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**2014 has seen record levels
of investment in active travel**



**TRANSPORT
SCOTLAND**
CÒMHDHAIL ALBA



Events that took place in 2014 represented a momentous year for Transport Scotland and all its staff.



I am pleased to present Transport Scotland's sixth Annual Review, reporting on some of our headline achievements over what was an exceptional year for transport, seeing a £1.9 billion pound investment during 2014/15.

Our focus throughout the year remained firmly on delivering Ministers' transport priorities and commitments.

The start of the year 2014-15 marked 100 days to the commencement of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, where we played a significant role in the planning and delivery of arrangements to ensure that the transport network made a full and lasting contribution to the success of the event. Significant investment in transport infrastructure and services was showcased in a very positive light, ensuring that Glasgow delivered what has since been termed 'the best games ever'. We were also a major contributor to the success of the 2014 Ryder Cup, and this, together with all of the events that took place in 2014, represented a momentous year for Transport Scotland and all its staff.

The latter part of 2014 saw new Ministers for the Transport Sector. We were delighted to see Keith Brown MSP promoted to Cabinet Secretary and welcomed a new Minister for Transport and Islands, Derek Mackay MSP.

We progressed the Scottish Government's £3.5 billion rolling programme of rail electrification and improvements and we also announced the award of the new ScotRail and Caledonian Sleeper franchises. Progress continued on the new Borders Railway, which is due to open in September 2015. Other significant milestones in year included the A75 Dunragit Bypass and the A77 Symington and Bogend Toll Improvements scheme, both of which opened to traffic in 2014. The A9 Dualling also reached a significant milestone with the award of three design consultancy contracts. New air routes were introduced, including those from Edinburgh to Philadelphia as well as Chicago and Doha. The new MV Loch Seaforth was introduced to the Stornoway-Ullapool route this year.

The Traffic Scotland National Control Centre and Contact and Education Centre achieved success at the 12th Annual Scottish Transport Awards in June 2014, winning the excellence in Travel Information & Marketing category. The ScotRail franchise process received high praise from Audit Scotland and the same body judged the process for the acquisition of Prestwick Airport to be reasonable in the tight timescale. The year also saw the launch of the Hydrogen Bus Refueling Station in Aberdeen.

The First Minister marked the start of work on the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie-Tipperty road scheme (AWPR/B-T). The average speed camera system, covering sections of the A9 between Dunblane and Inverness, has already seen a significant reduction in speeding in some sections of the route. We continue to build strong foundations for modal shift to sustainable and active travel, with on-going development of cycling and electric charging infrastructure, promotion of low carbon vehicles such as "green buses" and encouragement of associated behavioural change.

Finally, we concluded the year with Derek Mackay MSP, Minister for Transport and Islands hosting the first ever Scottish Transport Accessibility summit, launching an ongoing collaborative venture to make sure that disabled people enjoy the same access to transport as everyone else.

I thank all colleagues involved and also acknowledge our partners across Scotland, who played a significant role in making this extraordinary year such a success.

David Middleton
Chief Executive
Transport Scotland



Glasgow Central Station during the Commonwealth Games (Photo courtesy of Scott Hutchison, @WesternSMT Flickr)

2014

**MOMENTOUS FOR
SCOTLAND'S TRANSPORT
INFRASTRUCTURE
AND SERVICES**

2014 was a momentous year for Scotland's transport infrastructure and services. It presented an excellent opportunity, made through a collective effort, to showcase Scotland's transport network to a global audience of over a billion people.

Working with partners and the country's key transport stakeholders, Transport Scotland took an oversight role in reviewing the transport planning arrangements and operational delivery of major events. With £1 billion invested in transport for the Commonwealth Games alone, and hundreds of thousands of journeys made, transport played a vital role in the success of these Games, the Ryder Cup and other 2014 Homecoming events.

On 4th August, Glasgow hosted the inaugural event to commemorate the centenary of the Great War. This was centred at Glasgow Cathedral and George Square. Transport Scotland played an active role in the complex journey planning, ensuring people going to and from the different Games and Commemorative events were able to travel unhindered.

Commonwealth Games

Transport Scotland delivered all transport infrastructure projects listed as Games commitments, including the **Airdrie-Bathgate** railway construction, **Dalmarnock station** rebuild and **M74 extension**. These projects will leave a lasting legacy of reduced journey times, and of new and enhanced sustainable public transport, for the benefit of the whole of Scotland.

Ryder Cup

As a legacy benefit of the 2014 Ryder Cup, **Gleneagles Station** was upgraded to provide safe access to the golf course for pedestrians and to provide lasting access for disabled people. Both the completion of the Gleneagles Station refurbishment and the opening of the new link road connecting the station to the nearby A9 were key to the Ryder Cup success. On each of the three match days an average of 45,000 spectators from across the world attended the event at Gleneagles.



Gleneagles Rail Station

EXPANDING THE NETWORK

Transport Scotland is investing more than ever before to connect communities and expand our transport infrastructure across Scotland. 2014 has seen completion of works at A75 Dunragit, A77 Symington and Bogend Toll and A82 Crianlarich Bypass with works also now underway on the AWPR/B-T and A9 Dualling.

M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements Project

Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/ Balmedie to Tipperty (AWPR/B-T)

In December 2014, Scotland's largest Non Profit Distributing (NPD) contract to construct the AWPR/B-T was awarded, following the shortest procurement period for an NPD project of this size and complexity.

The ground-breaking ceremony, attended by the First Minister, marked the start of construction works in February 2015. When complete AWPR/B-T will cut journey times across Aberdeen by half.

Forth Replacement Crossing Project

The Forth Replacement Crossing Project has now seen a total of £195m worth of savings since construction began, with a new £1.35-£1.4 billion budget range announced in October 2014.

All three towers on the new Queensferry Crossing now stand at more than 105m – just over half their final height of 210m. Approximately 10% of the cable stayed bridge deck is also in place.

The FRC Contact and Education Centre is the focal point for engagement and learning with communities, schools, colleges, universities and other organisations. Since opening, over 30,000 people have been informed about the project through open days and the outreach and education programme.

M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements

Construction work on the £500m M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements is now well underway. Most of the works have been remote from the existing carriageways, with online works to increase from spring 2015. When complete in spring 2017, it is estimated that improvements to the M8 will take up to 18 minutes off a journey at daily peak times for vehicles using the busiest sections of the motorway.

A9 Dualling Programme

In December 2014, we awarded the final design contract for the A9 Dualling Programme. The three contracts, each worth approximately £40 million, are already supporting over 230 engineering design related jobs in Scotland, 46 of which are new. Work on this improvement is the first in the Scottish Government's £3 billion A9 Dualling Programme. In addition to this, the £50 million contract for the construction of the first section of dualling between Kincairdie and Dalraddy has been put to tender.

In March 2015, the first of our A9 Dualling newsletters was issued, keeping residents and local businesses informed of the progress of the project.

A96 Dualling Inverness - Aberdeen

The Strategic Business Case for dualling the A96 and the first Environmental report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment were published in September 2014. In October 2014, the preferred option for the 30km section of the A96 between Inverness and Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) was announced. These are the first steps in developing a robust plan to improve connectivity between Inverness and Aberdeen and demonstrates the Scottish Government's commitment to investing in this strategically important route.

Other Significant Milestones

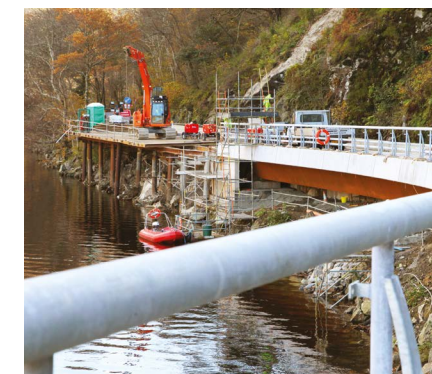
The **A75 at Dunragit** and at **Hardgrove to Kinmount**, together with the **A77 at Symington and Bogend Toll**, opened to traffic in 2014, improving access to and from Scotland's west coast ports. The schemes improved connectivity, making Scotland a more attractive option for business, leisure and tourism.

The new **A82 Crianlarich Bypass** opened to traffic on 23 December 2014 and work is continuing on the **A82 at Pulpit Rock** where construction is scheduled for completion in 2015.

Construction of the **A96 Inveramsay Bridge** commenced in December 2014. When complete, the new £10 million scheme will bring significant benefits for road users and reflects the Scottish Government's determination to deliver a raft of transport improvements, right across the north-east.



Queensferry Crossing construction support piers stretching from the south side of the Forth



A82 Pulpit Rock works

ON TRACK

Over 2014/15 rail improvements saw track laying on the Borders route, new franchises and significant electrification investment. In February 2015, Scottish Ministers committed to a £5 billion package of funding and investment in Scotland’s railways between 2014 and 2019, the largest investment since the Victorian era.

ScotRail Franchise

In October 2014, Transport Scotland announced the successful award of the ScotRail Franchise contract to Abellio ScotRail Ltd.

The new franchise commits to securing a good deal for passengers, staff, businesses and local communities. Significant investment will see improvements to railway stations, from front line improvements to better passenger facilities, provision of more, better and relevant information on the move, and the introduction of innovative fares and a comprehensive smart ticketing scheme throughout the network.

Customers will see a better journey experience, free Wi-Fi on all trains, new, longer electric trains and high speed trains on some city routes, enhanced catering and also refurbished trains on the Great Scottish Scenic Railway.

Emphasis remains on improved journey times including enhanced performance reliability for various routes on the network, additional Sunday services and a number of other improved services throughout Scotland.

The operation of the new franchise began on 1 April 2015.

Caledonian Sleeper Franchise

In May 2014, Transport Scotland announced the award of Caledonian Sleeper Franchise to Serco Caledonian Sleepers Limited (SCSL). Initial improvements will see trains with new livery, refreshed interiors, improved booking processes and a new on-board service offering.

Borders Railway

Track laying for the Borders Railway – which will be the longest new domestic railway to be constructed in Britain for over 100 years - was completed in February 2015. This year has seen the launch of the Golden Ticket competition for the first journeys on the new railway, the launch of “Borders Railway, Maximising the Impact: A Blueprint for the Future” – a joint action plan for Local Authorities, Visit Scotland and Scottish Enterprise to ensure that the economic and tourist benefits of the railway are fully realised - and the unveiling of a special liveried train in March 2015.

Network electrification and EGIP

The Scottish Government’s rolling programme of rail network electrification continued with the start of new electric services. The £35 million electrification of the Rutherglen and Coatbridge route, was finished in September 2014.

The Edinburgh Glasgow Improvement Programme (EGIP) will deliver the electrification of Scotland’s busiest rail route between Edinburgh and Glasgow by December 2016. Several key milestones were reached during 2014/15 with the completion of the £80 million electrification of the Glasgow – Cumbernauld lines; physical works underway at the new Edinburgh Gateway Train/Tram interchange station; and the completion of EGIP route clearance works with 49 structures including the new Larbert road bridge and re-constructed Carmuir’s rail-canal aqueduct all now ready for electrification.

Other Significant Milestones

A £150,000 3 year funding package, resulted in the first **Community Rail Partnership** (CRP) in Scotland receiving Ministerial approval in April 2014. A total of six CRPs have now been established with the long term support for the venture secured within the new ScotRail Franchise.

We continue to work with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) on the **Glasgow Subway Modernisation programme**, for which the Scottish Government is providing up to £246 million of funding towards the estimated cost of £287.5 million.



Borders Railway

In May 2014, UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) confirmed that the **Forth Bridge’s nomination for World Heritage** status would be considered. Transport Scotland chairs the Nomination Steering Group and supports recognition for the Forth Bridge as the cultural heritage of Scotland. A decision is expected in July 2015.



Carmuir’s Aqueduct, completed in March 2015
(photo courtesy of Network Rail)



Forth Rail Bridge UNESCO bid
(photo courtesy of Network Rail)

CUTTING EDGE

This year has seen major investment in new ferries and aircraft, as well as the securing of further afield air routes, boosting business and tourism for Scotland.



MV Loch Seaforth at Ullapool harbour

MV Loch Seaforth

The Western Isles have started to benefit from the new £41.8 million cutting-edge MV Loch Seaforth, which incorporates new enhanced technical reliability. The new ferry is capable of operating 24 hours a day and has a capacity for up to 700 passengers and 143 cars or 20 commercial vehicles. The vessel was delivered to British shores and began operating on the Stornoway-Ullapool route in early 2015.

Road Equivalent Tariff (RET)

Transport Scotland leads on implementing the Scottish Government's Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) fares policy and funding the construction of new ferries and new ferry infrastructure. In March 2015, we announced the RET ferry fares for passengers, cars, small commercial vehicles and coaches for all remaining Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services routes by October 2015. This fulfils the commitment made in the Ferries Plan, published in December 2012, to roll out RET to all West Coast and Clyde islands within the term of this Parliament.

Ports and Harbours

We are currently progressing a Harbours (Scotland) Bill through Parliament, which seeks to address a number of issues concerning current harbours legislation. It will provide an improved legislative framework for Trust Ports and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of existing procedures and processes for stakeholders.

Freight Grants

Over the year we awarded £750,000 under the Mode Shift Revenue Support (MSRS) scheme. This scheme helps companies with the extra operational costs associated with moving freight by rail or inland waterways instead of road. We also awarded the Waterborne Freight Grant of £960,000 to Boyd Brothers Haulage to enable the movement of sawn timber by sea rather than by road from the BSW Sawmill at Corpach to Tilbury (London). This scheme provides start-up funding for new shipping services, which transfer freight from road to sea.



Corpach Timber yard

Aviation

In 2014/15 Transport Scotland continued to support Scotland's airports in developing new routes to improve business connectivity and inbound tourism. We supported the Scottish Government's Public Service Obligation (PSO) routes to Campbeltown, Barra and Tiree, working with HIAL to procure two new aircraft which were delivered in May 2015.

We have continued to support services through our sponsorship of Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL) and funding of the Air Discount Scheme.

Some key new routes supported by Transport Scotland, in partnership with Scottish Enterprise and Visit Scotland, started in 2014 including United Airlines service between Edinburgh and Chicago O'Hare; American Airlines service from Edinburgh to Philadelphia (which will switch to New York JFK in 2015); and Qatar Airways Dreamliner service between Edinburgh and Doha. We were also pleased to assist Edinburgh Airport in securing its second middle-east route, which will begin in 2015 when Etihad Airways starts its daily service to Abu-Dhabi.



New aircraft secured for PSO routes
(photo courtesy of Viking Air)

IMPROVING THE JOURNEY

This year Transport Scotland has invested almost £700m to ensure our trunk road network is safe, efficient and remains a key facilitator of economic growth. The deployment of average speed cameras on the A9 between Dunblane and Inverness has been accompanied by a massive 97% reduction in excess speeding and our Winter Resilience programme was successful in keeping Scotland moving and drivers safe, during periods of severe weather.

Maintenance contracts

June 2014 saw the award of both the South East and North East 4G Contracts to Amey and BEAR Scotland respectively. Based on an estimate of the work likely to be carried out under 4G, these tender prices could potentially deliver overall savings of approximately £8.9 million (9%) for the South East and £7.9 million (8%) for the North East contract in relation to equivalent 3G costs.

Both Contracts will run for six years (with the option to extend for a further two) incorporating improved levels of service over previous term maintenance Contracts as well as encouraging the Operating Companies to deliver these services in more innovative ways.

Forth Bridges Operating Company Contract

In December 2014, we announced the appointment of a single operating company – Amey LG Limited – to manage and maintain both the Forth Road Bridge and, upon completion, the new Queensferry Crossing.

The contract for this new unit within the Network will take effect from summer 2015.

A9 Kessock Bridge

£13.3m of essential maintenance work was carried out on the A9 Kessock Bridge ensuring its reliable service for the next 30 years. The 72 week contract to waterproof, resurface and replace the safety barriers was undertaken by Balfour Beatty.

Bridge Replacement Programme

Work began near Glenfinnan on the A830 ‘Road to the Isles’ in July 2014. Completed in December, the work was part of the five year £10m programme to upgrade nine bridges on the route between Fort William and Mallaig.

Speed Limit Review

As identified in our speed limit review, Transport Scotland is promoting five pilot 20mph limits in Oban, Maybole, Largs, Biggar and Langholm to support road safety.

A9 Interim Safety Plan

The A9 Safety Group has delivered key elements of the Interim Safety Plan for the route. These include new lining and signing, three education campaigns, covering safer overtaking and speed limit awareness, and an average speed camera system on sections of the route between Dunblane and Inverness. The deployment of cameras has been accompanied by a 97% reduction in excess speeding.

A 50 mph pilot for HGVs on the single carriageway sections of the A9 between Perth and Inverness was also introduced in October 2014. This will reduce journey times for these vehicles and is expected to reduce queuing and overtaking associated with them.



A9 average speed camera system, switched on October 2014

Road Safety Scotland

Road Safety Scotland (RSS) continued to invest in education and publicity initiatives. The lifelong learning approach to road safety education retained its high profile, with development work being undertaken on Ziggy (early years) and Your Call (lower secondary) with the design of a bespoke website for the latter. The Junior Road Safety Officer (JRSO) Scheme goes from strength to strength and the popularity of resources built to introduce road safety concepts into physics classes ensured good links with the curriculum.

In 2014, RSS also ensured a road safety presence at a number of national events, including the Scottish Motorcycle Show, Royal Highland Show, Scottish Car Show and the Scottish Learning Festival. RSS ran an in-car safety campaign during the summer months, revising and re-launching the parental leaflet ‘So Your Teenager is Learning to Drive’.

Social marketing activity included re-runs of the ‘Kids in the Car’, Drink-Driving and Country Roads Campaigns. 2014 also saw the launch of a new public information campaign around the new lower drink-drive limit which came into force on 5th December. The year finished on a high with a Prince Michael of Kent International Road Safety Award for the overall ‘Don’t Risk It’ strategy, citing the ‘Kids in the Car’ campaign as an exemplar of an innovative approach to marketing.

Concessionary Travel

Between 2012 and 2014, Transport Scotland commissioned major customer feedback surveys on the Concessionary Travel Scheme. Key achievements include the continued availability of The National Bus Travel Concession Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons. The statutory budget limit for the Scotland Wide Free Bus Concessionary Travel Scheme for Older and Disabled People, as negotiated with the Confederation of Passenger Transport, was set at £192 million.

Smart Ticketing

Transport Scotland’s **Smart and Integrated Ticketing** Team have continued to progress a programme of activities in partnership with Local Authorities, RTPs and bus, rail and ferry operators. School transport schemes are using the smart Young Scot card in areas of Western Isles, East Lothian and the Perth with plans in place to introduce pilots in other areas. The Young Person’s Concessionary Travel Scheme is now the Young Scot card on buses and work continues to roll-out smart technology in rail.

Other significant activity

In October 2014, the largest landslide to hit the **A83 at the Rest and be Thankful** in recent years was quickly cleared up, helped greatly by the investment in debris netting that stopped large boulders damaging the road.

The end of the year saw the conclusion of the **Scottish Safety Camera** Programme consultation period, with agreement and endorsement secured with stakeholders across a range of proposals on the Programme’s purpose, structure, governance, site selection and funding.

In early 2015, Transport Scotland conducted research into the potential benefits of **liquid brine winter salt treatments**.

Salt loss, effectiveness and longevity was compared between liquid brine and pre-wetted salt at sites in A1 Dunbar and A9 Aviemore. Results of the study are to be published in July 2015.

The **Transport Resilience** team has enhanced preparedness and response to incidents from the new Resilience Room within the purpose built Traffic Scotland National Control Centre in South Queensferry. New contract specifications, greater use of technology and getting information to people ‘on the move’ are just a few of the ways we continue to strengthen our resilience for winter weather. The enhanced preparedness and partnership working, like our Multi Agency Response Team (MART), is also improving our resilience for other intense activity, such as extreme weather or major events.

The focus of our **travel planning** activity in 2014 was the delivery of travel information to support iconic events such as the Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup. Transport Scotland supported Traveline Scotland to adapt its smartphone app to deliver information to both event attendees and the everyday traveller. The app delivered 755,000 journey plans during the Games.

Traffic Scotland

The Traffic Scotland service continues to support the safe and efficient operation of Scotland’s motorway and trunk road network. The focal point of the service is the National Control Centre in South Queensferry. From this location, we work with Police, the Met Office and our Operating Companies to support smarter travel by allowing customers to make informed travel choices.

The usage of the desktop and mobile sit continues to grow apace; the joint Traveline Scotland/Traffic Scotland smartphone application has over 560,000 users and our twitter has over 85,000 followers. The latter has proved particularly successful as a way of updating users in real time. Road users have also benefitted from better in-journey information on variable message signs, with more key routes covered by our journey time service.



Brine testing took place on the A1 in early 2015



Landslide on the A83, October 2014



New contract specifications, greater use of technology and getting information to people ‘on the move’ are just a few of the ways we continue to strengthen our resilience.



VISION

This year has seen record levels of investment in active travel, as well as the publication of our Active Travel Vision and growth of greener transport, focusing on our commitment to progress a low carbon economy, reduce emissions and tackle climate change.

Active Travel Vision

Launched in November 2014 by the Minister for Transport, the Vision aims to encourage more people to walk and cycle for everyday shorter journeys. It focuses on areas such as infrastructure, transport integration, cultural and behavioural change, community ownership and planning.

Accessible Transport

In March 2015, Transport Scotland and key stakeholders hosted the Transport Accessibility Summit, providing an opportunity to learn, directly from disabled people, how accessibility issues affect them. This was a milestone in identifying improvements required to give disabled people the same opportunities to travel as everyone else.

Car Clubs

The Developing Car Clubs in Scotland (DCCS) programme in 2014/15 focused on supporting the expansion of the car club network and the continued introduction of electric car club vehicles across Scotland.

This year 57 new electric vehicles were purchased, meaning at the end of the year around 25% of the Scottish Car Club fleet is fully electric, giving members the freedom to choose a vehicle fuelled in a way best suited to each journey.

Commemorative Cycle Stands

The Commonwealth Games Commemorative Cycle Stands, allocated to all medallists, were launched by the First Minister on 2nd August 2014. This is part of a wider initiative to install 208 Legacy 2014 cycle stands across Scotland, providing an additional 2080 bike spaces at workplaces, schools, hospitals, libraries and on high streets.

Stirling Cycle Hub

In 2014, the Minister for Transport launched Scotland's second largest public bike hire scheme in Stirling. Part of the Cycle Hub, the scheme provides information, organises rides and works in partnership with the community.

Cycling Projects

In 2014/15, the Scottish Government invested record levels of funding in cycling projects, including £19 million of capital in Community Links through funds managed by Sustrans. This investment has yielded an additional £25 million from other partners through matched funding.

Green Buses

We have provided £2.9 million to nine bus operators towards the costs of purchasing another 150 low carbon vehicles for the Scottish bus fleet. Since introduced in 2010, the Scottish Green Bus Fund will have supported the service of 276 buses, encouraging the adoption of low carbon vehicles and contributing to the decarbonisation of road transport.

City and town centres will be people focused with easy pedestrian and cycle access.

Active Travel Vision 2030



Commemorative Cycle Stands



I Bike project

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