

**Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 20 July  
11:00 to 13.00 – virtual via MS Teams**

**Present:**

Linda Bamford (LB) - Chair  
Michael Tornow (MT)  
Naghat Ahmed (NA)  
Fraser Sutherland (FS)  
Audrey Birt (AB)  
Hussein Patwa (HP)  
Joanne Devitt (JD)  
Susan Fulton (SF)  
Simon Watkins (SW)  
Graham Dunn (GD)  
Hilary Stubbs (HS)  
Keith Robertson (KR)  
David Hunter (DH)

**Secretariat:**

Karen Armstrong (KA) - Deputy Sponsor  
Maureen Olliffe (MO) - Secretariat  
Alexis Devlin (AD) - Secretariat

**Apologies:**

Marsali Craig (MC)  
Pauline Kelly (PK)

**Agenda Item 1: Welcome, Apologies and Housekeeping**

1.1 The Convener welcomed all attendees introducing everyone for verbal orientation. She then noted apologies as listed above, ran through MS Teams housekeeping and provided an overview of the day for the benefit of new members.

1.2 The Convener explained, particularly for the new members joining their first Board meeting, that as this was one of our legislative meetings (Board Meeting, 4 per year) today's meeting will be "minuted" by the Secretariat with action points highlighted and allocated to owners. The action points from this meeting would be progressed and signed off before the October 2021 meeting. Minutes would be with members for comment and approval within 10 working days of this meeting.

1.3 The Convener then went on to explain that the action points from Board meetings sit separate from actions from other meetings including the Leads Meeting, P&S Meeting, the Full Committee Meetings (optional), Developments Days and our Scoping Day. The Convener also welcomed the 2 new members to their first MACS Board Meeting.

**Agenda Item 2: Approval of minutes, matters arising and update on action points from previous meeting (January and April 2021 minutes)**

2.1 The minutes of both the January and April 2021 Committee meetings had been previously circulated. The Convener apologised for the lateness of the January minutes in particular and reassured the Committee that the actions from this meeting has been progressed and closed. The Convener asked that the Committee approve the January minutes. The committee approved. The Convener then moved on to the April 2021 minutes and asked for approval in terms of accuracy and content.

2.2 The Convener then confirmed that there were 5 actions points from April 2021 and 1,3,4 and 5 had been closed so she would focus on action point 2. This action was for the Secretariat to include an update on Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) and Mobility as a Service (MaaS) as standard in the Sponsor Team update paper. AF confirmed that this had now been actioned as of the previous week and it was agreed that this action could also now be closed.

**Agenda Item 3: Update from Convener** (including any questions from super report content)

3.1 The Convener discussed **Objective 2** of the Super Report, which related to “Working across Cabinet and Ministerial portfolios to ensure the need for an accessible transport system is recognised and cited as an enabler”

3.2 The Convener raised the importance of the Committee continuing to sense check their own priority areas and work plans to ensure they remain relevant with “grass-roots” experiences and had the needs of disabled people at the core.

3.3 The Convener confirmed that she had observed various cross party hustings, facilitated by Disabled People Organisations (DPOs) and Disability Organisations (DOs) to hear disabled people’s voices and their “asks” to end term MSPs (standing for re-election) and candidates

standing for election. This included hustings organised by Disability Equality Scotland (DES), Glasgow Disability Alliance (GDA), Inclusion Scotland (IS), WalkWheelCycleVote (WWCV), Carers Scotland, the Health and Social Care Alliance (The Alliance) and the Poverty Alliance (PA). This activity also fell to the Convener given her role as Committee champion for engagement with DPOs and DOs.

3.4 The issues raised during these hustings reflected many of the areas that MACS is working to progress via this year's work plans (2021-2022) such as - many individuals raising issues with the new Spaces for People (SfP) layouts, removal of blue badge spaces, general transport barriers i.e. inadequate public transport provision (mainly bus), the affordability of travel if you couldn't use concessionary travel as well as people experiencing difficulties getting to medical appointments.

3.5 Many people raised the issue of the "state of pavements", pavement parking, clutter and how this made navigating their neighbourhoods dangerous or just a "no go". A recurring issue raised was also that disabled people felt left behind/excluded from active travel projects.

3.6 The Convener confirmed that the hustings were a good sense check for our work plans to ensure we are focusing on the right areas and what matters to disabled people and older people. She expressed frustration that there is nothing new here but was hopeful that MACS wider work around 20 minute neighbourhoods, focus on pavements for pedestrians (first and last mile, pavement parking, maintenance, ample dropped kerbs and reducing street clutter), MACS work on bus, taxis and community transport and pushing TS on inclusive active travel would help to progress these critical issues to enable more disabled people and older people to successfully complete safe door to door journeys.

3.7 The Convener confirmed that the consultation on non-standard bike hire is now closed and that MACS are awaiting the results to then have further dialogue with TS on how they intent to respond to the findings (consultation report due end August 2021). Likewise KA's team had agreed to explore the findings of AB and DH's work on taxis/private hire vehicles and explore with CTA, where they are filling the gap in public transport provision due to an absence of available, accessible and affordable public transport options (i.e. many people having to use and pay to use CT to keep connected).

3.8 The Convener drew the Committee's attentions to the Accessible Travel Framework (ATF) Annual Delivery Plan (ADP) for 2021-2022 in

particular that there was now a focus on Transport to Health and Social Care as a new area of work. The Convener thanked KA and her team for being receptive to these additions to the ADP for 2021-2022.

3.9 The Convener noted from the Sponsor Team update that TS have continued to have regular dialogue with CTA Scotland and renewed their grant funding to support and develop the sector in 2021-2022, including the employment of a staff member to carry out a mapping exercise of community transport in Scotland. MACS are hopeful that there will be an opportunity here for KA's team to tie into this work in relation to MACS ask re where CTA is filling the gap due to inadequate public transport provision and where people are paying, being ineligible for concessions.

3.10 It was suggested that it may be beneficial, or there may be an opportunity, for MACS to have an overview of this work area and if helpful be involved in this group? i.e. looking at this issue through an equality lens as we have suggested this issue, amongst others, for the themes of some of the upcoming webinars TS are asking DES to facilitate. The Sponsor Team agreed to approach the TS Team leading on this to offer MACS assistance.

**Action Point 1:** Sponsor Team to approach the TS Team leading on the mapping exercise on community transport in Scotland to offer MACS assistance in their work in this area.

3.11 The Convener then went on to explain that she and KR have been pushing inclusive active travel where they can, even including getting people thinking about on-street equipment storage for charging points. MACS also continue to engage with Sustrans Scotland aiming to ensure their infrastructure projects have inclusivity at the centre.

3.12 The Convener then confirmed that any other pieces of significance will be revisited at the more regular MACS meetings and will be discussed through the Development Days or tabled as discussion papers at the annual Scoping Day where work plans will be refreshed and revisited for the following year.

3.13 AB raised that MACS continue to be involved with the Alliance and Disability Equality Scotland in their partnership approach to leading conversations' on "20 minute neighbourhoods" through a webinar series". The final event is being prepared, which will provide an opportunity to bring together people from different perspectives to discuss the key themes identified from previous events and make

recommendations to design an inclusive and accessible 20 minute neighbourhood.

3.14 DH asked about the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Disability. The Convener updated that DES will be providing the Secretariat support to the Cross Party Disability Group and she believed that a meeting schedule would come out late summer. The Convener also confirmed that the MSPs on this group had been refreshed after the May 2021 elections. MACS would be invited along as a member of the group and should think of a successor to HP.

3.15 KR confirmed that MACS are continuing their work in promoting the needs and importance of disabled people to access active travel schemes and SW is now sitting on the stakeholder engagement group set up to support delivery of the free bikes to children not able to afford them which is now well underway. This pledge was in the Government's 100 day commitment from their manifesto.

3.16 LB confirmed that MACS had also feed into the non-standard bikes consultation design and had been working with organisations to look at on street equipment storage to promote the need for disabled people to be able to use this for their mobility aids.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Sponsor Team update**

4.1 The Deputy Sponsor joined the meeting at 11:30-11:50 and as Committee members had received the sponsor paper in advance an update on the additional points below was provided:

- A new DES webinar, taking place on 19 August, focusing on returning to public transport safely has now been publicised <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ReturnToPublicTransportWebinar> and has been circulated to both the Committee and the Accessible Travel Steering Group for their awareness and interest.
- A meeting had taken place with an unsuccessful MaaS application for Smart Cities Transport app. The Deputy Sponsor stated that they may share a demonstration of this app if anyone would wish to review it.

The Committee followed up by asking:

- For an update on the Blue Badge LEZ exemption work with DeBlur. Feedback had been received that Transport Scotland had

not been in contact with DeBlur since January 2021. The Deputy Sponsor will report back accordingly once an update has been received from the relevant officials.

**Action Point 2:** Sponsor Team to ask officials working on LEZ for an update.

- That the Concessionary Travel Card (bus pass) update should have more of a focus on (1) – those not able to use their concessionary travel cards due to availability or accessibility of services and (2) – whether concessionary S19 travel cards, can be used on community transport.

**Action Point 3:** Sponsor Team to ask officials to reframe or ensure inclusion of and update on (1) – those not able to use their concessionary travel cards due to availability or accessibility of services and (2) – work or progress to assist and facilitate S19 concessionary travel cards being be used on community transport services.

- The 100 day commitment to deliver free bikes to children not able to afford one is well underway. SW is sitting on the stakeholder engagement group and asked the Committee if they were aware of any organisations that could be considered to run an adaptive bike scheme for children, several approaches had already been made without success. The Convener conformed that she had already responded to TS on this request and would now copy this email to SW for information.

**Action Point 4:** Committee members to feedback to SW directly if they have any further suggestions/recommendations for an adaptive bike pilot

- In relation to the Social Security update NA enquired as to when the results of the Adult Disability Payment consultation would be published – the Deputy Sponsor stated she would follow this up with the relevant officials to ascertain when this is likely.

**Action Point 5:** Sponsor Team to ask Social Security officials when consultation on Adult Disability payments will be published and feedback to NA directly.

- The Committee also asked about the STPR2 consultation as they believed the budget for trunk roads is likely to be increased and MACS will be pushing for accessibility to be at the core.
- The Sponsor Team to ensure SF is kept up to date on this matter.

**Action Point 6:** Sponsor Team to ensure SF is kept updated on the STPR2 consultation

- The Convener asked the Accessible Travel team when the next meeting of the Accessible Travel Steering Group would be and if the Steering Group “agreed/signed off” the 2021-2022 ADP? KA replied that they had been involved in agreeing the priority areas. The next meeting will take place on 16 September 10:00–12:30.
- The Convener noted from the Sponsor Team report that the Accessibility Team have been working to identify transport projects or policies in Scotland that should be showcased internationally as well as areas where Transport Scotland could learn from international examples. She asked if this collation of projects would culminate in a showcase conference? KA responded that this was actually TS wide and the work was being undertaken for COP26 but she was aware that MACS had suggested a showcase conference for accessible travel and she may be able to return to this ask after COP 26.

**Agenda Item 5: Workstream Leads Update** – Any key points or new areas of engagement not covered in super report or virtual meetings.

### **Update on the Planning and Strategy workstream.**

5.1 MACS continue to be involved in the Alliance’s 20 minute neighbourhood series of webinars which will provide an opportunity to bring together people from different perspectives to discuss the key themes identified from previous events and to devise the recommendations for an inclusive and accessible 20 minute neighbourhood.

5.2 DH has also been working with Active and Sustainable Travel colleagues and has produced a guidance note “Small Changes Can Make a Big Difference”. The note aims to encourage Local Authorities to consider how they can use active travel funding received directly from Transport Scotland and other sources in a way that also improves accessibility for disabled people. This has been published on the MACS website and shared with relevant TS and other colleagues to promote with their networks.

5.3 The Disability and Transport statistics from the Scottish Household survey were recently published. This confirms that disabled people most often travel by car (as driver or passenger); by walk/wheel and by bus and that disabled people travel less often and less far compared to non-disabled people. This is a start to obtaining evidence around the “mobility gap”. It is an important baseline, which MACS will want to monitor over the coming years. DH will follow up with TS analysts and welcomed this report.

<p><b>Action Point 7:</b> DH to follow up with TS analysts regarding the Scottish Household Survey to monitor evidence of trends in the mobility gap.</p>
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### **Update on Ferries and Aviation**

5.4 HS updated that the aviation industry continues to be impacted by Covid-19 and the relevant public health messaging on overseas travel. HS has been engaging with the aviation team within Transport Scotland and they are currently working towards a consultation likely to be published later in 2021, with the focus being mainly on decarbonisation. Doubt has also been raised as to whether the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will produce their annual accessibility report as it appears there may not be adequate footfall to justify its publication, however the planned aviation conference will be going ahead.

5.5 In relation to ferries, on-going issues persist with broken and replacement ferries, and feedback is suggesting that the replacements are not fit for purpose and do not meet accessibility standards. HS asked if any members of MACS had recently undertaken travel by ferry or are likely to do so in the near future, if so could they report back on their experiences.

**Action Point 8:** All MACS members to provide feedback if anyone uses (or has used) a ferry over the next few months.

5.6 HS reported that as part of her work as a member of the National Island's Plan Delivery Group she had been working on the details of the delivery plan and the Island Bond proposals to ensure it includes accessibility. These are incentives to support families to continue to live on the Islands, which in turn helps with de-population. MACS had responded to the draft bond, at short notice, and their comments were well received by TS Ferries Team who acknowledged the benefits of MACS input from the "off" with these initiatives.

### **Update on Rail**

5.7 The rail workstream recently met with Network Rail to discuss the Inverness masterplan. It is thought that going forward this might not be in MACS remit as it applies to local areas only.

5.8 A further meeting took place with the Network Rail team involved in the Waverley Station upgrade. This meeting was not strategic but more focused on layout and proposals and considerations to further additions and access to the station in general.

5.9 An update was given on the next Development Day scheduled on 3 August 2021, which will have a rail focus. The format will include 3 different presentations, with an option for a Q&A. The agenda will be circulated shortly.

5.10 The rail workstream raised awareness that the Inverness Access Panel are currently looking to recruit new members.

### **Update on Bus and Community Transport**

5.11 MACS Transport to Health and Social Care leads will be meeting with Scottish Government (SG) Health colleagues at the end of August. This meeting will look at the remit and membership of the potential working group and will also seek not to replicate the work already undertaken by MACS, instead the focus will be implementation. It was noted that there was slight slippage on the proposed "roundtable" led by SG but hopefully this will not slip too far.

5.12 AB updated that she had recently met with the Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission who, through discussions, agreed

that MACS should reconnect with them. The anticipation is that the SHRC will be cognisant of MACS work, open to exploring shared and common interests. AB will keep the Committee informed of any progress.

### **Update Roads, Infrastructure and Active Travel**

5.13 The roads, infrastructure and active travel workstream have undertaken a couple of introductory meetings covering the wide range of work that is on-going. SW was invited, and is now sitting on the free bike scheme stakeholder group whose remit is to safely deliver, or give access to, free bikes to school aged children who cannot afford them. GD will be picking up the mantle in relation to parking issues.

5.14 KR updated that the Traffic Regulation Order consultation response on behalf of MACS has been submitted, with the Workplace Parking consultation still being drafted.

5.17 Work continues on the “Countryside for All” paper and members of this workstream will be attending the adapted bikes webinar organised by the Energy Savings Trust for cycling for disabled people.

### **Agenda Item 6: Key Messages for Twitter**

6.1 An update was given on recent MACS twitter activity. This included retweets on the following subjects:

- Changing Places Day;
- 100 day commitment on free bikes scheme;
- MACS Annual Report launch and key areas of the report;
- The Disability and Transport statistics from the Scottish Household survey which were recently published.

### **Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business**

7.1 As this meeting was the final legislative meeting before 3 longstanding, experienced members of the Committee end their tenure (complete 8 years), the Convener took the opportunity to thank Marsali Craig, Hussein Patwa and Keith Robertson for their service and dedication on behalf of MACS, Ministers and Transport Scotland. She stated that their hard work, commitment and efforts had been greatly appreciated by all who have worked with them and wished them well in the future.

**Meeting closes.**

No.	Action	Update
1	Sponsor Team to approach the TS Team leading on the mapping exercise on community transport in Scotland to offer MACS assistance in their work in this area.	On-going
2	Sponsor Team to ask officials working on LEZ for an update.	On-going
3	Sponsor Team to ask officials to reframe or ensure inclusion of (1) – those not able to use their cards due to access to services and (2) – whether Cards can be used on community transport options.	On-going
4	Committee members to feedback to SW directly if they have any suggestions/recommendations for an adaptive bike pilot	On-going
5	Sponsor Team to ask Social Security officials when consultation on Adult Disability payments will be published and feedback to NA directly.	Completed
6	Sponsor Team to ensure SF is kept updated on the STPR2 consultation	On-going
7	DH to follow up with TS analysts regarding the Scottish Household Survey to monitor evidence of trends in the mobility gap.	On-going
8	All MACS members to provide feedback if anyone uses (or has used) a ferry over the next few months.	On-going