



Report to Partnership Meeting 6th June 2008

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Atlantic Area INTERREG IVB

START Project

Background

The START Project bid is being developed by 15 regional partners across the Atlantic Area for consideration under the terms of funding for INTERREG IVB. The term START was adopted at a project scoping meeting on 31st March and it stands for **S**eamless **T**ravel across the **A**tlantic **A**rea **R**egions using **S**ustainable **T**ransport. The report updates the Board on progress.

Project Aims and Partners

The project is potentially made up of partners from Scotland, England, Ireland, Spain, France and Portugal with Merseytravel as lead partner. START aims to make it easy for people to travel to, from and around the Atlantic Area. The project places particular attention on implementing high quality local public transport services to and from Atlantic Area gateways (e.g. airports and major rail stations) and the provision of high quality information services to assist travellers to, from and around the Atlantic Area.

HITRANS Contribution to START

The project bid if successful is a good fit with the horizontal themes of the Regional Transport Strategy and offers an opportunity to improve links to our key hubs. The Partnership considered and approved our participation in the project at the last Partnership meeting in Kirkwall on 4th April 2008. HITRANS officers were tasked with developing a detailed partner bid using the existing Inverness City and Airport Bus Route Development Scheme as the basis of our contribution to the project funding. A budgeted bid has now been developed in line with the recommendations the START project coordinator has made to partners on the level of funding likely to be secured. The deadline for submitting the project for approval under the terms of INTERREG IVB is 27th June with a decision likely to be made in the autumn. If successful in securing funding it will become available from January 2009.

The detailed project budget for the HITRANS share of the project is listed in the Appendix to this report. Members should note that although the potential overall funding levels are quite rigid there is still flexibility over the timescale over which projects are funded and in the event that an individual action cannot progress for whatever reason it is possible to redistribute funding within the project. The table below summarises the proposed project costs and contribution being made by HITRANS to these:

Funding Source	Amount (in Euros)
HITRANS	273,676.01
ERDF	508,255.45
	781,931.46

Potential Sister Project

The START project attracted a great deal of interest and this has meant the potential budget available to each partner through the bid has been reduced from earlier indicative figures. This has already resulted in discussion on a possible sister project that could in time be developed with related themes to START for a subsequent round of bids for separate ERDF funding. Should this proposal develop further a report will be submitted to the Partnership in respect of our possible participation but in the meantime the Director and Partnership Managers will maintain dialogue with the other interested Regions.

Recommendation

1. Members are asked to note the report.
2. Members are asked to approve the detail of the proposal and budget as it is listed in Appendix 1.
3. Members note the intention of the Director and Partnership Manager(s) to maintain a dialogue with other Atlantic Area regions on progressing a possible sister project bid to START.

Author: Ranald Robertson
Designation: Partnership Manager
Appendix: START Project – Highlands and Islands Detailed Budget
Date: 27th May 2008

Appendix: START Project – Highlands and Islands Detailed Budget

Activity	Action	Description and Budget Line	TOTAL
	HITRANS Costs	Staff time and travel costs associated with START Project. This includes costs for project management, dissemination, steering group meeting, travel and Regional Seminars.	€95,533.75
A9	Support Services Contribution	As a partner HITRANS is required to share the support services contract costs.	€110,658.71
A6	Gaelic Rings	Continue the development of the Gaelic Rings portal to help facilitate travel and tourism in the West Highlands and Islands.	€57,349.00
A7	Oban Ferry and Flight Connecting Bus RTI	Extend real time information to buses making the connection to the key regional gateways of Oban Airport the Ferry Terminal, and regional/national coach services.	€30,352.00
A7	Moray - Inverness Airport JET On Bus Multi Lingual Displays	Introduce on bus multi lingual TFT information screens with a GPS map showing bus position in relation to route.	€3,793.00
A7	Moray - Inverness Airport JET On Bus Multi Lingual Audio	Introduce multi lingual audio facilities advising travellers of the next stop on services linking to key gateway hubs.	€2,536.00
A7	Inverness Airport JET On Bus Multi Lingual Audio	Introduce multi lingual audio facilities advising travellers of the next stop on services linking to key gateway hubs.	€10,142.00
A7	Kirkwall Airport JET RTI	To include the new JET bus in the Orkney wide RTI system.	€4,200.00
A7	Moray - Inverness Airport JET RTI	To include the new JET bus in the RTI system.	€4,200.00
A9	Moray - Inverness Airport JET Bus	Introduce high specification double deck bus to serve Inverness Airport direct from Elgin on an hourly basis.	€76,053.00
A9	Stornoway Airport JET Bus	Introduce an accessible low floor bus for a new service linking Stornoway to Stornoway Airport and adopt a JET brand to promote the service.	€57,057.00
A9	Kirkwall Airport JET Bus	Introduce an accessible low floor bus for the service to Kirkwall Airport and adopt a JET brand to promote the service.	€57,057.00
A9	Inverness Airport to Inverness JET Service	Operational costs of the Inverness City and Airport bus route development scheme.	€273,000.00
			€781,931.46