TAS Research Update

Air

*Economic Assessment of Air Departure Tax*
- We commissioned external analysis (Contractor: PBA) to provide an economic assessment of the Scottish Government’s plans for a 50% reduction in the overall burden of Air Departure Tax (ADT) by the end of the current session of the Scottish Parliament.
- The final report from this project will be published December 2017/early 2018.

*Noise Impact Assessment of Air Departure Tax*
- We commissioned external analysis (Contractor: AECOM) to assess the potential noise impact resulting from the Scottish Government’s plans for a 50% reduction in the overall burden of Air Departure Tax (ADT) by the end of the current session of the Scottish Parliament.
- The final report from this project will be published early 2018.

*Air Departure Tax - Analysis of Responses to a Consultation on an Overall 50% Reduction Policy Plan and an Environmental Report*
- We commissioned external analysis (Contractor: Craigforth) to analyse responses to a public consultation on the Government’s policy for an overall 50% reduction in Air Departure Tax (ADT) and the Environmental report which outlines the likely environmental impacts from the proposed reduction.
- The final report from this project will be published December 2017/early 2018.

Bus

*Analysis of Responses to the Consultation on Free Bus Travel for Older and Disabled People and Modern Apprentices*
- The consultation is asking stakeholders for their views on the longer-term sustainability of the scheme as well as extending free bus travel to Modern Apprentices, and is also exploring a number of different options for possible changes in eligibility for the scheme.
- We commissioned external analysis (Contractor: Craigforth) to analyse responses to the consultation and will report on this in early 2018.

Corporate

*National Transport Strategy Review*
- To inform the National Transport Strategy Review we are overseeing a programme of analytical work which includes a ‘call for evidence’, commissioned research, public engagement, stakeholder events, and in-house analysis.
- Analysis of responses to the early engagement consultation on existing transport strategic objectives (Contractor: KSO) was published earlier this year.
- In-house analysis of responses to the ‘call for evidence’ has recently concluded and is informing the work of the NTS thematic working groups.
Ferries
Appraisal of Options for the Specification of the 2018 Northern Isles Ferry Services
- This commission (Contractor: PBA) is undertaking a comprehensive transport appraisal, in line with the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG), which involves exploring and assessing potential options for the specification of the next NIFS contract.

Development of a Financial Model for Compensating Commercial Operators on the Pentland Firth
- This commissioned project (Contractor: PBA) is developing a methodology to compensate commercial operators participating in the fare reduction scheme on the Northern Isles Ferry Services network.

Appraisal of options for the Outer Hebrides Ferry Services
- The appraisal will identify and evaluate strategic options for the long-term provision of services to, from and within the Outer Hebrides to assess potential changes to the current networks of routes and services and how appropriate and cost-effective vessels and shore side infrastructure could be provided (Contractor: PBA).

Rail
Borders Railway - Year 2 Evaluation
- This commissioned project (Contractor: PBA) has surveyed both users and non-users of the Borders Railway to understand more about their travel patterns and their perceptions of the service two years after its opening.
- The data from this study will be used to inform wider evaluation work of the project to ascertain whether it is meeting its key investment objectives.

Road works
Analysis of Responses to the Consultation on Raising Standards and Improving the Quality of Road Works in Scotland
- This commission (Contractor: KSO) analysed responses to a consultation on raising standards and improving the quality of road works in Scotland.
- The final report from this project will be published in early 2018.

Sustainable Transport
Monitoring the Cycling Action Plan
- The team continues to work with Cycling Scotland and Sustrans to ensure that cycling levels are accurately monitored in line with the recommendations of the plan.

Transport Policy
Miscellaneous Transport Bill Consultation - Analysis of Responses to Consultations on Improving Delivery of Local Bus Services in Scotland, and The Future of Smart Ticketing
- This commission (Contractor: Dialogue by Design) is analysing responses to the on-going consultations on proposals to improve the delivery of local bus services in Scotland, and the Future of Smart Ticketing which will be included in the Miscellaneous Transport Bill Consultation.