

Cross-Party Group on Sustainable Transport

24 February 2022, 13:00

Minutes

Present

MSPs

Graham Simpson MSP (Convenor)

Mark Ruskell MSP (Vice-Convenor)

John Mason MSP (Vice-Convenor)

Brian Whittle MSP

Monica Lennon MSP

Invited guests

Guest speaker: Richard Riley (Senior Principal at Element Energy consultancy)

Non-MSP Group Members

Colin Howden (Transform Scotland)

Elsbeth Wray (Transform Scotland)

Marie Ferdelman (Transform Scotland - call management)

Rachel McFarlane (Transform Scotland - minutes)

Josh Hill (office of Graham Simpson MSP)

Olivia Pullman (office of Evelyn Tweed MSP)

Richard Riley (Element Energy) - speaker

John Pinkard

Richard Ardern (Friends of the Far North Line)

Ian Budd (Friends of the Far North Line)

Morven Brooks (Disability Equality Scotland)

Patrick Miner

David Giles (Scottish Association for Public Transport)

Robbie Calvert (Royal Town Planning Institute Scotland)

Matthew Ledbury (CoMoUK)

Allison Cosgrove (Railfuture Scotland)

Steven Stewart (Stagecoach)
Dita Stanis-Traken (STARlink)
Phil McCluskey (Transport Scotland) — observer
Maina Corolla-Larifla (Sustrans)
John Yellowlees (Heritage Railway Association)
Denise Marshall (Pedal on Parliament)
Jane Ann Liston (StARLink campaign)
Donald Booth (Strathclyde Partnership for Transport)
David Hunter (Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland)
Ian McCall (Paths For All)
Mike Harrison (Midlothian Disability Access Panel)
Stuart Hay (Living Streets Scotland)
Ralph Roberts (McGill's Buses)
Chris Day (Edinburgh Bus Users Group)
Vic MacKinlay (Light Rail Transit Association)
Stewart Leslie (Rail Action Group, East of Scotland)
Prof. Adrian Davis (Edinburgh Napier University)
Claire Daly (Sustrans Scotland)
Dave du Feu (Spokes, the Lothian Cycle Campaign)
Jim Densham (Cycling UK)
Ed Rowlandson (LNER)
Gavin Thompson (Friends of the Earth Scotland)
Graham McQueen (Paths for All)
Sophie Walker (Royal Scottish Geographical Society)
Rachel Murphy (CoMoUK)
Mark Dowey (CoMoUK)
Tom Dickson (Rail Action Group, East of Scotland)
David Kelly (Community Transport Association)
Rod Mitchell (Cycle Law Scotland)
Christina Jones (Centre for Scotland and Israel Relations)
John Russell (Living Streets Edinburgh)
Julie Smith (Edinburgh Trams)

Apologies

Sarah Boyack MSP (Vice-Convenor)

Neil Bibby MSP

Evelyn Tweed MSP

Liam Kerr MSP

Catriona Burness (RNIB)

Keith Irving (Cycling Scotland)

David Winipenny & Peter Ovenstone (Heritage Railway Association)

Frank Roach (Hitrans)

Lynsey Shovlin (Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland)

Ken Haig (CLEAR Buckhaven & Methil/Levenmouth Rail Campaign)

Helen Todd (Ramblers Scotland)

Paul Tetlaw (Capital Rail Action Group)

David Prescott (Allan Rail)

Welcome and introductions

Marie Ferdelman (Transform Scotland) opened the meeting at 13:00, and handed over to the meeting chair, Graham Simpson MSP, who welcomed those present.

Approval of minutes and action points

The Convener (Graham Simpson MSP) asked for the approval of the previous minutes from the 27th January 2021 meeting. These were approved by:

Proposer: Stuart Hay

Seconder: John Yellowlees

Apologies for absence

These are noted above.

Officebearers

Graham Simpson MSP (Convenor) was present.

Mark Ruskell MSP (Vice-Convenor) was present.

Sarah Boyack MSP (Vice-Convenor) had sent apologies.

John Mason MSP (Vice-Convenor) was present.

Transform Scotland was present as the secretariat organisation.

Speaker Richard Riley:

Mr Riley discussed the role of traffic demand management in meeting Scotland's 20% car traffic reduction target.

He covered a number of points:

- The importance of both technology and behaviour change to achieving decarbonisation.
- The necessity of demand reduction to achieving decarbonisation.
- What 'good' policy in demand management should look like.
- Challenges of delivering policies in this area. (For instance, trying to avoid inequalities in policy rollout; the example was given that higher income families may be able afford to switch to electric vehicles quicker than lower income families.)

Q&A

The Convenor then invited comments and questions. A variety of themes and topics emerged.

Equity issues:

- People further down the socioeconomic ladder may be impacted most heavily
- Bus, walking and cycling infrastructure should be in place prior to the implementation of these policies to ensure there are alternatives for people
- Policy needs to be designed to ensure a fair structure for all
- Road pricing: needs to work across the UK
- Infrastructure - lack of dropped kerbs / street clutter that takes up space and hinders disabled people reaching their destination using active and public transport

Running costs

- With battery electric vehicles, the older they are, the more expensive they can be to run as the battery deteriorates.
- Electric Vehicles can become unusable after 7 years because of issues with charging.

Individual transport choices beyond just transition

- Influencing people's behaviour
- Key benefits of public transport

Promoting public transport

- Need for more incentives to encourage people to use public transport
- Key benefits of using public transport go beyond climate and this should be better communicated
- Electric Vehicles and the 'Oslo Effect'.

Funding distribution challenges

- Spending on cars and roads much higher than on public transport and active travel infrastructure

Workplace parking levy

- Locally controlled form of demand management
- A lot to learn from UK experience

Revenue focus

- How to spend revenue from demand management

Dates for subsequent meetings

The Convenor proposed that the meeting dates and times be changed to facilitate better attendance by MSPs.

DECISION: The subsequent meetings are to be confirmed in the coming weeks, and all members of this group will be notified when a next date is decided upon.

ACTION: Transform Scotland to confirm dates and times for the March and May meetings. [These were subsequently confirmed as Tuesday 29 March and Tuesday 24 May, with both meetings to commence at 18:00.]

Close of meeting

The Convenor closed at the meeting at 14:00.

Minutes

Draft minutes prepared by Rachel McFarlane (Transform Scotland) on 24.02.22.