Minute of Meeting held in the HITRANS Office, Inverness Airport, on Friday 4 August 2006 at 11.00am.

PRESENT Mr Robert Sclater (In the Chair) - Orkney Islands Council

Mr Duncan MacIntyre - Argyll and Bute Council

Mrs Roma Hossack - Moray Council

Mr Donald Manford - Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Mr Ewen Mackinnon - Highland Council

Mr Wilson Metcalf Ms Louise Smith Mr Donald MacNeill

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Jeremy Baster - Orkney Islands Council Mr Dave Duthie - Argyll and Bute Council Mr Murdo Gray - Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Mr Sandy Ritchie – Moray Council Mr Frank Roach – Highland Rail Partnership

Mr Iain Duff - SCDI

Mr Sam MacNaughton - Highland Council

Mr Howard Brindley - HITRANS Mr Ranald Robertson - HITRANS Mr Andrew Capes - HITRANS Mr David Summers - HIPTF

Mrs Diane Maclafferty - Scottish Executive Mr Douglas Forson, Scottish Executive Ms Naomi Coleman - Steer Davies Gleave Mr Derek Palmer - Steer Davies Gleave

APOLOGIES

Mr Charlie King (Chairman) - Highland Council

Tribute: Mrs Mary McLauchlan

The Chairman referred to the death of Mrs Mary McLauchlan who had served as an advisor to the Voluntary Partnership in her capacity as Head of Transport and Environmental Services for the Highland Council. The Chairman, on behalf of members, extended condolences to Mrs McLauchlan's family at this sad time.

MINUTES

Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership

The Minute of Meeting of 7 July 2006 was approved subject to the inclusion of the following paragraph at item 11;

"Arising from consideration of this item it was agreed that the Chairman would make representations to Cal Mac in relation to their policy of charging concessionary card holders for transportation of trailers used to transport disabled buggies".

Arising from consideration of this item it was agreed that members would submit their comments on ferry users consultation arrangements to Mr Howard Brindley.

FINANCE

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Regional Transport Strategy

With reference to item 8 of the Minute of Meeting of 7 July 2006 Mr Howard Brindley submitted a Report in relation to the Transport Network Hierarchy. The Report stated that Locally Significant Roads would be added to the Hierarchy as a third level and that work was under way to develop the basis for option generation and a methodology for prioritisation.

It was agreed to note the Report.

It was agreed that the following item be taken in private.

Regional Transport Strategy

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Ms Naomi Coleman and Mr Derek Palmer, from Steer Davies Gleave, facilitated a working session on generating and prioritising options for improvements to the regions transport network.

It was agreed that:

- (1) Ms Naomi Coleman would amend the draft Priority Matrix following the receipt of comments from members; and
- (2) the Matrix would be considered at the next meeting.