



commercial charging service in the three jurisdictions. One of the main barriers to EV adoption is the lack of public charging infrastructure, and rapid charge points in particular. FASTER aims to ensure that the availability of charging stations is not a major obstacle to EV market penetration. It will also provide an additional supportive, enabling environment for suppliers and consumers, providing increased confidence and reassurance in regional commitment to the emerging EV market.

The project partnership comprises the following organisations:

- 1) East Border Region (Lead Partner)
- 2) Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
- 3) South West College
- 4) HITRANS
- 5) Ulster University
- 6) Dundalk Institute of Technology
- 7) University of Strathclyde

The project has six work packages, with HITRANS work package leader of Technical 2:

Work Package	Description	WP Leader
<b>Management</b>	Overall project management & administration	East Border Region
<b>Communications</b>	Communicating the processes, procurements & milestones	East Border Region
<b>Technical 1</b>	Research and develop an outline design and the needs analysis required across the 3 programme countries for EV rapid chargers; identify sites and develop a technical & operational plan that will form the basis of a central procurement	Ulster University
<b>Technical 2</b>	Design and run the procurement for the detailed design, installation, operation and maintenance of the EV rapid charging infrastructure to ensure interoperability across the regions and integration with existing infrastructures, and select the preferred supplier/suppliers for the three jurisdictions	HITRANS
<b>Technical 3</b>	Oversee the installation & operation with an exit strategy for the handover of the infrastructure	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
<b>Technical 4</b>	Behaviour change & awareness programme to ensure adequate promotion and usage of the new rapid chargers in all three jurisdictions	South West College

## HITRANS ROLE

HITRANS will install 24 rapid charge points (or more if budget allows) across the three local authority areas covered within the programme area: Argyll & Bute, Western Isles, and Skye, Lochalsh & Lochaber areas of The Highland Council.

Preliminary work has been conducted on possible locations for the charge points through our EV Strategy. However, a large proportion of the project is dedicated to site selection and needs analysis to ensure the best locations are selected and complementary to existing infrastructure in the region.

Following project commencement in September, HITRANS held meetings with project partner University of Strathclyde to set out plans for the site assessments in each of the three areas. University of Strathclyde is assisting HITRANS by examining the grid capacity at each potential location and analysing various criteria to produce the final site selections. In October, HITRANS and University of Strathclyde held meetings with each of the three local authorities to discuss the project in more detail and agree what information could be shared to support the assessments. The site selection work will continue up to May 2021, liaising regularly with the local authorities throughout, at which point outputs will be incorporated into tender documentation. It is anticipated that procurement of the EV charge points will commence from June 2021.

## **PROJECT BUDGET**

HITRANS has a significant budget in the FASTER project totalling €1,675,703, allowing for the installation of at least 24 rapid charge points.

## **RISK REGISTER**

### RTS Delivery

Impact – Positive

Comment – The FASTER project supports several RTS objectives, particularly in the field of low carbon transport and support for EV uptake.

### Policy

Impact – Positive

Comment – FASTER is supporting broader policy work by conducting research on the procurement and installation of a rapid charging network and how this complements existing infrastructure.

### Financial

Impact – Positive

Budget line and value – The project attracts a reimbursement rate of 85%.

### Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment – FASTER aims to increase the number of publicly accessible charge points to encourage more EV drivers in the region.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Members are asked to:-

1. Note the report.

**Report by:** Jayne Golding  
**Designation:** Projects and Policy Officer  
**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020