

Review

2017 Edition

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2017 marked ten years of investment in our roads, rail and other modes of transport that will improve connectivity around Scotland



**TRANSPORT
SCOTLAND**
CÒMHDHAIL ALBA





Welcome to our 2017 Annual Review reporting on our headline achievements over the past year and concluding a decade of sustained investment in our roads, rail and other modes of transport.

The past year has been an extremely busy and often challenging one for us, drawing on all of our staff.

The opening of the new Queensferry Crossing, the M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvement Project and the completion of the first section of the A9 Dualling were among our significant achievements this year.

Our Aviation, Maritime, Freight and Canals team supported the launch of new air routes to Heathrow and the USA and we held a Cruise Summit jointly hosted by the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity and the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs.

Our Rail directorate saw the introduction of the first electric passenger services on the newly electrified Edinburgh Glasgow line and the opening of Scotland's newest station in Forres. We're linking more journeys by making more cycle spaces available at key locations on the rail network and have installed 100 electric car parking spaces.

We are the Lead Partner in the European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020 programme focusing funding for projects that support the Programme for Government's ambition to build an active nation and phasing out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2032.

Elsewhere we're well into a comprehensive review of the National Transport Strategy that will set a vision for Transport over the next 20 years.

Our work has been recognised with a number of awards including The Forth Replacement Crossing Employer's Delivery Team for winning The Project Delivery Excellence Award at the recent Civil Service awards ceremony. The A75 won Road Safety scheme of the year

from the Highways Excellence Magazine awards and the procurement team also won at the GO Awards, with recognition for the CivTech app as well as the procurement for the A82 Pulpit Rock project. We won the CIHT Asset Management Award for the Transport Scotland Asset Management Improvement Programme (Atkins and Transport Scotland) and were highly commended for the Forth Road Bridge Truss End Link Repairs at the 2017 British Construction Industry Awards

And finally the M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements Project was shortlisted as Scotland's representative for the Institution of Civil Engineers People's Choice Award.

During 2017 we have taken forward a number of corporate developments including an increase focus on Learning and Development, the development of a smarter working programme and consideration of our future structure given the significant commitments signalled in the Scottish Government's Programme for Government and reflected in our Corporate Plan 2017-20 launched at the end of October.

It's been another incredible year, so much achieved across all of what we do and so much to be very proud of.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Brannen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roy Brannen
Chief Executive
Transport Scotland



In less than 10 years since it was first announced to Parliament, we have opened the new £1.35 billion Queensferry Crossing, a complex engineering feat that has put our infrastructure delivery skills to the front and centre of global engineering.



A WORLD CLASS BRIDGE

Her Majesty The Queen officially opened the Queensferry Crossing on the anniversary of the opening of the Forth Road Bridge on 4 September 2017.

The Queensferry Crossing opened to traffic on 30 August and operated for two days before traffic moved back onto the Forth Road Bridge for the opening events.

The opening events were organised to meet unprecedented demand from the public, media, stakeholders, schools and local communities and generated significant interest with almost 250,000 applications from across the world.

A spectacular light show illuminated the Queensferry Crossing on Monday 28 August and launched a week of celebrations to commemorate the opening of the new iconic bridge.

The Queensferry Crossing Experience on Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 September was a truly memorable weekend for everyone who took part in the once in a lifetime opportunity to walk across the new Queensferry Crossing. The phenomenal feedback received in person and via social media is testimony to just how great the Queensferry Crossing Experience was with around 50,000 people, including many from our local communities, able to say they played their part and were among the first to cross on foot.

Her Majesty The Queen, watched by the First Minister, cut the ribbon and declared the Queensferry Crossing officially open on the South side of the Forth before travelling across the new bridge accompanied by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on Monday 4 September, exactly 53 years to the day she opened the Forth Road Bridge.

On 5 September, 10,000 local residents, social groups, charities, school and nursery pupils from the vicinity of the Queensferry Crossing were also given the opportunity to walk on the bridge.

There was a fantastic reaction to the opening events and in total, the Queensferry Crossing hosted in the region of 70,000 people over the course of the events which was a fitting celebration for such a magnificent feat of modern engineering.

The Queensferry Crossing reopened to traffic before the morning peak on Thursday 7 September.



2.7km

the longest three-tower, cable-stayed bridge in the world



210m

highest bridge towers in the UK



15 days

pouring concrete 24/7. The world record for the longest continuous underwater pour



23,000mi

cabling used. Would nearly stretch around the entire Earth



10M

man hours involved in the construction



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Working closely with our partners and stakeholders to improve connectivity and accessibility.

Strategic Reviews

We're well into a comprehensive review of the **National Transport Strategy**, which will culminate in the production in 2019 of a successor strategy that sets out a compelling vision and outcomes framework for transport over the next 20 years.

The review will look at transport connectivity within Scotland, with the UK, and internationally, and it will set out the evidence base for future transport needs including identifying consistent or different needs between rural, coastal, islands, city, and urban areas.

A National Partnership Group has been set up, comprised of key stakeholders who will oversee the review process. National stakeholder working groups have also been set up and have been examining the key transport themes of economic growth, addressing inequality, ensuring safety and resilience and moving towards a greener and healthier transport system.

Accessibility

We believe in the absolute rights of disabled people to participate as full and equal citizens. We know that accessible travel is key to enable this, so the **Accessible Travel Framework** launched in 2016 is now working to bring disabled people, their representative organisations and transport providers together to ensure implementation of the commitments in the Framework.

Challenge Fund

Transport Scotland are the Lead Partner in the **European Regional Development Fund** 2014-2020 programme delivering the Strategic Intervention (SI) for Low Carbon Travel and Transport (LCTT) with up to £13.9 million worth of funding.

Our key focus areas are:

- Active Travel Hubs to provide focal points for cycling and walking routes
- Low Carbon Transport to provide refuelling facilities for a range of alternative fuels and transport modes
- A National Integrated Smart Ticketing Scheme.

In June 2017 Round 1 of the LCTT **Challenge Fund** (CF) saw successful bids from five projects across Scotland to support innovative hubs which support the shift towards active or low carbon modes of transport. Round 2 opened for applications in October 2017.

Smart Ticketing launched three Challenge Fund rounds between October 2016 and November 2017. The first two rounds saw five organisations across Scotland being awarded funding to support the upgrading of smart electronic technology equipment. The third round closed in December 2017.

Concessionary Travel

A **Consultation on Concessionary Travel** closed on 17 November 2017. It attracted widespread public and political interest and just under 3,000 responses were received.

The Concessionary Travel Policy Team supported the Minister for Transport and the Islands in his personal engagement with older people's organisations and groups representing young modern apprentices.



The Seat Belts on School Transport (Scotland) Bill

On the Buses

To date, there have been seven rounds of the Scottish Green Bus Fund. Funding amounting to £16.1 million has seen the introduction of 361 low carbon vehicles to the fleet, with funding in 2017 totalling £1.3 million assisting the purchase of 46 new low carbon buses.

Buses purchased through the Fund are returning significant fuel savings and reduced emissions. Each new bus is expected to deliver an average reduction in Co2 of around 21 tonnes per year and 300 tonnes over their life-cycle.

Road Safety

The Scottish Government supported the **Seat Belts on School Transport (Scotland) Bill**, introduced by Gillian Martin MSP, which gained Royal Assent in December. It will make seat belts a legal requirement on all dedicated school transport, for home-to-school journeys and school excursions, provided by local authorities and grant-aided and independent school providers.

Road Safety Scotland (RSS) continued to promote and support its learning resources as well as run a number of campaigns focussed mainly on Framework priority areas including speed, age and vulnerable road users.

Blue Badge Scheme

In December the extension to **Blue Badge** eligibility criteria, to allow a badge to be issued in some cases where someone poses a risk to themselves or others in traffic, was made permanent. The extension has made a real difference. One parent of a child who was issued a badge under the extended eligibility criteria said, 'The blue badge is the only thing we have that genuinely makes my life easier.'

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Ferry services are crucial for our island and remote communities. Since 2007 we've delivered seven new vessels and port and harbour infrastructure upgrades are under way across the network.



Aviation

In June 2017, **Norwegian Air Shuttle** launched long-haul operations from Edinburgh to east coast USA. New jobs were created to support the new base.

We were delighted that Norwegian allocated their brand new B737 MAX aircraft to the Edinburgh base. The new aircraft engine use 15% less fuel; NOx emissions are 50% less than the industry standards and Co2 emissions per aircraft are 5,000 tonnes less per year than the older models.

FlyBe introduced new services from Edinburgh and Aberdeen to Heathrow Airport in March 2017 bringing choice and competition back to the routes.

The **Air Discount Scheme** has continued on the PSO routes to Campbeltown, Barra and Tiree with providers continuing to promote day trip packages to help extend the season for summer visitors to these areas.

Scottish Canals

As well as continuing to invest in and maintain the canals, Scottish Canals completed the purchase of the former Diageo site, **Dundas Hill** in Port Dundas as part of its ambitious plans for regeneration in the area.

A £2 million Scottish Government funded project saw the almost 200 year old **Ness Weir**, which sits at the mouth of Loch Dochfour and the River Ness, reinforced with 500 metres of steel piling to strengthen the structure and safeguard it for future generations. The construction technique allowed the canal to remain open during the works.

Ports and Shipping

In November we held a well-attended **Scottish Cruise Summit** with a record attendance from across a range of ports, destinations and senior representatives from major cruise lines. Given the significance of the industry, it was jointly hosted by the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity and the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs.

This year ports continued to develop and maximise their contribution to the local, regional and national economy, with projects underway or completed at Peterhead, Lerwick, Dundee and Aberdeen (as well as many others).

The Minister for Transport and the Islands attended the launch of the Scottish Maritime Cluster at London International Shipping Week in 2017 and work commenced along with the Maritime Industry on the development of A Scottish Maritime Strategy due for completion in 2018/19.

Ferries

The UK's first liquefied natural gas (LNG) passenger ferry, **MV Glen Sannox** was launched at Ferguson Marine Engineering Limited's (FMEI) Port Glasgow shipyard in November by First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon.

The 102 metre, roll-on/roll-off vehicle passenger ferry can operate on liquefied natural gas (LNG) and marine gas oil (MGO). LNG is significantly cleaner and will help to reduce emissions and meet ambitious Scottish Government targets.



Norwegian Air launching new routes



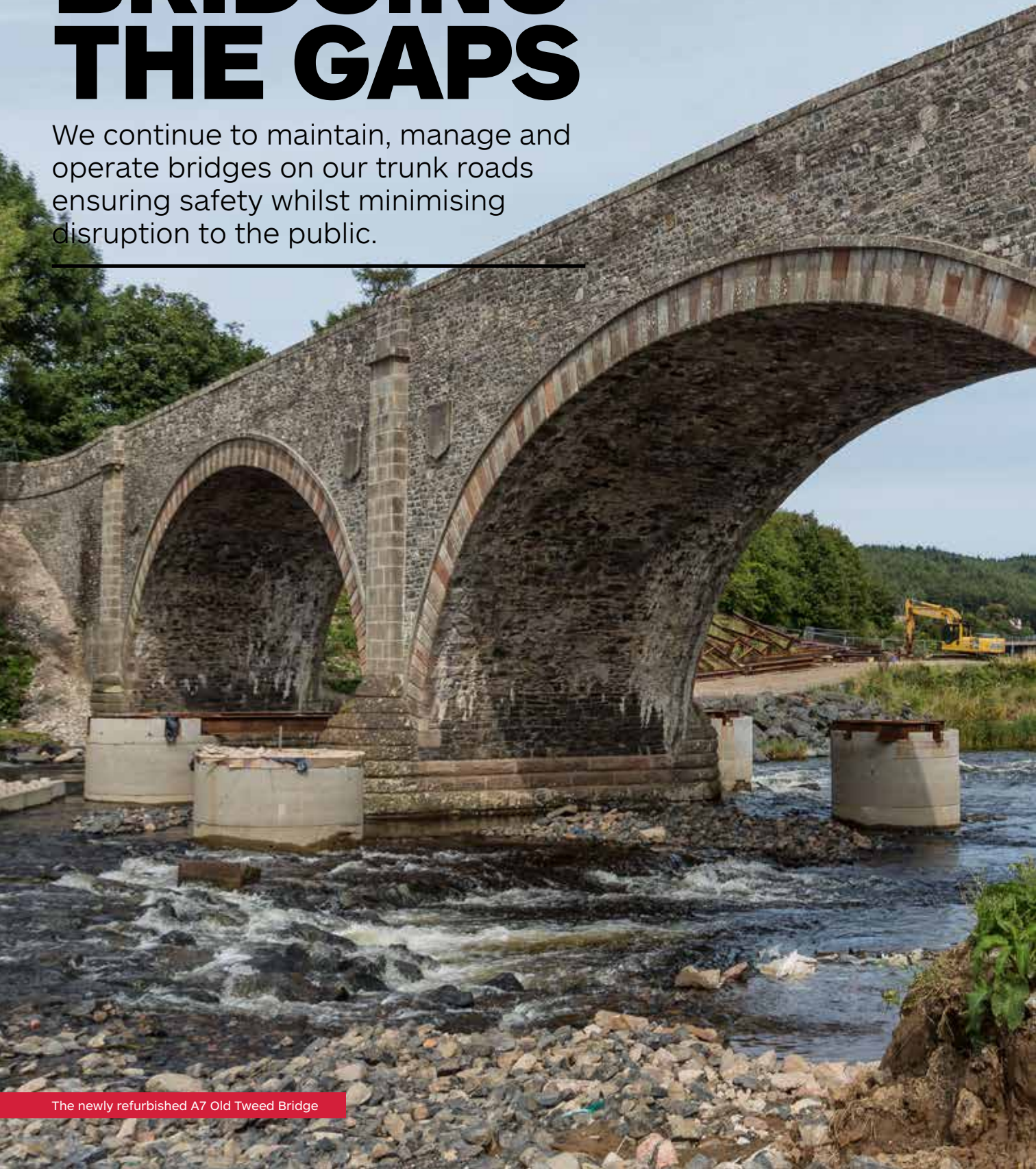
FlyBe launching new routes



Ness Weir construction

BRIDGING THE GAPS

We continue to maintain, manage and operate bridges on our trunk roads ensuring safety whilst minimising disruption to the public.



Community Engagement

As our transport networks directly serve and support businesses and communities, effective stakeholder engagement is a top priority for the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland. We have continued to meet up with communities across the country listening to concerns, being proactive in trying to address them and honest in advising where problems might not be addressed. Just some of our successful engagements include: A82 Fort William Traffic Congestion Working Group, A77 Action Group, A92 Community Groups (Glenrothes and Freuchie) and the A96 Nairn Community Focus Group.

Bridges

Essential maintenance work continued on our Bridges in 2017. Work commenced on the replacement **A830 Criche Bridge** which is the sixth bridge on the A830 to be replaced in the last five years as part of our ongoing improvement plan. The Category B listed **A7 Old Tweed Bridge** was partially reconstructed by rebuilding the parapets and spandrel walls, installing a concrete saddle, waterproofing and resurfacing the bridge. The new and wider structure on the replacement **Cromdale footbridge** adjacent to the A95 now allows for easier access for all users including cyclists. Works to replace the expansion joints on the **Ballachulish Bridge** were completed in November 2017 and the works to upgrade the three spans of the **A9 Cromarty Bridge** continue.

Future Intelligent Transport Strategy (ITS)

Launched in November 2017 our customer focussed Future ITS Strategy provides us with a strategic framework to support our current and future activities in Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) across Scotland's trunk road and motorway network.

This approach will be paramount in helping us to take strategic decisions on where to prioritise resources, what systems and services we need to

provide, maintain and develop, what new technologies and innovations we need to invest in and develop, and tell us when it is right to move away from existing or obsolete ITS infrastructure and services.

The Strategy is aligned with the National Transport Strategy outcomes to deliver a safe and efficient network, sustainable economic growth, embrace innovative solutions and to be customer focussed.

Traffic Scotland Mobile Website

The new mobile website **my.trafficscotland.org** launched in September 2017 makes it easier for road users to plan ahead, leave extra time for trips where necessary and have more clarity on road conditions.

Usage has already increased by over 10% and a continued growth in customers is expected as users benefit from the existing functionality and new features. The site makes the best use of technology and successfully contributes to Transport Scotland's aim of a safe and efficient road network while giving road users the information they want in the way they want it.

As set out in the National Transport Strategy (NTS), our goal is to provide a safe and efficient road network, while recognising the growth in digital connectivity and demand for information.

Air Quality and Low Emission Zones (LEZs)

The commitment to LEZs was strengthened in the Programme for Government to work in partnership with local authorities to introduce LEZs into Scotland's four biggest cities between 2018 and 2020. In Autumn 2017 we published the Building Scotland's Low Emission Zone consultation which received 967 responses. Ministers have established an LEZ Leadership Group which first met in December 2017 and we are supporting local authorities in the creation of LEZ Delivery Groups in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Average Speed Cameras

In October an average speed camera system went live on the **A90**. This is aimed at improving safety by encouraging better driver behaviour on a route which has consistently been one of Scotland's trunk roads with the highest collision statistics (28 people had been killed or seriously injured since January 2014) and with evidence showing 3-in-every-5 vehicles were speeding.

Smart Ticketing

Over the year the smart team were involved in a number of smart ticket or payment initiatives which promises to make a big difference.

Early in 2017 we worked with Renfrewshire Council Employability Hub and Young Scot to develop a product supporting young people (16-25) getting back into employment, by providing free travel tickets on their Young Scot smartcard, for use on McGill's buses.

We supported ScotRail with their roll out of a wider range of smart tickets on **saltirecards** - including the capability to buy smart tickets on trains from September. Contactless bank payment services for a number of bus operators across Scotland are accelerating use of smart payment methods.

Finally, at the end of the year we supported the development of, and Ministerial launch for, **Glasgow's smartzone** - bringing unlimited travel on one smartcard accepted by multiple bus operators in the Glasgow area - joining the successful Aberdeen and Dundee smartzones launched last year.



A90 Average Speed Cameras

ELECTRIC RAIL

The electrification and the new trains will allow Scotland's travellers to benefit from improvements in service choice and faster journey times on modern, attractive, more energy efficient trains.



Edinburgh Glasgow Improvement Programme (EGIP)

December 2017 saw the introduction of the first electric passenger services on the newly electrified Edinburgh Glasgow via Falkirk High Route.

The electrification of 150 single track kilometres on Scotland's busiest rail corridor paves the way for the introduction of the new class 385 electric trains to the route during 2018 and a cleaner greener and quieter railway with lower carbon emissions.

The electrification and the new trains will allow Scotland's commuters, business users, tourists and leisure travellers to benefit from improvements in service choice and faster journey times on modern, attractive, more energy efficient trains.

Enhancing Journeys

Over £475 million is being invested in ScotRail's fleet delivering major enhancements to facilities and increase seating capacity by 23% by 2019 to support growth in our railways plus create and retain jobs in Scotland during refurbishment projects.

The new fleet of **C385 electric trains** is just going through the final phase of testing and more will follow on existing and planned electrified lines all across the central belt.

In addition the fully refurbished fleet of 26 **High-Speed-Trains (HSTs)** have begun upgrade works and driver training is well underway. The fleet will be gradually introduced during 2018 to run between Scotland's seven main cities, delivering 40% more

seats than operate on those routes today. HSTs are faster, popular with passengers, and will be upgraded to provide the latest standard of comfort, accessibility, cycle spaces and catering provision.

Existing trains are also undergoing significant enhancements and it is important to note that the quality of the vehicle is important, not its age. These upgrades are delivering at-seat power sockets, Wi-Fi, lighting, new seats and livery. Good, high quality refurbishment can deliver a passenger experience comparable with new rolling stock.

Abellio ScotRail continues to progress a range of rolling stock projects and 200 additional carriages will be rolled out into service over the next 18 months taking the total fleet above 1,000 carriages - an increase of more than 50% since 2007.

Community Rail Partnerships (CRPs)

Over £250,000 has been committed to CRPs and community initiatives in the last 12 months. Partnerships launched include an Art Project at Rutherglen (Rail 74), a Children's Engagement Project (Highland Mainline), and Tourism Promotion Project (Borders CRP).

Abellio ScotRail Integration

During 2017 ScotRail have continued to invest in passenger facilities at railway stations throughout Scotland and are supporting integrated rail travel. Enhancements have been made at station car parks with an increase of nearly 200 spaces, recharging options are available at 50 stations with the installation of 100 electric car parking spaces

and Pay & Display machines have been upgraded across the network. Improvements to information on the go have also been made with the delivery of over 20 Cross modal customer information screens. Investment continues to be made in cycling with over 900 additional cycle spaces installed at stations in 2017.

Aberdeen to Inverness Line

Scotland's newest station officially opened in **Forres** on Friday, 20 October. The new station is part of Phase One of the Aberdeen to Inverness Rail Improvement Project, which is transforming rail travel between the two cities by increasing services and cutting journey times.

The facility was completed as part of the planned 10-day closure of the line, during which the railway was moved onto a straighter, double-tracked alignment to the north of the old station. The two platform station offers improved passenger facilities and a fully accessible footbridge and lifts.

Rannoch Timber by Rail Project

Transport Scotland established a taskforce in October 2017, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, to focus all partners on delivering a proposal to move timber by rail from Rannoch to the BSW Sawmill at Corpach.

The project will replace 3,200 lorry journeys or some 300,000 road miles per year.

Funding of up to 100% of the cost of the rail works has been approved by Transport Scotland through the Scottish Strategic Rail Freight Investment Fund.



Minister for Transport & the Islands at Wabtec Rail in Kilmarnock



385 Electric Train

DRIVING FORWARD

We're well on our way to realising the Scottish Government's ambition to connect all of Scotland's cities by motorway or dual carriageway.



Technology to promote tourism on the A9

A new Highland Discovery tourism app was released in September 2017 as a result of the A9 Dualling programme. The app has been produced as part of the Scottish Government's innovative CivTech® Challenge which looks to new technology businesses to solve technological challenges.

Transport Scotland and CivTech® were able to join forces to address the challenge of identifying a means of developing appropriate technology to act as a catalyst for tourism growth on the A9, as part of the £3 billion commitment to dual the A9.

Connecting Communities

In June 2017 we announced the **A82 Tarbet to Inverarnan Improvement scheme** will be taken forward as a 7.3m wide carriageway bringing improved road safety and journey time reliability and connecting businesses and communities in the Highlands and Islands with the central belt.

As part of the Scottish Government's commitment within the £315 million Inverness and Highland City-Region Deal, we announced in October 2017 the preferred option for the **A9/A96 Inshes Smithton Link Road**.

Work is progressing on the £745 million **Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie to Tipperty (AWPR/B-T) Project**. When completed in 2018, this much needed new infrastructure will cut journey times across Aberdeen by up to half at peak times, provide much improved journey time reliability, and enable local authorities to develop public transport solutions.

Improving Congestion

In April 2017 Transport Scotland announced the preferred option for the **Sheriffhall Roundabout Improvement Scheme** to be taken forward for further detailed development and assessment. Two Stakeholder Workshops were held in August and October. The preferred option will improve access for all modes of transport allowing Edinburgh City Bypass traffic to pass directly over the roundabout significantly reducing congestion and through provision of active travel facilities will enhance accessibility and safety for pedestrians and cyclists alike.

The £500 million **M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements Project** opened to traffic on 1 June 2017. Road users are now able to enjoy peak journey time savings of up to 20 minutes on the M8 and up to 15 minutes at Raith Junction, as well as more reliable journey times, enhanced safety and reduced emissions.

Work on the **A737 Dalry Bypass** started in July 2017. The project involves the construction of a new 3.8km road and junctions which will connect with the existing A737 trunk road. These improvements will help to reduce the conflict between local and strategic traffic along this route, thus improving road safety and journey time reliability.

In September 2017 a design contract was awarded for the next phase of design of a new junction at **Longman**, Inverness as part of the Inverness and Highlands City-Region Deal.

Since appointing design consultants in September 2016, we have been working hard to identify and undertake an initial assessment of options for the planned improvements at **Laurencekirk junction**. The options were presented to the public at an exhibition on 30 October 2017 with the preferred option itself expected to be announced in 2018.



The Highland Discovery tourism app



The new Charleston Overbridge on the AWPR



Groundbreaking ceremony at A737 Dalry Bypass

A9 Dualling

The **A9 Kincairg to Dalraddy** project is the first section of the A9 Dualling Programme to be completed and became fully operational on 30 September 2017. The £35 million investment mostly involved on-line carriageway widening and a pavement upgrade to deliver 7.5km of dual-carriageway. Completion of this project provides safer overtaking opportunities, reduces driver frustration and will support businesses, communities and tourism by improving access to and from the Highlands.

In July this year a design contract worth up to £50 million was awarded to carry out route option development and assessment work for dualling the 42km eastern section of the **A96 between East of Huntly and Aberdeen**. It is expected that the route option assessment process work will take approximately 2 years to complete.

Work has also continued on the development and assessment of the route options for the 46km dualling of the **A96 between Hardmuir and Fochabers**. The route options under consideration for the scheme were presented at public exhibitions on 19-22 June for vital feedback. The preferred option for the scheme is expected to be identified later in 2018.



River Dee Crossing on the AWPR

Procuring for the Future

This year saw the procurement process get underway on a number of construction projects across Scotland including the A77 Maybole Bypass, A737 Den Realignment scheme, A90/A96 Haudagain Improvement Project and the A9 Berriedale Braes with site preparation and construction expected to start in 2018.

A contract notice for the second section of the A9 to be dualled between **Luncarty and Pass of Birnam** was published in April 2017 and advanced works have commenced on site.



Completion of the A9 Kincairg to Dalraddy project provides safer overtaking opportunities, reduces driver frustration and will support businesses, communities and tourism.





We have completed the first stage of dualling the A9, the first of many to come – this project will open up our country for trade and tourism, delivering significant economic benefits.





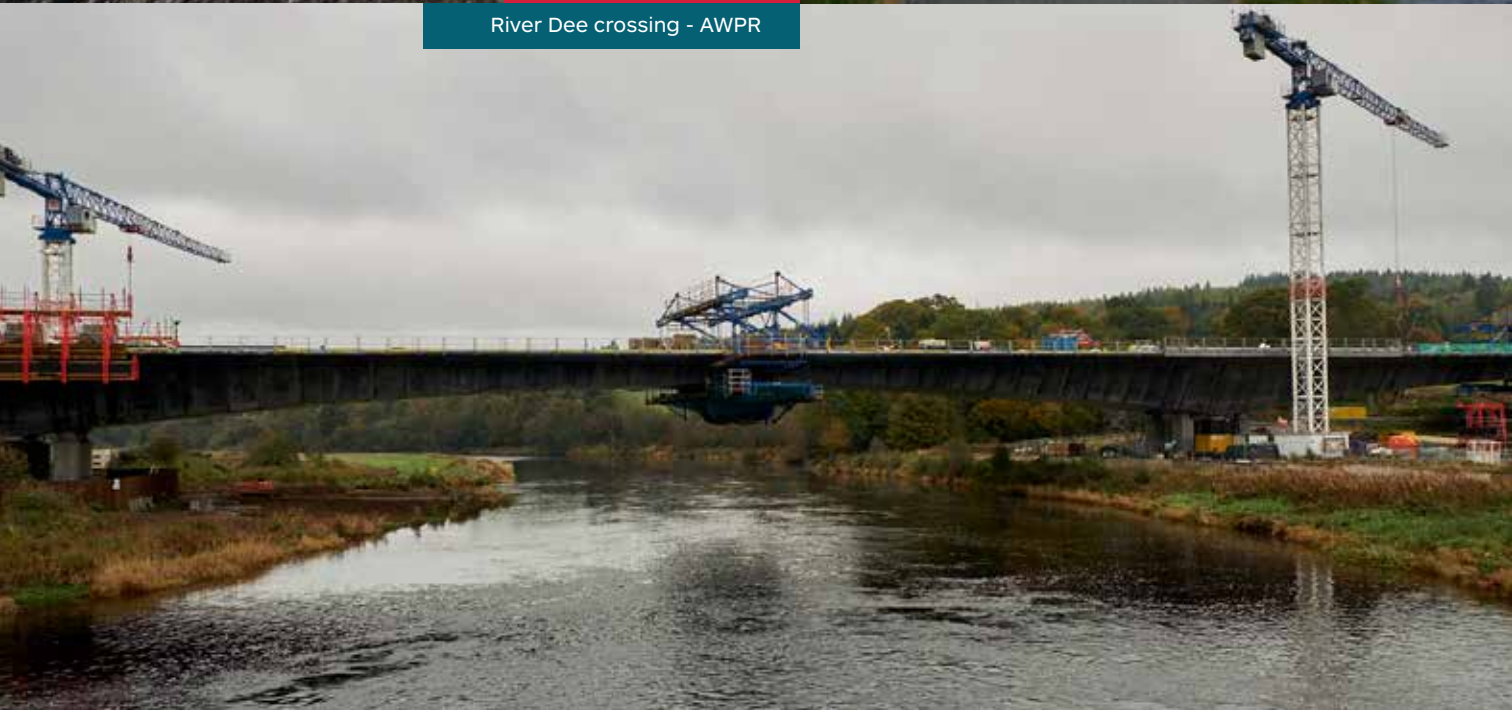
A830 Criche Bridge Replacement



Cromdale Footbridge



Scottish Canals



River Dee crossing - AWPR



Work on the Aberdeen to Inverness line

White lining at Derbeth Kingswells - AWPR



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