

Review

2016 Edition

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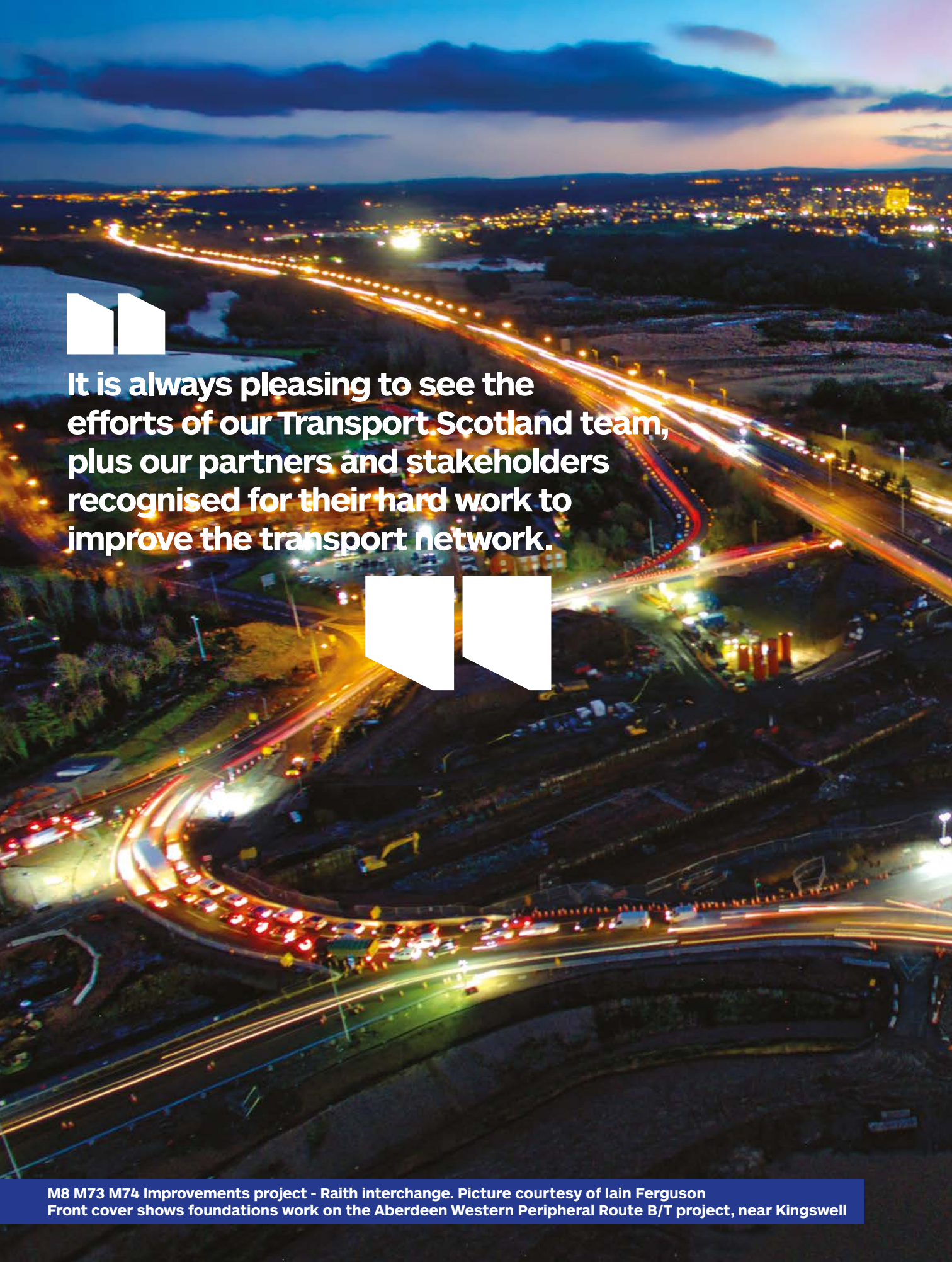
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**Laying the foundations -
2016 saw major developments
across the transport network**



**TRANSPORT
SCOTLAND**
CÒMHDHAIL ALBA



It is always pleasing to see the efforts of our Transport Scotland team, plus our partners and stakeholders recognised for their hard work to improve the transport network.



**M8 M73 M74 Improvements project - Raith interchange. Picture courtesy of Iain Ferguson
Front cover shows foundations work on the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route B/T project, near Kingswell**



Welcome to our 2016 Annual Review, highlighting the year's activity on policies, projects and programmes to deliver £2.2 billion of transport investment, supporting Scotland's economic growth through improving connections, reducing carbon emissions, creating safer, quicker and more sustainable and reliable journeys.

The start of the year marked the beginning of a number of important actions for our policy teams, with the refresh of the National Transport Strategy refocusing our roles and responsibilities in line with Minister's transport priorities, and work has now begun on a fuller strategy review.

Another key policy achievement at the latter end of the year, saw us work with disability partners to launch Scotland's first Accessible Travel Framework. The 'Going Further' framework identifies and looks to remove barriers preventing people from travelling on our networks.

May saw Derek Mackay MSP promoted to Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, and we welcomed a new Minister for Transport and the Islands, Humza Yousaf MSP, and a new Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity, Fergus Ewing MSP.

Our major projects continued a pace this year, the M8M73M74 Improvements reaching critical stages with the demolition of the M74 Bothwell Bridge and a number of altered junctions on the M8 now in use. Our north east schemes continued with a £50m design contract awarded for the A96 Inverness to Aberdeen dualling scheme, and new junctions opened on the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/ Balmedie to Tippetty Project.

Our Rail directorate has seen refurbishment of the Queen Street tunnel, reopened early and on budget in August. December saw the opening of a new interchange station, Edinburgh Gateway, and refurbished trains in service, marking further significant milestones in the Scottish Government's five year £5 billion programme of investment.

Elsewhere our Aviation, Maritime, Freight and Canals team were successful in securing new air routes to the USA and beyond, and oversaw the award of a £900 million ferry services contract for the Clyde and Hebrides routes.

On the roads, maintenance remained a priority, as well as repairing the truss link on the Forth Road Bridge. The *saltire*card family of smart tickets continues to expand with multi-operator smart card tickets available on buses in Aberdeenshire and Tayside. Early in the year we updated our Strategic Road Safety Plan and it is encouraging to see safety cameras continuing to have a positive effect on safety, along with our Road Safety Scotland marketing campaigns.

It is always pleasing to see the efforts of our Transport Scotland team, plus our partners and stakeholders, recognised for their hard work to improve the transport network. In summer we were awarded the Scottish Transport Award for Travel and Marketing Information, highlighting how working across directorates and with partner organisations we can provide a better service for the travelling public - further awards have acknowledged innovative road safety schemes, transport projects, reopening of the Forth Road Bridge and of course, our Queensferry Crossing made it into the Guinness Book of Records!

I'd like to thank everyone involved in making 2016 another great year in transport.

Roy Brannen
Chief Executive
Transport Scotland

GOING FURTHER

Aspiring for better and greener transport solutions has been a key theme for this year, which has seen the launch of Scotland's first Accessible Travel Framework, a refresh of our National Transport Strategy, 80 more charge points added to our comprehensive ChargePlace Scotland network and also our Road Safety teams recognised at the Prince Michael of Kent Awards.



Strategic Reviews

In January we published our refreshed **National Transport Strategy**.

This updated the 2006 strategy, including roles and responsibilities across transport modes, locations and organisations. A fuller strategy review was approved by the Scottish Government in August, and planning and engagement work for this is now underway. This aims to be a forward look for the next 20 years, identifying overarching issues and aspirations for future transport requirements.

Our mid-term review of the **Road Safety Framework to 2020** was completed and published in March 2016, with partners agreeing three new key priority areas to 2020, namely Speed, Age and Vulnerable Road Users.

Following the review and milestone achievements, we were delighted that the Road Safety Framework won a Prince Michael of Kent International Road Safety award.

Accessibility

Scotland's first **Accessible Travel Framework, 'Going Further'**, was launched in September 2016. We know that accessible travel can enable people to enjoy equal access to full citizenship, so the Framework is about identifying and removing disabling barriers which prevent people travelling or make their journeys an unpleasant experience.

Developed in close engagement with disabled people from across Scotland, one of its aims is to change the way we do things throughout transport, to include disabled people to make improvements in transport accessibility. The Framework details how that engagement will continue over the next ten years.

Initiatives for lowering carbon

2016 saw enhancements to our electric vehicle (EV) charge point network, more EVs added to public sector fleets and support for consumers and businesses to switch to EVs.

Our **ChargePlace Scotland** network, sustained with local authority partners, continues to expand with now 600+ charge points (1,200+ charging bays) including over 150 rapid charge points, one of the most comprehensive networks in Europe.

Launched in 2014, **Switched on Fleets** is an initiative to get more EVs into public sector fleets. We've already provided over £3.5 million to councils and their partners, which will result in around 350 new EVs entering the Scottish public sector fleet. Every council in Scotland now has at least one EV in their fleet.

We also provide support to EV buyers including grants for the installation of home charge points and interest free loans to help businesses and individuals buy EVs.

Challenge Fund

For our part in the **European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) 2014-2020** programme for Low Carbon Travel and Transport, we have been awarded up to £13.9m of ERDF funding until December 2018 support organisations with the aim of increasing the number of journeys made by public transport, active travel or low-energy vehicles. This has culminated in the launch of our **Challenge funds** in October and December.

Our focus is three key areas;

- Active Travel Hubs to provide focal points for cycling and walking routes
- Low Carbon Transport to provide refuelling facilities for a range of alternative fuels and transport modes
- A National Integrated Smart Ticketing Scheme.

Active Travel

An external evaluation of our **Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) 2015-16** programme found it to be 'successful at enabling smarter travel work to be undertaken in many areas where it would not otherwise have been funded'.

This year 184 projects are being delivered, including school and workplace travel campaigns, public awareness events, personal travel planning, signage and mapping initiatives, Dr Bike sessions and promotion of car clubs. Paths for All administer our programme, with £5 million available to local authorities and partners, plus over £6.8 million being offered in match funding in 2016/17.

In 2016 we also continued to commit record levels of funding for active travel. This included the announcement in August of the first winner of the Community Links plus design competition – the South City Way in Glasgow, which aims to support Glasgow's aim to have one of the most cohesive, high-quality urban cycle networks in the UK.

Local authorities have also been targeting potential behaviour change, with activities such as promotion of infrastructure, like cycle ways, or with events like 'town car free days'.



'In town without my car' SCSP event, Aberdeen

Road Safety Scotland (RSS)

RSS continues to promote road safety as a lifelong learning process, engaging with education professionals and developing learning resources to facilitate road safety being addressed across all educational establishments. An evaluation of the Early Years' Approach, **Go Safe With Ziggy**, was very encouraging, and work began to address the recommendations in the report.

RSS took part in a number of external events promoting road safety or road safety resources including Greenfleet/ Evolution, Ignition Festival of Motoring, Scottish Car Show, Scottish Motorcycle Show, Scottish Learning Festival and Children in Scotland Conference. Our RSS Annual Seminar focused on the priority areas identified in the Framework Review and attracted almost 150 delegates.

Campaign activity focused on country roads, motorcycles, child in-car safety, drink-driving and vulnerable road users.

Concessionary Travel

Following feedback from Enable Scotland's Stop the Bus Campaign in 2015 a **revised National Concessionary Travel Scheme application form** was co-produced for people with learning disabilities. Piloted by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport earlier this year it was rolled out nationwide in the summer, accompanied by easy read guidance drafted by Enable Scotland.

On the buses

This year saw us undertake Round 6 of the **Scottish Green Bus Fund (SGBF)** funding nearly £2 million towards 46 low emission buses on the network. Overall, the SGBF has seen almost £15 million awarded, supporting the acquisition of 315 new low emission buses, working towards our goal to achieve lower carbon emissions by 2022.

Following the 2015 devolution of school bus safety powers to the Scottish Parliament, we are continuing our support for MSP Gillian Martin's Bill for **seat belts on school buses** to become a legal requirement for all dedicated home-to-school transport in Scotland. The Bill is scheduled for introduction to Parliament in Spring 2017.

Driver training

Following an identified shortage of personnel, we have provided funding of £150,000 over the next three years to support **minibus driver training**. The scheme aims to train around 60 people to drive community buses.





CONNECTIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Building on our commitment to improve connectivity, maximise opportunities for tourism, business and leisure, whilst supporting sustainable economic growth, this year has seen highs of new charter routes around the world as well as the start of the new lifeline Clyde and Hebrides ferry services contract.



Brodick Harbour works underway, September

Aviation

In 2016, in conjunction with VisitScotland and Scottish Enterprise, we helped secure 12 new routes including improved connections with Canada, Finland, the USA, the Netherlands and Germany.

We supported Highlands and Islands Airports to restore the Inverness and Heathrow route, plus develop a link for Inverness to Amsterdam, providing a significant economic boost to the area. The year was also significant with our first Korean charter service from Seoul arriving in summer, plus the launch of a new Edinburgh-JFK service.

The **Air Discount Scheme** has continued on the PSO routes to Campbeltown, Barra and Tiree with providers promoting day trip packages to help extend the season for summer visitors to these areas – with Barra Airport celebrating its 80th birthday this year.

In October 2016 a **Memorandum of Understanding** with London Heathrow Airport was finalised, agreeing a platform to grow connectivity with the UK's only World Hub airport and secure other benefits for Scotland.

Freight Grants and Policy

Over the year the £800,000 grant for Mode Shift Revenue Support (MSRS) has supported eight rail freight flows, removing around 100,000 HGV journeys from our roads.



August saw the inaugural Seoul – Glasgow flight'. Credit: Glasgow Airport

Ferries

CalMac was awarded and commenced services on the £900m **Clyde and Hebrides Ferry services** contract, which runs for eight years from October 2016.

A third **hybrid vessel**, MV Catriona, began service in September, and work to construct two new dual fuel vessels (for the Clyde and Hebrides ferry service network) continues at Ferguson's shipyard on the Clyde, with delivery due in the second half of 2018.

Funding of £17.8m was provided toward the £30m redevelopment of **Brodick harbour**, with work beginning on the project last winter, whilst the £1.7m new breakwater and extension of slipways for the lifeline **Kerrera ferry** service were completed in August.

Scottish Canals

The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Climate Change gave the opening address at the World Canals Conference. Hosted by partner organisation Scottish Canals in Inverness in September, it was attended by over 300 delegates from around the world.



MV Catriona in service, Tarbert

Ports And Harbours

This year saw an important aim of the legislation of the Harbours (Scotland) Act 2015 confirmed by the Office of National Statistics that no Scottish Trust Ports will be classified as a public corporations, whilst work continues on the maritime recommendations from the Smith Commission. In November we held a well-attended 2nd Scottish Cruise Summit looking at development potential of the sector.

At the end of the year the expansion of Aberdeen Harbour was approved by Ministers, allowing for growth opportunities to boost the local economy.



We helped secure twelve new routes around the world...including Canada, Finland, the USA, Netherlands and Germany.



SAFER AND SMARTER

Maintenance of our trunk roads ensures the network continues to support Scotland's economic growth. The 2016/17 period sees £280m invested to ensure road journeys are safe, efficient and reliable across Scotland.

Truss repairs underway on the Forth Road Bridge in August. Credit Amey

In October 2016, the Scottish Government announced an additional £15m across the country through the 'Programme for Government', to address wear and tear on over fifty further locations.

Bridges

December marked a year on from the reopening of the Forth Road Bridge after an unprecedented three-week closure for repairs to fractured steelwork. Work on site began at the end of August on a trial of the permanent truss end link replacement at the North East main span – the location where the original fracture occurred.

We successfully undertook the £2.4m replacement of two more bridges in the A830 Programme, at Ranochan and Arieniskill. Part of eight bridges being upgraded along the route, Rannochan opened to traffic in December and Arieniskill is set to open early 2017.

Community engagement

This year we have continued to meet with communities across the country to ensure we hear and understand road user requirements. These include the A7 Action Group, A83 Taskforce, A92 Action Group as well as various other community council meetings. We will carry this forward for future years and make sure this essential dialogue continues.

Concessionary Travel

In 2015/16 bus operators were successfully reimbursed for over 145 million concessionary journeys which were made by our more vulnerable citizens using the National Bus Travel Concession Scheme. Over 2016, 1.3 million national entitlement cards were also renewed to incorporate the latest smart card technology.

Safety first

Following the 2015 **Safety Camera Programme Review**, the first new sites for camera enforcement, to improve safety and traffic flows, were introduced late 2016. The A77 safety scheme was upgraded to new digital cameras and a safety camera motorbike deployed for the first time. Cameras have also successfully been deployed on the A90 Forth Replacement Crossing; the M8/M73/M74 Improvement scheme, the A9 between Kincaig and Dalraddy and to support the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route project. Camera enforcement of variable speed limits will be introduced for the first time in Scotland in 2017, as part of the Forth Replacement Crossing (FRC) Intelligent Traffic Systems.

The Scottish Government's Road Safety Framework sets casualty reduction targets to 2020. This was updated early 2016 following which we updated our **Strategic Road Safety Plan**. This focuses more explicitly on delivering a Safe Systems approach to road safety. This approach, used by the world's leading nations in delivering road safety performance, includes 20 actions based on its key principles.

The A9 Safety Group, set up in 2012, has delivered a range of measures that comprise the **A9 interim Safety Plan**. The average speed camera system and HGV speed limit pilot, which came into force in 2014, continue to improve safety on the A9 with mid-2016 figures showing

- 'Fatal and serious' collisions between **Dunblane and Inverness** overall down by almost 45%, with fatal and serious casualties down by almost 63%
- No fatal collisions between **Dunblane and Perth**, with the number of serious collisions down by over 60% and serious casualties down by over 47%
- 'Fatal and serious' collisions between **Perth and Inverness** down by over 33%, with fatal and serious casualties down by 59%

Gritter Tracker

This winter we launched a new online tracking service so road users can see when and where our gritters have treated the network. This complements the information from our **Traffic Scotland** service that provides up-to-date details of planned gritter activity and assurance of where has been treated.

Network Premiere

We were also pleased to support Scotland's filming industry, with a number of our scenic routes showcased on the big screen. Amongst the filming permissions granted and facilitated was the A1 in Steven Spielberg's 'BFG'; the A82 in Amazon's 'Grand Tour' and the Forth Bridge and A725 in Danny Boyle's 'T2 Trainspotting'.



A830 'Road to Isles' Ranochan bridge restored using recycled stone



Trainspotting 2 filming session on A725 Motherwell/Bellshill

A large blue Hitachi Class 385 electric train is shown in a factory setting, being assembled on a track. The train features a blue and white color scheme with a pattern of blue dots and a large white 'X' on the side. A white staircase is positioned in front of the train, and the factory floor is yellow. The background shows the industrial structure of the factory with overhead lights and pipes.

MAKING TRACKS

Within the £5 billion allocation for the Scottish rail network (announced 2015) we are investing significantly in new and refurbished trains. All existing ScotRail fleets, to be retained beyond 2019, will undergo significant enhancements to bring them up to modern standards. Projects to provide better journeys and facilities have also come to fruition this year, with the opening of a new interchange station and key upgrades to the main Edinburgh – Glasgow line.

Joined up journeys

Successfully opened in December on time and within budget, the £41 million new state of the art **Edinburgh Gateway** interchange station, incorporating train and trams, is part of our Edinburgh Glasgow Improvement Programme.

Situated on the outskirts of Edinburgh between South Gyle and Dalmeny stations, the interchange brings new journey opportunities and better connections for people travelling into and around the capital, to the airport and beyond.

The closure of the **Queen Street Station High Level** tunnel during 2016 marked a further significant milestone in our £5 billion programme. The works, which took place March to August, included replacing of two kilometres of slab track in the tunnel, and preparatory works for a new generation of electric trains next year.

The ScotRail Alliance worked with partners to develop a coordinated timetable and communications plan, ensuring that services were maintained and passenger disruption was kept to a minimum.

Acknowledging that ScotRail's Recent performance had fallen below the standards required by the franchise contract, the ScotRail Alliance initiated and implemented a performance improvement plan.

The plan is already yielding results with period on period improvement on the Public Performance Measure (moving annual average) being recorded for the last two periods (to December) and ScotRail's performance remaining consistently above the GB average.

Cross Border rail connectivity between Scotland and the north of England was given a boost after First Group took over operation of the TransPennine Express franchise in April, supporting economic growth and prosperity. There were a number of improvements for Scotland under the new franchise including, on the West coast, greater connectivity at Lockerbie and Motherwell, and a direct link between Glasgow and Liverpool, and on the East coast, an extension of services from Newcastle up to Edinburgh.

One year on we also celebrated the **Borders Railway** first birthday, it's first million passengers on a combined 35 million miles and 21,000 train services.

Delivering the Goods

The rail freight sector is vital to the competitiveness of the Scottish economy, providing a safer, greener and more efficient way of transporting products and materials. Following an extensive consultation process we published 'Delivering the Goods – Scotland's Rail Freight Strategy' in March 2016. The Strategy sets out how we will work in partnership with the rail freight industry and others to realise the vision through the four core levers of innovation, facilitation, promotion and investment.

Smart Ticketing

Our Smart and Integrated Ticketing programme, partnering with Local Authorities, RTPs and bus, rail and ferry operators, saw the launch of the **saltirecard** across a variety of bus and rail networks this year. Regional multi-operator bus smart cards were launched in Aberdeenshire and Tayside, whilst ScotRail unveiled **saltirecard** season tickets across the rail network.

High Speed Rail

In March 2016 a joint UK and Scottish Government announcement welcomed the publication of HS2 Ltd's report on "Broad options for upgraded and high speed railways to the North of England and Scotland" and the Scottish Government's "High Speed Rail Summary Report".

The objective of the report was to explore options to:

- improve journey times from Edinburgh and Glasgow to cities further south, including options that could reduce journey times to London to 3 hours or under
- provide additional passenger and freight capacity where it is projected that future demand will not otherwise be met.



The rail freight sector is vital to the competitiveness of the Scottish economy.





Edinburgh Gateway Interchange



Multi-operator Smart ticketing launch in Aberdeen

NETWORK GROWTH

Our major projects have had an eventful year, from the award of a £50m design contract for the A96 dualling, gaining accreditation status for our Academy9 qualification, and our Queensferry Crossing becoming world record breaker.



A 40m wide section is lifted into place on the Queensferry Crossing

Driving forward in the north east

Improving connectivity, journey times, reliability and road safety are the key benefits for numerous schemes in Scotland's north east this year.

In June a design contract worth up to £50 million was awarded to carry out route assessments to dual 46km of the western section on the **A96 Inverness to Aberdeen Dualling scheme**, joining two of Scotland's north east economic hubs route between Hardmuir and Fochabers. Draft orders for dualling the 31km of the A96 between Inverness and Nairn, including a Nairn Bypass, were published in November.

In September 2016 a design contract was awarded for the next phases of design of a new grade-separated **Laurencekirk junction** on the A90/A937 as part of a package of additional investment alongside the Aberdeen City-Region Deal.

Progress continues on the **Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie to Tipperty Project (AWPR/B-T)** with the Craibstone Roundabout and Dyce Drive junctions open to traffic, providing better access to Aberdeen International Airport.

The scheme includes construction of the 75 principal bridges and underpasses is on-going, along with the main carriageway. When open to traffic this much needed new infrastructure will cut journey times across Aberdeen by up to half at peak times.

In October the **A90/A96 Haudagain Improvement scheme**, which involves the construction of a new dual carriageway to relieve congestion and improve journey time reliability between the A90 and A96, was given Scottish Ministers approval to complete the statutory process. Improvements to Haudagain are scheduled following completion of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR).

Strategic links

Construction is now well underway on the £3 billion **A9 Dualling Programme**. The first section to be dualled (between Kincaig and Dalraddy) is scheduled for completion in Summer 2017.

Of the remaining ten sections under development, seven now have defined preferred routes and junction locations - meaning over 60 percent of the dualled A9 has now taken shape.

Our **Academy9** programme has continue to grow with over 2000 school pupils attending. Our A9 Dualling Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) module also achieved credit rating by Inverness College, University Highlands & Islands.

Applications for the build of the 3.8km **A737 Dalry Bypass** in North Ayrshire were invited in March, with work expected to begin in 2017. Completion of the Dalry Bypass will encourage improved economic and employment opportunities through better journey time reliability for motorists, businesses and tourists along the length of the A737.

The £500m **M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements Project** is entering its final phase and is scheduled for opening in Spring 2017.

Many of the new roads are already open to traffic with construction of the final sections well underway for a Spring opening.

When complete, the project will shave up to 18 minutes off journeys at peak times for vehicles using the busiest sections of the M8 each day and reduce journeys through Raith Junction by 15 minutes.

Go Forth and break records!

In October 2016, the Queensferry Crossing's centre tower deck made the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest structure of its type in the world.

The bridge's centre tower deck was completed and became the largest free standing balanced cantilever in the world at 644 metres. The cantilever itself didn't last long as it was subsequently connected to the flanking towers - but was inspected and officially ratified by Guinness as world-record breaking in its temporary state.

During October and November 2016, the centre tower deck was connected to the south and north towers - so, by the end of 2016, the deck of the Queensferry Crossing was over 95% complete - stretching from Fife right across the Forth to the end of the south tower, with only the southern connection remaining.

Across the country, significant excitement is already building in anticipation of the opening of this iconic structure next year.



Over 2000 pupils have attended our Academy9 programme.



Transport Scotland

Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF
0141 272 7100
info@transport.gov.scot

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