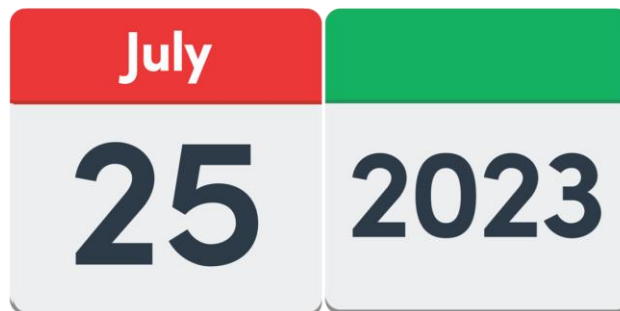


MACS



Advising Scottish Ministers
on Accessible Travel

Board Meeting Minutes 25 July 2023



Easy Read



About the meeting



Advising Scottish Ministers
on Accessible Travel

In this document MACS means the **Mobility and Access** Committee for Scotland.

Mobility and access mean travelling and getting around.



This meeting was from 11am to 2pm.

It was an online meeting.

Who came to the meeting

Linda Bamford, Convener

Hilary Stubbs, Vice Convener

Catherine Barile

David Hunter

Elliot Cooper

Joanne Devitt





Lesley Macinnes

Lynsey Shovlin

Michael Tornow

Naghat Ahmed

Simon Watkins

From MACS Secretariat

Mary Anne Keegan



From Transport Scotland

Bethany Sharp

John Maxwell

Steven Dora - [joined 11.30am](#)

Who could not come



Graham Dunn

Susan Fulton

1. Welcome



Linda welcomed everyone to the meeting.



She gave a message from Susan.

Susan has said that the Guide for **Inclusive Design** for Town Centres and Busy Streets does not have all of MACS advice in it.



Inclusive design means making places like buildings accessible to as many people as possible.



She said that MACS cannot support the Guide yet.

She asks Transport Scotland to look at the wording again.



Linda said that:

- Lesley will lead the group called Bus, Taxis and Community Transport for a while
- Catherine will help with **equality** and **human rights** issues



Equality means treating people fairly and giving people the same choices and chances.



Human rights are freedoms that belong to every person in the world.

Human rights are protected in law. They make sure we are treated fairly and with care.



Linda thanked Vanessa Altweck for all her hard work in the Secretariat team.

She said that MACS wishes Vanessa well as she moves to her new job.

2. Meeting Minutes and Action Points



Linda said that all 5 action points from the last meeting had been done.

3. Update from the Convener



The **Convener** is the person who leads the meeting.

In this meeting the Convener was Linda Bamford.



Linda said that interviews will soon happen for the 4 new MACS jobs.



Fiona Brown from Transport Scotland will help decide who will get the jobs.

The new staff will begin in October 2023.



Linda said that Joanne is going to find out more about the bus routes which are being ended.

Joanne will:



- visit the Aviemore Adventurer Buses
- find out about information on the buses given by screens and speakers
- write a short report



Bethany said it would be good for Joanne to get in touch with the **Social Research** team for their help.

Social research means asking people for their thoughts and ideas.



New Action 1:

Bethany will help Joanne get in touch with the Social Research team.

4. Accessible Travel Framework by Steven Dora



The **Accessible Travel Framework** is Transport Scotland's plan to make **accessible travel** easier.



Accessible travel is when transport is made so that everyone can use it.

This means things like pathways and toilets too.



Steven said that a new plan – called a programme - can happen which will:

- make leadership stronger
- make checks better



He said that accessible travel should be part of all the different transport teams work.



There were some questions about:

- how long the programme will last
- whether it will change things for local councils



Steven shared a picture of the planned new programme – called the Accessible Travel Framework Programme Board.



The picture shows who is in charge and how the programme is set up.

There will be:

- a chairperson
- a boss
- a manager
- 12 different projects





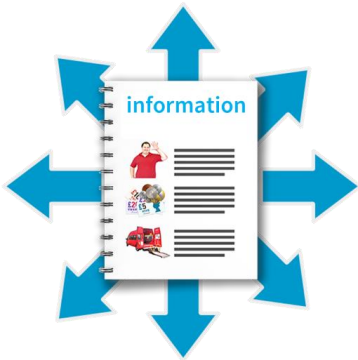
MACS will be part of a group that gives advice to the programme.

There will be 30 other organisations in the Stakeholder Reference Group.



There were some questions and talk about:

- collecting the experiences of passengers
- time and staff
- main roads
- sharing how work is going



New Action 2:

Bethany and Mary Anne will get an update from Steven on the Accessible Travel Framework and share it with everyone.



Linda asked what everyone thought about the new Programme plan.

There were some worries.

People said they were worried about:



- how clear the update was
- how well things will move forward until 2026
- work being done by different teams twice
- the framework itself not making progress – just other organisations making progress
- the delivery plan being stuck

5. Updates from each Workstream



Workstreams are staff teams.

Update from the Planning and Strategy workstream



Planning and Strategy means deciding and organising what will happen.



David said he has been sharing work and handing over to Elliot and Naghat before he leaves MACS.



One new organisation has been **accredited** to offer the **Accessible Vehicle Equipment Scheme**.

Accredited means given permission to do something to the right standards.



The **Accessible Vehicles and Equipment Scheme** helps disabled people in Scotland to get vehicles or mobility equipment.

It is also called AVES for short.



New Action 3:

Bethany and Mary Anne will find out about the new AVES accredited organisation.



David said that the Scottish Government's Just Transition plan did not talk about disabled people's needs.

Disabled people need cars more than other people.

Update from the Ferries and Aviation workstream



Aviation means planes and helicopters.



Hilary is happy that all Scottish airports were given the top award for how accessible they are.

This was in a report from the Civil Aviation Authority.



Hilary said that her team have written a reply about the Civil Aviation Authority's Performance Framework.

She also talked about:



- working with Ferries organisations
- ferry tickets
- ferry accessibility

Update from the Rail workstream



The Rail team are going to look at plans for 2 of Glasgow's stations.

They will give accessibility advice.



The team has also helped to write an Access Strategy with ScotRail and Network Rail Scotland.



Simon said that MACS has complained to English rail organisations about closing some ticket offices.

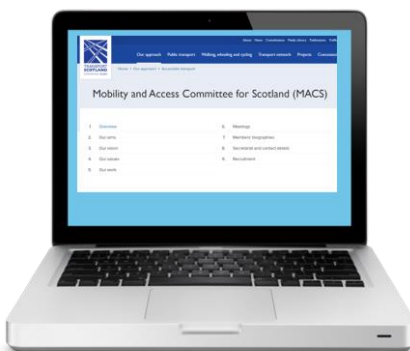
6. Key Messages for X



X is the new name for Twitter – a way to share information online.



Linda said one message could be about today's good Board meeting with the Accessible Travel Team.



Catherine said that lots of people had been talking about the office closures on X.

Linda said it is important to send people to MACS website so they can see MACS replies there.

7. Any Other Business – anything else to talk about



Linda said that the Sustainable and Active Travel team have shared no updates since January 2023.

She said this is a worry.



Linda asked if it would be helpful to hear from the Sustainable and Active Travel team at the October Board meeting.

Bethany agreed to set this up and get a short update in writing before October.



New Action 4:

Bethany and Mary Anne will get an update from the Sustainable and Active Travel Team and invite them to October's Board meeting.



Linda saw that an app called GO-HI is about to be tried out on 5 hundred Motability customers.

She asked if there could be an update about this for the Motability Sub-group.



New Action 5:

Bethany and Mary Anne will get an update from the right team about the GO-HI app.



Michael asked about **MACS Position Papers**.

Position Papers are documents for anyone to read, which say what MACS thinks about different things.



Michael asked if a new position paper could be written about **floating bus stops**.

David said yes, there will be a position paper on these kinds of bus stops.



Floating bus stops are islands for passengers to stand on when they get off a bus.

They keep passengers safe from nearby cycle tracks.



New Action 6:

Bethany and Mary Anne will check with Susan which topics the new MACS position papers will be about.



David asked Bethany if she knows why there was no July issue of Disability in Transport shared.

Bethany thinks some of the facts and figures were late being collected.



New Action 7:

Bethany will ask Paul Sloan about the Disability in Transport July document. And about the first meeting of the Monitoring and Evaluation Group.

8. End of the meeting



Linda thanked everyone and closed the meeting.