
Review of the National Transport Strategy (NTS)

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1 Abstract

The NTS sets a 20 year vision to 2026, encapsulates our priorities for transport in Scotland and provides a framework against which questions of transport investment, priorities and policies can be judged.

A refreshed NTS was published in 2016, keeping the NTS framework, updating the strategic context and clarifying roles and responsibilities across transport modes. It recommended a 'fuller, collaborative review of the NTS to the next Scottish Government'.

That fuller, collaborative review, to be based on Scotland-wide partnership working with a range of stakeholders, was announced by the Minister this year. The review will look to consider forecasts and drivers, build scenarios and create a compelling vision, setting out transport policy and delivery across Scotland for the next twenty years.

Key questions around transport connectivity, integration and future need will have to be addressed during the review. We already have examples identified by the NTS Refresh such as: whether the continuing decline in bus patronage is a trend that will continue, or could be amenable to change with the right policies? Is the growth in the market for ultra-low emission vehicles self-sustaining or dependent on continuing financial support? Will current levels of congestion (and associated emissions) remain static or reduce; or will a strong economic rebound at some point impose new demands on the transport system and the environment, such as through increased car use? And, do roles and responsibilities in the transport landscape require further clarification or modification? It's certain that there will be further questions that the review will need to consider.

As part of the review early engagement will be taking place with stakeholders to April 2017, providing some early clues around perceptions of the major challenges and issues for transport in the years to come. Those results will form the basis of our presentation.

2 Further Information

Please see further information:

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/our-approach/strategy/national-transport-strategy/#>

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/consultation/national-transport-strategy-call-for-evidence/>

3 Availability of Presentation Slides

Please contact the author after the conference: NTSreview@transport.gov.scot