

**THE MORAY COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

MORAY FORUM TRANSPORT STEERING GROUP – Tuesday 22 March 2016, 10am

VENUE: Moray Council Meeting Room 1 (Annexe)

ATTENDEES:

A Milne, Moray Transport Working Group (AM)
 N Moss, Transportation Manager (NM)
 C Hall, Planning Officer, Community Transport (CH)
 Councillor F Murdoch (FM)
 S Fletcher, Scottish Representative, Community Transport Association (SF)
 M Whelan, Commissioning Officer (MW)
 L Davidson, PA to HoDS (LD)

APOLOGIES:

F Villani, Chief Officer, tsiMoray (FV)
 J Cromarty, Public Transport Information Officer (Hitrans) (JC)
 G McLean, NHS Grampian (GMc)
 C Woodall, Stagecoach (CW)
 D MacRae, Public Transport Manager (DM)

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Lynch, Communications manager (Network Rail) (SL)

Item	Subject	Action
1.0	Introductions and Apologies	
1.1	Introductions were made for the benefit of SL. Apologies noted as above.	
2.0	Aberdeen to Inverness Rail Update – Presentation by Stacey Lynch, Network Rail Communications Manager	
2.1	SL talked through the presentation on the forthcoming work taking place between Aberdeen to Inverness. A copy of the slides are available with this minute.	
2.2	Q&A's:	
2.2.1	Q- Will there be a bus stop/turning circle at the new station in Forres? <i>Yes. The design will also accommodate rail replacement buses.</i>	
2.2.2	Q- Can the timetables be changed? <i>See press release available with this minute.</i>	

2.2.3	<p>Q- What facilities are there for cyclists at the new station in Forres?</p> <p><i>The new road that crosses over the track will have a 2m footpath. Footpaths will also be available along the length of the A96 on both sides and the missing part of footpath on Market St will be added.</i></p>	
2.2.4	<p>Q- Has the Forres car share scheme been considered?</p> <p><i>Yes, Scotrail/Abellio has previously met with them. AM said that the electric car charge points at the station would be welcomed by them.</i></p>	
2.2.5	<p>Q- How do you ask for items to be added to the next Network Rail 5 year programme?</p> <p><i>The current programme runs from 2014 to 2019. Network Rail also has a 30 year programme (route study) and this has been launched to look at the existing routes and what can be improved.</i></p>	
2.2.6	<p>Q- Has a station at Fochabers/Lhanbryde been considered?</p> <p><i>SL said that this is not in the route study. Transport Scotland would need to receive a business case from community/council before this could be lobbied for.</i></p>	
2.2.7	<p>Q-Will there be lifts at the proposed Dalcross station?</p> <p><i>Not initially because there will only be one platform. SL noted that they have not been tasked with changing anything at other stations such as Nairn etc that don't currently have these facilities. SL noted that the Scottish Government do have access to funding for works such as accessibility packages so this may be available in the future.</i></p>	
2.2.8	<p>Q- If facilities go ahead at Elgin to provide crew changes/stabling for trains in Elgin will that have any effect on freight coming into/out of Elgin?</p> <p><i>No. There will be room for dual use.</i></p>	
2.2.9	<p>Q- What level of service disruption can be expected over the next 3 years?</p> <p><i>To complete Forres about 5 non-consecutive weekends worth of no trains running can be expected. This is likely to be around summer 2017. Buses will be in place to bridge the gap</i></p>	

2.2.10	<p><i>between Nairn and Elgin. There will be some signaling works at Elgin and an upgrade to the Wards Road level crossing and this is likely to take around 9 days to complete. This work will most likely take place in the October 2017 school holidays.</i></p> <p>AM thanked SL on behalf of the group for coming to the meeting and providing an excellent presentation.</p>	
3.0	<p>Minute of Previous Meeting Dated 19 January 2016</p> <p>3.1 1.2 – MW to speak to Catriona Campbell to obtain a copy of previous research that was done.</p> <p>3.2 3.1 – AM is still to meet with Findhorn car share scheme (now re-named to Moray Car Share). It was noted that they are trying to set themselves up as more of a business rather than a charity and that usage has increased by 30%.</p> <p>3.3 3.1 – IC is still to meet with Keith and Dufftown Railway. It was agreed this would be done with AM.</p> <p>3.4 3.2 – Bus Stopping at Elgin Train Station - A meeting was held and it was decided to locate a bus stop with shelter on the other side of the road to the station (where it currently unofficially stops anyway).</p> <p>3.5 3.3 – IC will circulate the notes he took at the Network Rail consultation meeting on 29.01.16.</p> <p>3.6 4.1 – It was agreed to hold the next seminar on 10 September 2016. The venue will remain as Lhanbryde.</p> <p>3.7 4.3 – IC has spoken to SPICE about whether they could carry out visual improvements at Elgin bus station but they explained that there are only a few members and they would require some type of funding. It was agreed that DM would take this forward with IC to try to find a solution.</p> <p>3.8 4.4 – A meeting is to be arranged between CH, DM, AM and IC to discuss communities adopting bus shelters.</p> <p>3.9 5.2 – AM said that she had spoken to Eildh from tsiMoray about the application for funding for a project worker and Eildh advised her not to progress this at this time. Funding may have to come from a different source.</p>	<p>MW</p> <p>AM</p> <p>IC/AM</p> <p>IC</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>DM/IC</p> <p>CH/DM/AM/IC</p>
4.0	<p>Transport Scotland – Accessible Transport Plan</p> <p>4.1 SF and AM attended the Transport Accessibility Summit hosted by Transport Scotland on 21 March 2016. The summit</p>	

4.2	<p>brought together transport operators and disabled group and their representatives to discuss a range of key issues raised by disabled people themselves.</p> <p>The summit discussed 48 issues that had been raised of things that could be improved and the issues were split into 4 sub groups for discussion. AM agreed to circulate the 48 issues to the group for information. These included issues such as hate crime, concessionary fares etc. Both agreed that it was a worthwhile summit and agreed to share the report with the group once it is published.</p>	<p>AM</p> <p>AM/SF</p>
5.0	<p>Transport Updates</p> <p>5.1 Withdrawal of Stagecoach Service 34 – a report was approved by ED&I Committee on 8 March 2016 to introduce a service between Kingston – Garmouth – Urquhart – Elgin to replace the withdrawn stagecoach service. The new service will commence from 23 May 2016. AM said that she attended a community meeting to discuss the withdrawal of the service and to discuss the introduction of a Council service. This was well received by the majority of those who attended and AM thanked the PTU team on behalf of this group for their good work.</p> <p>5.2 A discussion was held about the possibility of trying to obtain funding to cover the cost of a service on a Saturday. It was also noted that the Council’s ability to step in at other times to cover lost services for instance would always depend on the location and if it was possible.</p> <p>5.3 Dial M – the service took a bit of a hit over winter, especially in the Buckie area where passenger numbers are much lower. CH noted that although passenger numbers are lower, revenue isn’t. This is due to the increased number of full fare paying passengers. CH said that the PTU team had been working with a number of groups to get the message out about the service and some work will be done to try to understand why the number of passengers has dropped in the Buckie area.</p> <p>5.4 New Moray Council Service in Speyside – difficulties recruiting drivers in the Speyside area has resulted in an Elgin driver being recruited and the introduction of a new service. The service will be on a Monday and Wednesday and will see the driver return from Aberlour via Marypark, Knockando and Archiestown. This service used to be in place a number of years ago and is a welcome re-introduction. It was noted that on average 4 passengers on a return trip would be required to sustain the route. All agreed to let CH know about places that the service could be advertised to reach as many people as</p>	<p>ALL</p>

	possible.	
5.5	Dial M Bookings – NM said that the PTU team were looking at different types of scheduling systems that would enable bookings to be made on the day of journey rather than having to book the day before.	
5.6	Fares – It was noted that some passengers have commented that they would be willing to provide a voluntary donation towards the cost of travel. The group discussed the possibilities of this and also whether the introduction of a charge to obtain a concession card would work. It was agreed that this was something that could be discussed again in the future as the dial m service develops.	
6.0	Next Meeting	
6.1	Tuesday 24 May 2016, 2pm – venue to be confirmed.	LD