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Report to Partnership Meeting – 8th October 2009

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY

Inverness-Aberdeen Additional Sunday Services Update

1. HITRANS and NESTRANS engaged timetable consultants to look at options for improving the frequency of Sunday services on the Inverness-Aberdeen route. The current Sunday service is less than 50% of the weekday service. There is synergy with the planned hourly faster service which appears in STPR.
2. Two new through services each way plus one Inverurie and one Keith terminator were proposed. Connections at both ends of the route are a priority. The plan uses existing rolling stock and traincrew. Costs are therefore limited to additional unit mileage/fuel, crew wages and track access. No additional infrastructure is required.
3. Economic analysis (TEE) of the extra services was carried out and demonstrated a benefit-cost ratio of 8.5 optimistic, 4.2 pessimistic, with passenger uplift of 3.9% in Sunday demand. This represents very good value for money. Actual demand may well be higher.
4. HITRANS and NESTRANS have offered £25k each as revenue support for an experimental first year of operation. Transport Scotland are evaluating the proposal.
5. The Board are invited to note content of this update.

Report by: Frank Roach
Designation: Partnership Manager
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