

Review

2015 Supplement Edition

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**2015 closes with
the historic opening
of the Borders Railway**



**TRANSPORT
SCOTLAND**
CÒMHDHAIL ALBA

It is the joint effort of Transport Scotland with our partners and stakeholders that allows us to deliver these vital improvements to our transport infrastructure.



I am pleased to present my first Annual Review as Transport Scotland's Chief Executive. This 2015 supplementary edition reports on some of our headline achievements over what was a historical year in transport.

The Scottish Government continues to recognise the essential role transport has to play in supporting our economy, and we have continued to focus on delivery of Ministers' transport priorities and commitments.

The opening of the longest new domestic railway line in Britain in 100 years, the start of dualling the A9 and the highest number of children actively travelling to school were among our significant achievements this year, supporting communities and businesses and connecting people across Scotland and beyond.

The new Borders Railway was opened in September 2015 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, in a golden occasion marking the end of years of hard work for all involved. Our franchises for ScotRail and the Caledonian Sleeper commenced in the spring and we have supported 10 rail freight flows under the Mode Shift Revenue Support scheme with £725,000 funding. Works are now well underway on the AWPR/B-T project; around 1300 people are currently working on the new road with employment on the project set to peak at 1500. Construction on the c£3bn dualling of the A9 at Kincaig-Dalraddy also began, and safety cameras along the route continue to prove a successful speeding deterrent.

Some other highlights from the year, which support our objective to improve journey times, reliability, quality and accessibility, include SPT's Fastlink, opened with £34.4m of funding from Scottish Government. This has provided a rapid bus transit scheme which provides a direct link from Glasgow city centre to the new Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children. We have also continued to successfully deliver Scotland's ground-breaking Concessionary Travel scheme to our most vulnerable citizens with the 1.5 million National Entitlement Cards being used in excess of 149 million times this year on buses all over the country.

All three towers on the new Queensferry Crossing are now at their final height, making it the tallest bridge in the United Kingdom – at up to 210m tall, they are an impressive sight across the Forth Estuary. Work continues on the M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements project, which will bring safer roads, less congestion and a better quality of life for road users and local communities when complete.

On 11 December 2015 MV Catriona, the third hybrid ferry for the fleet serving the Clyde and Hebrides network, was officially launched. This underlines the Scottish Government's commitment to making our ferry fleet sustainable and reliable, utilising the expertise on offer at the Ferguson Marine Engineering Limited shipyard. In 2015/16 we maintained record levels of investment (£39.2m) in active travel, with an increase of 70% on 2013/14 levels, and continued investment in the ChargePlace Scotland network means we now have one of the most comprehensive electric charging networks in Europe.

It is the joint effort of Transport Scotland with our partners and stakeholders that allows us to deliver these vital improvements to our transport infrastructure, and I'm extremely grateful for all the hard work that goes into delivering these commitments - thank you for making this another successful year.

Roy Brannen
Chief Executive
Transport Scotland



Golden ticket winners were given a sneak preview at various events along the new railway line.



THE GOLDEN TICKET

On 9 September 2015 the £353m Borders Railway was officially opened by HM Queen Elizabeth II. Successfully completed on time and on budget, this is the longest new domestic railway to be constructed in Britain for over 100 years.

The 30 miles of track and seven new stations provide a fast and efficient service connecting the communities of Midlothian and the Scottish Borders with Edinburgh and the wider Scottish rail network. The route has already proved immensely popular, with passenger numbers exceeding expectations.

Network Rail began construction of the line in October 2013 with mining remediation work in the north section of the route. Over the next two years earthworks and bridge restorations - including the 19th century Lothianbridge Viaduct - all shaped the region's new landscape culminating in track laying and driver training.

The official launch by her Majesty also marked the day she became the longest reigning monarch, celebrated with a momentous steam train journey along the route, joined by The Duke of Edinburgh, the First Minister and some 200 guests, including campaigners and people who contributed to delivering the project.

Transport Scotland continues to work closely with colleagues at Scottish Enterprise, Visit Scotland and Local Authorities to take forward the Borders 'Blueprint for Future', launched by the former First Minister. This aims to maximise the economic benefits of the new railway, capitalising on the transformational impact of the new line in creating new places to 'live, work, visit, learn, play and grow.

Outputs from the group include a specially "wrapped" ScotRail train launched in March 2015 to advertise the route across Scotland. An Inward Investment Prospectus was launched in Autumn 2015 providing a wealth of information for potential investors and availability of land, grants, support etc., and VisitScotland has developed a new Visitor Marketing Programme to promote the region to Scottish, UK and international markets.



500,000

train passengers already by December 2015



49km

total line length



256

structures surveyed for bats



70

projects have benefitted from the community fund



42

new bridges constructed



1.5m

tonnes of earthworks

ROLLING OUT INVESTMENT

With £5bn being invested in the Scottish rail network between now and 2019, everyone will see significant improvements with new and refurbished trains, facilities and infrastructure.

Edinburgh Glasgow Improvement Programme (EGIP)

A major EGIP milestone was reached during 2015 when, over a 44 day period between 13th June and 27th July, Network Rail successfully completed the challenging and complex track lowering and re-engineering of the Winchburgh Tunnel in readiness for electrification.

Working closely with the ScotRail Alliance and transport industry partners, Transport Scotland co-ordinated a highly effective disruption management and communications plan (#KeepScotlandMoving) which ensured that Scotland was kept moving during the tunnel closure period.

Franchises begin

April 2015 heralded the launch of the new franchise now operated by **Abellio ScotRail** Ltd. The exciting initiatives in the new franchise will deliver significant improvements to rail services in Scotland, with more services, more trains and improved facilities.

The first refurbished class 158s reentered service in September for the Borders line opening, with plans for all 40 trains in the fleet to undergo the same transformation.

Significant station investment is already underway, with front line improvements to passenger facilities such as better waiting facilities, additional and upgrades to CCTV, new customer information screens and new ticket vending machines.

A range of fare promotions have been introduced over the year and measures to protect passengers interests during periods of disruption on the network are also now in place.

A recruitment campaign was launched to employ 100 extra drivers across Scotland in preparation for the introduction of brand new electric trains to the central belt network from 2017, and the popular, faster “inter-city” style high speed trains serving Scotland’s seven cities from 2018.

The **Caledonian Sleeper Franchise** started operation on 31 March 2015. The Franchise agreement specifies the involvement of smaller Scottish suppliers, with over 15 SMEs now successfully involved. A new HQ was established in Inverness, creating over 20 jobs.

Future investment

All existing ScotRail fleets (being retained beyond 2019) will undergo significant enhancements to bring them up to modern standards, delivering better passenger facilities. These include fitting Wi-Fi, power sockets, accessible toilets, two wheelchair spaces, passenger counting equipment, new lighting, seats, flooring and external/internal re-livering.

- ScotRail will lease more trains and invest significantly in existing fleets to deliver a 23% seating capacity increase across the whole of the fleet by 2019
- On the main Edinburgh - Glasgow route more than 40% extra seats are planned to be provided at peak times from Dec 2018
- The c320 electric train fleet was the first fleet in the UK to be retro fitted to Persons with Reduced Mobility requirements which included installing new accessible toilet and wheelchair spaces. For the Caledonian Sleeper services, the entire overnight Anglo-Scottish rolling stock fleet is being replaced with 75 new vehicles specifically designed for the sleeper services in line with today’s travellers expectations.

Community Rail Partnerships

We now have eight partnerships operating in Scotland, with two new partnerships in Strathallan (Gleneagles) and East Linton created during 2015.

The new franchise with Abellio has also brought about suggestions for promotion of the railway line, utilising vacant station buildings for community projects and adoption of a station to help manage its upkeep.

Delivering the Goods

In October 2015, we launched “Delivering the Goods: Consultation towards Scotland’s Rail Freight Strategy”, setting out a refreshed vision for a competitive, sustainable rail freight sector. The vision significantly supports the Scottish Government’s Economic Strategy to provide a safer, greener, and more efficient way of transporting products and materials. It aims to support growth in existing and new markets through the prism of four core levers: innovation, facilitation, promotion and investment.

Aberdeen to Inverness Railway

The contract for the Aberdeen to Inverness Rail Improvement Programme was awarded in October 2015. The scheme will improve a key route connecting the cities, making journeys shorter, more frequent and more comfortable and boosting economic growth for communities and businesses.

The project upgrades 16 miles of line to double-track and makes signalling improvements. Provisions have also been made for two new stations at Dalcross and Kintore along with the redevelopment of Forres station.



The ScotRail Abellio Franchise launched in April

LAUNCHING OFF

New air routes, a new era of ferries being built on the Clyde, new ferry services and multi-million pound investments for harbour improvements on our Scottish shores continue to boost tourism and the economy.

New air routes

2015 saw the start of a number of key routes supported by Transport Scotland in partnership with Scottish Enterprise and VisitScotland. These included Etihad's service from Edinburgh to Abu Dhabi and WestJet's service from Glasgow to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

In 2015 we also renewed the contract for the supported air services to Campbeltown, Tiree and Barra. Following consultation with local communities we've made improvements to services, including expanding the Tiree and Barra services to address capacity issues and bringing Summer Sunday services to Campbeltown forward a month.

We continue to support services to the Highlands and Islands through the Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL) and Air Discount Scheme (ADS) schemes. In response to concerns from the community we have increased the ADS discount from 40% to 50% for bookings made from 1 January 2016.

Following purchase of two new twin otter aircraft in 2014, these were delivered and put to use on the HIAL routes in May this year, further demonstrating our commitment to these lifeline services.



New Etihad Edinburgh – Abu Dhabi route secured

'Greener' dual fuel ferries

In October Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd (FMEL), Port Glasgow, signed the £97m contract to construct two new major 'dual-fuel' ferries for the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services network - the largest commercial vessels to be built on the Clyde since 2001, launching a new era of commercial shipbuilding on the Clyde. These greener 'dual-fuel' vessels operate on liquefied natural gas (LNG) and marine diesel.

MV Catriona, the third hybrid ferry for the fleet serving the Clyde and Hebrides network, was officially launched on 11 December 2015.

Completion of the roll out of **RET fares to the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services** (CHFS) network by October 2015 benefits the entire CHFS network with cheaper ferry travel and fulfils a key commitment of our 2012 Ferries Plan.

Following a successful pilot service the summer ferry service between Ardrossan and Campbeltown will be made permanent, coming into operation in Summer 2016. This will be a real boost for the local economy, enhancing transport links, as well as supporting the tourist trade.

Freight Grants

Over the year the £725,000 grant for Mode Shift Revenue Support (MSRS) has supported ten rail freight flows, removing around 100,000 HGV journeys from our roads.

The £141,000 Waterborne Freight Grant (WFG) also continues to support the more environmentally friendly movement of sawn timber by sea from BSW Sawmill at Corpach to Tilbury (London). WFG provides start-up funding for new shipping services that transfer freight from road to sea.

Harbours and Ports

The **Harbours (Scotland) Act 2015** came into force towards the end of 2015, helping to improve processes and legislative procedures for Trust Ports.

Work has also progressed on early implementation of the maritime recommendations from the Smith Commission, building stronger links between Scottish Ministers and the work of the Northern Lighthouse Board and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

We continue to support Scottish remote and fragile island communities with the recent £30m **infrastructure investment** at Ullapool and Stornoway and another £30 million for redevelopment of Brodick harbour to secure a safe, efficient and reliable ferry terminal and service.



Stornoway Harbour

MAJOR PROGRESS

2015 has been a year of progressing our major schemes, bringing economic benefits with jobs and heavy investment in projects that will improve road network safety, journey times and reliability.

AWPR/Balmedie - Tipperty project

Works are now well underway on the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/ Balmedie - Tipperty (AWPR/B-T) project. Around 1300 people are currently working on the new road, with employment on the project set to peak at 1500.

Major earthworks have now made the outline of the new road visible and blasting works are on-going in many areas and a number of bridges and culverts are taking shape.

The AWPR/B-T project will bring substantial benefits to the whole of the north east. This includes reducing congestion, improving journey times, cutting pollution in the city centre, boosting the economy, improving road safety and enhancing public transport.

At **Haudagain** Draft Orders were published in June 2015 with construction programmed to commence following completion of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route.

Inverness to Nairn Dualling

In May 2015 a design contract worth c30m was awarded for the A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) scheme.

We also undertook a series of public exhibitions about improving connectivity along the A96 corridor route from east of Nairn to Aberdeen.

A9 Dualling

Estimated at £3 billion, the dualling of the A9 between Perth and Inverness represents the biggest transport investment in Scotland's history. Construction on the £35m Kinraig and Dalraddy section began in September. Completion of this new stretch of dual carriageway is expected Summer 2017 and full length project completion by 2025. The three design contracts for the programme are now supporting almost 800 engineering design related jobs in Scotland, including 110 jobs for graduates and apprentices.

August 2015 saw the launch of the **Academy9 programme** which provides pupils the opportunity to be involved in the project from an early age. 240 pupils from 13 primary schools and 80 pupils from three high schools along the A9 corridor have been introduced to the programme.

Forth Replacement Crossing (FRC)

The new budget range for the FRC will be £1.325 to £1.35 billion with cumulative savings of £245 million since construction started in June 2011.

All three towers on the new Queensferry Crossing are now at their final height, making it the tallest bridge in the United Kingdom – at up to 210m tall, they are an impressive sight across the Forth. Launching of the 543 metre long twin south approach viaducts steelwork was completed in 2015. The impressive deck lifting operation commenced in early September and is now well underway with the Crossing really taking shape.

Motorway Improvements

Construction on the M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements Project has continued throughout 2015. Over a third of the new M8 carriageway has been completed within the site boundary, minimising disruption to the 100,000 vehicles using these busy routes every day.

Summer 2015 also saw the first major bridge successfully manoeuvred into position, marking a significant milestone in the progress of the project and the culmination of months of meticulous planning and preparation. The new Braehead rail bridge, weighing in excess of 2,000 tonnes, (the weight of around 4,000 cars) slid into its final position over what will become the new M8 at Bargeddie.

A82 Improvements

Re-opened to traffic in May 2015, the £9.2m **Pulpit Rock** scheme on the A82 has removed the bottleneck and traffic lights, improving journey time and reducing driver frustration.

Good progress has been made on the **A82 Tarbet to Inveraran** scheme, with the preferred option being presented to the public in October 2015.



Queensferry Crossing reaches new heights



M8 M73 M74 Motorway improvements



i-bike training in schools

FUTURE PROOFING

Building a safer, greener and more accessible transport environment continues to be at the heart of our policies this year. Working towards the Government's vision to lower carbon emissions, we have delivered over 500 electric charge points, making Scotland's charge network one of the most comprehensive in Europe.

Record year for Active travel

2015 was an exciting year for active travel. We see more people than ever enjoying cycling, with almost 15,000 people in Edinburgh now cycling to work - an 11.8% modal share (Scottish Household Survey). 2014 statistics also show that 121 million trips were made on the National Cycle Network (NCN) – an increase of 13% on 2013 (50% walking, 50% cycling) and we are delighted to note that for the first time ever, over 50% of schools children travelled actively to school and over 40% undertook on-road cycle training at school.

Financial support from Scottish Government has also stayed at record levels, with a 70% increase in funding available for active travel from £22.95m in 2013/14 to £39.2m in 2015/16. Of this, £20.8m has been allocated to 254 Community Links projects, generating a further £26m in partner matched funding. At the end of the year the Transport Minister also announced the Community Link PLUS competition, taking cycling and walking to the “next level”.

Road Safety Scotland (RSS)

RSS continues to promote road safety as a lifelong learning process. **‘Your Call’**, a web-based resource for lower secondary pupils, was relaunched in May 2015 and **‘Klang: the Road Home’** app launched in February for 8-11 year-olds. With 47,000 downloads, it was an instant success and won the Best App at the Scottish Design Awards.

A new motorcycle campaign, **Live Fast Die Old**, launched in April, and campaigns on Young Drivers, Fatigue, and Drink-Driving ran in 2015. A new Country Roads campaign launched in October and work began on a Vulnerable Road Users campaign which will run in early 2016.

Electric vehicles

Scottish Ministers set a clear vision to free Scotland's towns, cities and communities from the damaging emissions of petrol and diesel-fuelled vehicles by 2050. The widespread adoption of electric vehicles will be vital in achieving this vision. 2015 saw continued investment by Transport Scotland in the ChargePlace Scotland network of electric vehicle charge points, which now comprises over 1000 public charging bays (equating to over 500 points) across Scotland, including over 100 ‘rapid’ charge points, making it one of the most comprehensive networks in Europe.

Fastlink

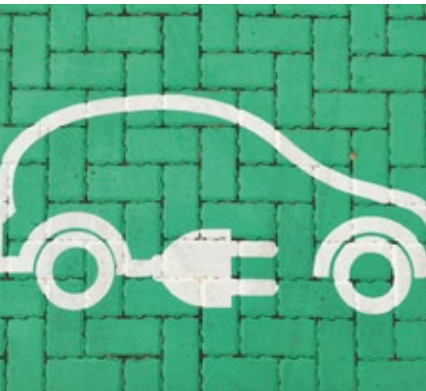
2015 saw the opening of SPT's Fastlink bus rapid transit scheme, providing a direct link from the Glasgow city centre to the new Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children.

School bus safety

Legislative competence was transferred from Westminster to Holyrood in June 2015 in relation to school bus safety via a Section 30(2) Order of the Scotland Act 1998. This will allow Scottish Ministers to introduce legislation in the next Parliament that will ensure that seatbelts are provided on all dedicated school transport.

Disabled Persons' Parking Badges

We supported Dennis Robertson MSP with his Disabled Persons' Parking Badges (Scotland) Bill through Parliament. The Act came into force on 30 March 2015 and strengthened the enforcement powers of the blue badge scheme.



SCSP funding

Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) is a behaviour change programme which aims to increase the number of journeys by walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing. Administered by Paths for All, the scheme was awarded £5m in grant funding and has attracted £6.5m in match funding from partners including local authorities, RTPs, NHS and other partners.

There are over 160 projects across Scotland including public awareness events, personal travel planning, school travel campaigns, workplace travel initiatives, signage and mapping of local paths and car clubs.

Transport Accessibility Summit

Following the success of the Transport Accessibility Summit in March 2015, the first action to be implemented from the summit saw us setting up a Transport Accessibility Steering Group to co-produce an accessible travel framework for Scotland. A workshop in August 2015 prepared the groundwork for the steering group to co-produce the vision and action plan, critically to ensure the continued involvement of disabled people to shape, action and monitor the plan. The plan will be published in 2016.



ON THE ROAD

This year saw continued investment of c£700m to improve and maintain our trunk road network, ensuring it is safe, efficient and supports Scotland's economic growth.



Maintenance works on the A82 Glen Gloy Road, near Spean Bridge

Average speed cameras on the A9

Following the introduction of average speed cameras on around 110 miles of the A9 between Dunblane and Inverness, the number of “fatal and serious” accidents on the stretch is down by almost 59%, with “fatal and serious” casualties down by approximately 64%. Also the period from July to December passed without a fatal accident anywhere on the route, the first time this has happened since at least 1978.

During the course of 2015, the measures set out in the interim safety plan received the CIHT John Smart Road Safety Award, and were Highly Commended at the UK National Transport Awards.

Cleaner Air for Scotland strategy

During 2015, we collaborated with Scottish Government, SEPA, local authorities and stakeholders to support the publication of the Cleaner Air for Scotland strategy with a vision for Scotland to have the cleanest air in Europe. A number of transport-related actions were identified, with the production of a **National Low Emission Framework** being a key element.

Resilience Action

The Transport Scotland Resilience team has continued to build on their preparedness and response to incidents. Partnership working has played a key role as they have been challenged with several storms as well as the closure of the Forth Road Bridge and Glasgow Queen Street Station.

Great Glen Cycleway

The £3.4M Great Glen Cycleway scheme was completed in September 2015. Running between Fort William and Inverness it forms part of the National Cycle Network Route 78 (NCN 78) and provide cyclists with a safe, attractive and high quality alternative to the A82 Trunk Road.

Bridge work on the A830

Replacement of two bridges on the A830 between Fort William and Mallaig was completed in Dec 2015 & Jan 2016 with the opening of **Utha** and **Garbh** bridges.

Strengthening of the central pier of **Glenfarg Footbridge** was completed in May 2015. Identified as at risk of damage from HGV collision as part of a national programme of assessment, the work was completed as part of the five year £10m programme to upgrade nine bridges on the A830.

Hillington Footbridge

Following significant damage caused by an overheight vehicle, the new M8 Hillington Footbridge was opened in Sept 2015. An accessible combined footway and cycleway bridge made using recycled materials, the footbridge links Cockles Loan in Renfrew with Hillington Industrial Estate and is a vital link across the M8 motorway. Extensive consultation with Renfrewshire Council, Glasgow Airport and other stakeholders enabled this £2.6m structure to be constructed adjacent to the old bridge which was demolished on completion of the new structure.



Great Glen Cycleway

Safety Camera Programme Review

With agreement on the proposals recommended through the Safety Camera Programme Review, 2015 has been a successful year in implementing measures to improve effectiveness and efficiency.

New funding arrangements and structure for safety camera operations are now in place, with operational delivery through Police Scotland's three Safety Camera Units: North, East and West. Reflecting local circumstance, forums will administer local governance of the Programme, from early 2016.

Concessionary Travel scheme

Transport Scotland continues to successfully deliver Scotland's ground-breaking Concessionary Travel scheme to our most vulnerable citizens. The 1.5 million National Entitlement Cards with travel concessions were used in excess of 149 million times this year on buses all over the country.

Smart Ticketing

Partnership with public transport operators is delivering **saltirecard** smart ticketing across Scotland. During 2015 we saw the successful rollout of smart ticketing to school transport in some areas, along with the launch of Orkney air smart ticket in June. The award of the Abellio ScotRail franchise has also pushed forward a “Summer of Smart” programme, due to roll out over 2016.



Average speed cameras on the A9

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