

Notes of Meeting

Meeting Title A83 Taskforce Meeting 11

Meeting Scope A83

Venue: Three Villages Hall - Arrochar

Date: 7th September 2016, 10:00 am

Present: Humza Yousaf MSP - Minister for Transport and Islands (HY)
 Hugh Gillies – Transport Scotland (HG)
 Scott Lees – Transport Scotland (SL)
 Jonny Moran – Transport Scotland (JM)
 Fiona Brown – Transport Scotland (FB)
 Keith Murray – Transport Scotland (KM)
 Karen MacKinnon – Transport Scotland (KMack)
 Eddie Ross – BEAR Scotland (ER)
 John Wrigley – BEAR Scotland (JW)
 Jane Macleod – Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce (JMacl)
 Alison Hay - Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce (AH)
 Jim Smith – Argyll and Bute Council (JS1)
 Councillor Ellen Morton – Argyll and Bute Council (EM)
 Councillor Robert G MacIntyre – Argyll & Bute Council (RGM)
 Ranald Robertson – HITRANS (RR)
 Gordon Ross – Western Ferries (GR)
 Alan Bell – Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park (AB)
 Ronnie McDonald – Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui C. C. (RMcD)
 Iain McInnes – Lochgilphead Community Council (IMcl)
 John Hair – Forest Enterprise Scotland (JH)
 John Semple - National Farmers Union Scotland (JS2)
 Kirsty Robb – Argyll Timber Transport Group (KR)
 Donald Clark – Mid-Argyll Chamber of Commerce (DC)
 Dougie Philand – Argyll and Bute Council (DP)

Apologies: Michael Russell MSP, Jackie Baillie MSP, Pippa Milne A&BC,
 Councillor Donald Kelly A&BC, Mike Story

| | <u>Description</u> | <u>Action</u> |
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| 1 | Welcomes, Introductions & Apologies | |
| | The Minister welcomed participants to the meeting. He re-emphasised to the Taskforce that he was acutely aware as Transport Minister and also as the Minister for the Islands of the importance of the A83 trunk road to the communities of Argyll and Bute and to the local economy. | |
| 2 | Review of Minutes of Meeting of 25th January 2015 | |
| | JM reviewed the actions from the previous minutes. Item 4 – Debrief 19 th January of December 2015 and January 2016 events. Road closure signage has been reviewed with additional signs now to be deployed as part of the response plan. Plans are in place for winter 2016. | |

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| | <p>Item 4 - Circulation of information during boulder event in January 2016– it was confirmed that in addition to media, website and twitter updates a series of emails was issued to stakeholders including Peter McKerral for whom there are two emails listed. KR to ask Peter McKerral to confirm with BEAR the correct email address.</p> <p>Item 4 – JM once again urged the Taskforce members to sign up to twitter to receive information and to use it to circulate information.</p> <p>Item 2 – Machrihanish Depot – JS1 informed the meeting that planning permission was now in place for the shared depot. He said that this was an excellent example of collaboration between Argyll and Bute Council and Transport Scotland. Construction work is now underway.</p> <p>Item 2 - Signing from Cowal Peninsula Update – JS1 said that foundations are now in place for VMS signs. Argyll and Bute Council, Transport Scotland and Traffic Scotland are to have a meeting to discuss operational arrangement for the signs.</p> | <p>All</p> <p>TS/A&B</p> |
| 3 | <p>Update on progress A83 Route Study recommendations</p> | |
| | <p>John Wrigley gave a presentation to the meeting an updating progress with the A83 Trunk Road Route Study recommendations.</p> <p>A copy of the presentation is available at: www.transportscotland.gov.uk/project/a83-taskforce</p> <p>£2 million of improvement works completed since the last Taskforce meeting in January 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £365,000 on repairs and improvements to debris barrier affected by the December 2015 event. • £1.056 million resurfacing of over 8 km of carriageway at five discreet locations. • £150,000 safety barrier work including safety barrier replacement at the Rest and Be Thankful damaged by an earlier event. • £125,000 hillside drainage at Loch Shira replacing old drainage system now not fit for purpose. • £112,000 drainage works on the route including at Dunderave and the Old Military Road. Further works to drain and widen the OMR at south end to start on Monday 12th September. • £150,000 Vegetation clearance at Erines in advance of a ground investigation for a potential Minor Improvement. • Lining, signing and footway works along the route. <p>£3.92 million of improvements programmed for the remainder of the financial year.</p> <p>Strone Point, out to tender at the moment, due back 27th September, expected start in late November (20 week contract) completing in April. Works to be carried out mostly under traffic signal control with overnight road closures to tie into the carriageway at either end. Contract requires there to be a liaison officer to consult and liaise with the community. BEAR will also carry out consultation. Estimated at £1.55 million.</p> | |

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£1 million of works at RaBT, for high frequency risk reduction measures will be progressed this week. Largely to increase the capacity of the nets and building in resilience / factor of safety. Construction to start in January-April. Phases 5,7 and 9.

- £555,000 for resurfacing works at seven locations.
- £230,000 for further safety fencing works
- £60,000 signing and lining.
- £50,000 for first phase of footway works south of Furnace.
- £35,000 Glen Kinglas drainage improvements
- £40,000 other drainage works along the route.

£3.5 million of improvements programmed for next financial year

- £270,000 for the completion of high frequency risk reduction measures.
- £1.775 million for medium/low frequency risk reduction measures.
- £225,000 further drainage works at Glen Kinglas.
- £700,000 contingency for further risk reduction measures at RaBT if required following review.
- £250,000 Erines ground investigation works.
- £280,000 further improvement works south of Furnace.

Discussion on the presentation followed:

DC pointed out the site he believes to be the issue on the photo slide showing the low frequency events.

JS2 – Flooding at Erines. BEAR are investigating and will report back to JS2. **ACTION: Add outcome of investigations as a post meeting note.**
Post Meeting Note: BEAR is investigating water run-off from the hillside following the landscaping works and will design a scheme to alleviate the flooding. JW has responded to JS2.

TS/BEAR

HY asked what the future measures on the hillside will look like e.g. bigger nets, higher nets. JW said the contractors are invited to produce a design to meet the specification. They may come back with net options but there are very likely to be other options.

DP queried how the nets would be emptied if they are higher up above existing nets. JW explained that the nets would be emptied after an event once weather has improved and material allowed to cascade into the nets below which can then be cleared.

IMcI – questioned the safety of the recently completed ditching works at Ardgartan. JW explained the engineering behind the design. DC commended BEAR's design.

IMcI asked if TS were revisiting the option for another route on the other side of the glen. JW confirmed that was not part of the current plans.

KR asked for clarity on the process for the study, design, implementation of the high frequency risk reduction measures. JW said that a study of the

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| | <p>Post meeting note: Due to illness Mike could not attend the meeting of the Taskforce, however he sent the following note. There was little to report from the Marketing group, social media is still on-going and the good weather and lack of incidents at the RABT mean group have not had to meet.</p> | |
| 5 | <p>Discussion</p> | |
| | <p>Bus Turning Circle at the top of the Rest and Be Thankful IMcl reported that bus operators are not stopping at the bus turning circle. There is no confidence in the bus service and local people were reluctant to rely on it. Citylink and Westcoast have said they won't use the facility from November to March because of winter conditions. He said that the Cowal Transport Forum had agreed to write to HY to urge him to encourage bus operators to use it. Public money has been spent on the bus turning circle. He had been assured that it will be very well gritted. HY agreed this was a less than satisfactory situation. JS said that A&BC Public Transport officers are working hard to try and encourage bus operators to use it. RR said he has spoken with bus operators and they are blaming risk of ice. ACTION (PRIORITY) - HY stated he is happy to write to operators, as the chair of the Taskforce, if Taskforce think this will be helpful. This was agreed.</p> <p>Permanent Solution DP called for a permanent solution to be re-examined. HY stated he agreed with this and pointed out the opportunities to participate in coming through the forthcoming NTS and STPR consultation. ACTION – all members of the Taskforce are invited to engage in this process as opportunities arise.</p> <p>Footpath South of Furnace AH asked for clarity on the footway improvement between Furnace and Crarae. JW stated the current plans are for improvements from Furnace to Whitebridge Cottage, however he will ask the engineer undertaking site visit next week to have a look at the feasibility of extending the footway. ACTION – BEAR to report back to AH on feasibility of extending the footway.</p> <p>A82 / A83 Junction – Roundabout Proposal RMcl expressed his concerns about safety and capacity of this junction and that this is considered to be an issue locally. RMcD agreed saying that the turning manoeuvre for larger vehicles exiting the A82 at Tarbet to travel north on A83 was difficult having to cut across lanes / waiting for vehicles to stop. HY committed to have it looked at again however if not a safety risk then it will not be taken forward due to constraints. JM said the junction will be considered within the larger project from Tarbet to Inverarnan. ACTION – TS to review if this proposal is (or can be) considered within the MTriPs' Tarbet to Inverarnan scheme. BEAR to review capacity and road safety statistics at A82/A83 junction as part of a 'current' operational review.</p> <p>A83 Arrochar Bend near the Petrol Station RMcD stated the road is very narrow at this location and that there are often wing mirrors on the side of the road. JM confirmed skid resistance at corner at petrol station was improved and that no incidents had been</p> | <p>HY</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>TS</p> <p>BEAR</p> |

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| | <p>alerted to BEAR recently nor any injury accidents.</p> <p>Destination Signing / Gateway DC said that the signing at the A83 / A83 Junction should include signs to the Mull of Kintyre not just Campbeltown. JM said that signage was governed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions with specific restrictions on directional signage. Members asked if there were other opportunities for improved signage. JMacl considered that this junction isn't an attractive gateway. She asked if TS consider the impact on local economy when prioritising investment, whilst understanding prioritising based on safety, there are more benefits that can be achieved besides safety. JMacl asked if a junction improvement be taken forward based on the impact it will have on the economy.</p> <p>ACTION – TS to provide an update on the signing parameters in current regulations at the next meeting of the Taskforce. TS/A&B remain content to review proposals from communities or businesses for other potential signage in accordance with regulations and other guidance (e.g. planning policies, Tourist Signing Guidance).</p> <p>Signing during incidents IMcl asked who is responsible for signing during incidents. There are some locations where it takes a while or signs aren't in the right location. HY invited Iain to write to him with some specific suggestions. ACTION – IMcl to write with suggested for improvements to signing during incidents to HY or TS.</p> <p>Vegetation clearance JS asked if BEAR have budget for vegetation clearance? He outlined issues with HGVs, load covers getting ripped or getting covered in vegetation. Also visibility on many corners. JM confirmed that there is budget for this activity. ACTION - BEAR to review plans for dealing with this issue and include as a post-meeting note in the minutes.</p> | <p>TS</p> <p>TS/A&BC</p> <p>IMcl</p> <p>BEAR</p> |
| 6 | AOCB | |
| | None | |
| 7 | Date of Next Meeting | |
| | <p>HY thanked all for attending and suggested that a further meeting be held in March 2017. Post meeting note : - meeting now confirmed as 14th March 2017 .</p> | |