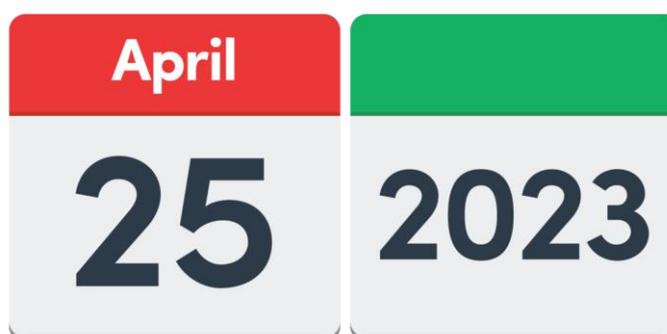


# MACS



Advising Scottish Ministers  
on Accessible Travel

## Board Meeting Minutes 25 April 2023



## Easy Read



## About the meeting



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

Michael Tornow

Naghat Ahmed

Simon Watkins

Susan Fulton



**From MACS Secretariat**

Ally Nelson, Head of Secretariat

Mary Anne Keegan



**Joined from Transport Scotland at 12.40**

Fiona Brown

Bethany Sharp



**Who could not come**

Graham Dunn

Lynsey Shovlin

## 1. Welcome



Linda welcomed everyone to the meeting.

She thanked Audrey Birt, who left the group in February 2023.

## 2. Meeting Minutes and Action Points



Linda said that all 9 action points from the last meeting had been done.

## 3. Update from the Planning and Strategy Workstream



A **workstream** is a staff team.

David and Elliot:



- had a meeting with the **Just Transition Commission**
- joined a session about **Accessible and Inclusive Travel**



The **Just Transition Commission** gives advice on how Scotland can make sure climate decisions are fair for everyone.



**Accessible Travel** means when transport is made so that everyone can use it.

This means things like pathways and toilets too.



**New Action Point 1:**

**Ally and Mary Anne will get the Just Transition Commission Draft Report and send it to David.**



David said that there will be a Motability Sub-Group meeting soon about the **Accessible Vehicles and Equipment Scheme**.

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



The group wants more organisations to be **accredited** to offer the scheme.

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



David said that MACS can plan some work to help other organisations to be allowed to offer the scheme too.



David asked if MACS might be able to write a reply to Transport Scotland about their **Smart and Integrated Ticket consultation**.



The **Smart and Integrated Ticket consultation** is a set of questions that asks people what they think about using special cards as their tickets for their whole journey.



**New Action Point 2:**

**Ally and Mary Anne will find out if MACS should send a reply to the consultation.**

## Update from the Ferries and Aviation workstream



**Aviation** means planes and helicopters.



Hilary says they are going to meet accessible travel organisations in June 2023.



She said that MACS has helped write the Civil Aviation Authority **Accessibility Policy**.



An **Accessibility Policy** is an organisation's agreement and rules about how they make sure everyone can join in.

It is now on their website.



### New Action Point 3:

Ally and Mary Anne will share the Civil Aviation Authority Accessibility Policy with the whole group.

Hilary talked about:

- The Island Connectivity Plan – this is being worked on by small groups and MACS
- The Island Plan – this checks that the Scottish Government are treating the islands fairly, like the mainland
- working with Social Security as part of the Motability Sub-Group on things like how Adult Disability Payment is used for accessible travel
- looking at how the old Personal Independence Payment and Attendance Allowance have changed now that the Scottish Government are organising them
- how it is easier to apply for Adult Disability Payment and Pension Age Disability Payment now





Linda said that MACS has asked the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice to have another meeting about the worries with Motability.



Motability made more than 1 billion pounds in profits last year.

They did not pass the cost of living discount to their customers.

## Update from the Bus and Community Transport workstream



Linda said that Graham is not here today.

So the Bus and Community Transport workstream update will be in his next newsletter.

## Update from the Rail workstream



**Rail** means travel by train and tram.



Simon said that a year ago ScotRail shared their plans to close some train station ticket offices.



He asked for a closer look at how this would change things for disabled people.

This closer look is also called an Equality Impact Assessment.

At first ScotRail said no.



But the Information Commissioner said ScotRail must do this assessment.

Simon hopes that these assessments will always happen, now that ScotRail is owned by **the public**.



**The public** means all the people who live in Scotland.

## Update from the Roads, Infrastructure and Active Travel workstream



In this document, **infrastructure** means things like:

- pathways
- crossings
- signs



**Active travel** means ways of travelling like:

- walking
- wheeling
- cycling

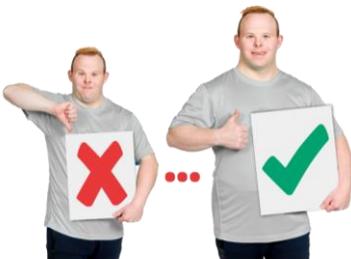


Susan told everyone about the **Inclusive Design Guidance**.

**Inclusive Design** means that places and buildings are made accessible to as many people as possible.



**Guidance** means advice and support.



She said that some of the words will be changed to make it better.

Susan said she has:



- joined an online information session about Outdoor Accessibility Guidance
- joined an online information session given by Alice Clement
- met with **Sustrans** to see how MACS can work together with them



**Sustrans** is a charity that works to make it easier for everyone to walk, wheel and cycle.



Susan said she is sharing documents which explain what MACS thinks about different issues.

These are called **position papers**.

There are position papers about:



- getting to health appointments
- 20 minute neighbourhoods
- active travel
- charge points for electric vehicles
- Motability
- Mobility Centres



There was a lunch break here.

## 4. Talk by Fiona Brown from Transport Scotland



**Welcome**

Linda welcomed Fiona Brown to her first Board meeting.



Fiona introduced herself and said she wants to build trust and respect with MACS.

She is helping to choose a new Sponsor from a different part of Transport Scotland than before.

There were some questions and talk about:

- the time the new Sponsor will have to work with MACS
- the good support the Secretariat have had while the Sponsor changes
- meeting with each workstream
- communication now being easier



## 5. Update from the Sponsor Team



Fiona introduced Bethany Sharp.

Bethany has worked on the **National Transport Strategy**.



The **National Transport Strategy** is the Scottish Government's plan to make it easier to travel less by car.



Fiona said that the First Minister has 3 aims for Scotland:

- equality – giving the same chances to everybody
- opportunity – making chances for things to happen
- community – the groups we live near or join



There might be a new document coming.

Transport Scotland helped write the aims. It made sure it included:

- using public transport more
- making transport cheaper and easier to use – this is also called AAA
- making things fairer
- helping to stop the **climate crisis**



**Climate crisis** means how our world and weather are warming up too fast.



Bethany said that the Transport Equality Network has started up again.

She might start a similar group.

She wants the new group to bring experts from lots of equality groups together.

There was lots of talk about:



- organisations which might join
- who might lead it
- what the name might be



Simon asked if the Fair Fares Review was still happening.

Fiona said yes it is still happening.

## 6. Key messages for X



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



Linda said she would like to thank Audrey Birt on X.

## 7. Any Other Business – anything else to talk about

There was some talk about:

- new staff members
- an update from the Accessibility Team
- holiday dates
- meeting the **Public Appointments** team



**Public Appointments** mean jobs that everyone living in Scotland can apply for.



**New Action Point 4:**

**Ally and Mary Anne will get in touch with the Public Appointments team to get a meeting date.**



Ally asked about the meeting date for the Accessible Travel Framework Steering Group.

Linda said the meeting date is 31 May 2023.

She asked if it would be helpful to meet before this date too.

Ally agreed.



**New Action Point 5:**

**Ally will organise a meeting with the Transport Scotland Accessibility Team.**

## **8. End of the meeting**



Linda thanked everyone and the meeting finished.