

SCOTFLAG LAST MILE CONNECTIONS SUB-GROUP MEETING

Tuesday 7 June 2016, Victoria Quay

Note of meeting

Present:

Richard Ballantyne, BPA - Chair
Peter Clark, SWA
Yvonne Edmond, TS
Phil Greening, HWU
Steven Herriot, SCOTS
Chris MacRae, FTA
Martin Reid, RHA
Pam Stott, TS

Apologies

David Spaven, RFG

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Membership
3. Review and agreement of draft remit, add proposed outputs:

‘To gather evidence on the transport opportunities and challenges faced by Scotland’s strategic freight hubs (particularly the ‘last mile’ to ports and rail freight heads), and identify prioritised options to enhance Scotland’s business connectivity.’

4. Agreement on next steps / actions
5. AOB
6. Date of next meeting

Welcome and introductions

1. Richard Ballantyne welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.
2. Pam Stott explained the background to the Group – referencing recommendations made by the 2015 ICI Committee Freight Inquiry Report. Richard Ballantyne also explained the role of the Scottish Freight and Logistics Advisory Group (ScotFLAG), and how the establishment of this sub-group had been agreed when the Group last met in March.

Review and agreement of Remit

3. The remit of the Sub Group was discussed. Key points made were:
 - a. Clarification required on what is meant by 'strategic freight hubs'.
 - b. Need to 'future proof' to take account of future market developments.
 - c. Importance of resilience should be reflected in remit.

4. Revised remit proposed:

'To consider the transport opportunities and challenges faced by Scotland's strategic freight hubs (particularly the 'last mile' to ports and rail freight heads), and identify recommendations on options to improve resilience, enhance Scotland's business connectivity and anticipate future market demands.'

Strategic Freight Hubs

5. It was agreed that definition of strategic freight hubs needed to be consistent with work that had been previously carried out on multi modal hubs, and the more recent work of the ScotFLAG Planning Sub Group.

General Discussion

6. High-level outputs for the group were agreed i.e.: Written report of findings and recommendations to ScotFLAG by Summer 2017; findings fed into future TS/SG policy and strategy documents.
7. The Group went on to discuss how best to focus its activities. Points made included:
 - May be useful to have map showing freight hubs within scope of remit.
 - Need to explore comparison in investment on road network between LAs and trunk road network on routes to freight hubs.
 - Need to get geographical coverage right to ensure findings relevant to key growth sectors.
 - Need for Group to set/agree an appraisal framework in order to identify and prioritise options – general agreement to use STAG Guidance as starting point for this.
 - Relevant research projects underway by HWU identified, including one updating a logistics modelling project with more data (originally completed 8 years ago).
 - Given timescale, resource and scope challenges it was agreed that the sub group would not attempt to gather too much new data.
 - Potential for gathering data from existing/wider sources (and more generally) is ever increasing, such as capturing information generated from HGVs in real time.
 - Important drivers in terms of future planning for efficient freight transport include:
 - congestion = enemy of efficiency;
 - the carbon reduction agenda;

- changes to urban freight movements, including the development of consolidation centres;
- developments/adoption of longer, heavier vehicles and autonomous vehicles;
- increased/building data on connectivity
- emergence of new business models and players involved in goods transportation.

Next Steps

8. Next step is to develop an outline project plan, based around 4 key stages:

- Stage 1:
 - Agree remit and plan
 - Information and data gathering/sharing
- Stage 2:
 - Agree appraisal framework
 - Develop list of options to be appraised
 - Assess options against appraisal framework
- Stage 3:
 - Case Study
- Stage 4:
 - Report to ScotFLAG

Actions agreed

Action 1: TS to circulate ScotFLAG Planning Sub Group project list and Multi Modal Study - draft list of freight hubs to be agreed at next meeting.

Action 2: TS to establish what data is available on maintenance spend on trunk roads (e.g. £/km over last 5 years) vs spending on local authority roads with assistance from SCOTS.

Action 3: TS to draw up initial project plan.

Action 4: Meeting to be arranged 'offline' between HWU and TS modellers to explore potential for sharing/using known data.

Action 5: Future meeting dates to be agreed.

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