior Officer Delivery Group about how best to co-ordinate activity, the establishment of the RTS Delivery Board has been delayed.

#### Delivery

- 3.4 The RTS Senior Officer Group continue to investigate opportunities for:
- Collaborative arrangements which could assist in improving efficiency and delivery. Tactran officers are also working with Stirling Council officers regarding how best to support the Council within the Forth Valley context. Any opportunities identified by the Senior Officer Group in both cases will be carefully explored further by the respective authorities
  - Co-ordination of programmes to deliver Integrated Solutions.
- 3.5 The joint Local Authority / Tactran Senior Officer group is making significant progress on outlining the lead role for Tactran and the Local Authorities in delivering the Regional Transport Strategy (Report RTP/25/45 refers). The following list outlines the current situation on what Tactran will lead on and where further discussion is required:
- Regional Transport Strategy (Statutory Role) monitoring and reporting
  - Supporting Development Planning
  - Supporting Community Planning Partnerships & Regional bodies (NHS/NPAs/Colleges)
  - Bus transport co-ordination and project management (Tay Cities Bus Alliance)
  - Sustainable travel promotion (MaaS, P&P communications and marketing)
  - Car km reduction
  - Major scheme development
  - Freight
  - National and partner consultations
  - Rail
- 3.6 Further Discussion required for roles in the following areas:
- Network resilience
  - Sustainable travel infrastructure co-ordination of feasibility and design contracts
  - Road Safety- central resource team for (a) analysis and/or (b) behaviour initiatives
  - Co-ordinate demand management and parking strategies
  - Bus transport co-ordination and project management (Forth Valley Bus Alliance)

3.7 Actions from the RTS Improvement Programme that are being progressed include:

- Continued development of a Bus Development Plan
- Understanding the issues and implications in reducing car km in line with the Scottish Government's Climate Change Action Plan targets
- Understanding where and how Partners can support both the freight industry and the RTS objectives including the re-establishment of the Tactran Freight Partnership
- Co-ordination of People & Place programme
- Growth of the Mobility as a Service (MaaS) programme

#### Monitoring

3.8 Work is currently underway on a RTS 2026 Outcomes Update Report, it is intended that this work will be presented to the Partnership at its June meeting.

3.9 In addition to the Outcome and Output reporting, members will also be aware of the People and Place programme and the Annual Reports and the expansion of this work to consider the Social Return on Investment.

3.10 Through the monitoring and evaluation processes we hope to better understand

- The effectiveness of the types of measures (e.g. the People and Place Evaluation reports)
- Are measures being targeted at the locations and populations identified as priorities within the RTS, and at what volume (i.e. the Annual Output Reports)
- Whether the programmes have had any impact on the outcomes prioritised in the RTS (i.e. the RTS Outcomes Update Reports).

#### Progress

3.11 Staffing shortages on the strategy side of Tactran since September 2024 have not aided the pace of progress on work supporting RTS delivery.

### **4 CONSULTATIONS**

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

### **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Delivery Plan work informs the role of Tactran in supporting regional partners in delivering regional priorities. The consequences of this are reflected in the Tactran Medium Term Financial Plan.

## **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. The process of developing a RTS included the following impact assessments:
- Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EqIA)
  - Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA)
  - Health Inequalities Impact Assessment (HIIA)
- 6.2 The requirements of the Fairer Scotland Duty have been met through the EqIA, CRWIA and HIIA processes included within the Integrated Impact Assessment.

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### **NOTE**

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report:

Reports to Partnership RTP/24/12, Tayside and Central Scotland Regional Transport Strategy: Adoption and RTP/24/13 Develop to Deliver Refresh, 11 June 2024

Report to Partnership RTP/24/22 Regional Transport Strategy: Delivery Plan, 10 September 2024

Report to Partnership RTP/24/36 Director’s Report, 10 December 2024

Report to Partnership RTP/25/07 Regional Transport Strategy: Delivery Plan Update, 18 March 2025

Report to Partnership RTP/25/29, Regional Transport Strategy: Delivery Update, 16 September 2025

Report to Partnership RTP/25/45 medium Term Financial Plan Proposal for Funding Request to Partner Local Authorities, 16 December 2025