



Bridge of Earn Transport Appraisal

Stakeholder Update

Tactran (the regional transport partnership for Angus, Dundee, Perth & Kinross and Stirling¹) was awarded funding from Transport Scotland's [Local Rail Development Fund](#) (LRDF) to look at improving sustainable transport connectivity in and around the Bridge of Earn area, including improving strategic transport opportunities for the wider Perth area.

Transport Consultant SYSTRA Ltd (SYSTRA) is working with Tactran and Perth & Kinross Council in undertaking the study.

About the project

The project builds on work that has previously been carried out by Perth & Kinross Council, Tactran and others including:

- An appraisal of the viability of developing new rail station/rail halt facilities in Perth & Kinross (2005)
- Newburgh and Oudenarde: Initial Rail Demand Feasibility Study (2014).

This study has a wider scope than previous work and allows for the investigation of sustainable strategic trips, and in particular movements from the strategic development sites to the north and west of Perth. It also provides the opportunity to look at multi-modal solutions, which none of the previous work explicitly captured. As this project is funded through Transport Scotland's LRDF, it follows the [Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance](#) (STAG) process which looks at all modes including bus, rail and active travel.

What have we done so far?

The first stage in the study was to prepare the [Case for Change](#). This included a review of relevant socio-demographic and transport information for the study area to develop specific aims for the wider study (Transport Planning Objectives). An initial list of interventions that might address recognised problems and opportunities was then identified. The process identified a long list of options which would be refined and reduced as the study progresses. The Case for Change stage was successfully completed and approved by Transport Scotland in March 2020.

The second stage of the [STAG](#) process, the '[Preliminary Options Appraisal](#)' included a qualitative assessment of the options against the STAG criteria of Environment, Economy, Safety, Integration, Accessibility/Social Inclusion, as well as their Feasibility, Affordability and Public Acceptability. This process meant that all of the options were assessed independently, and a refined list of options was then recommended for the next stage. The Preliminary Options Appraisal was successfully completed and approved by Transport Scotland in March 2021.

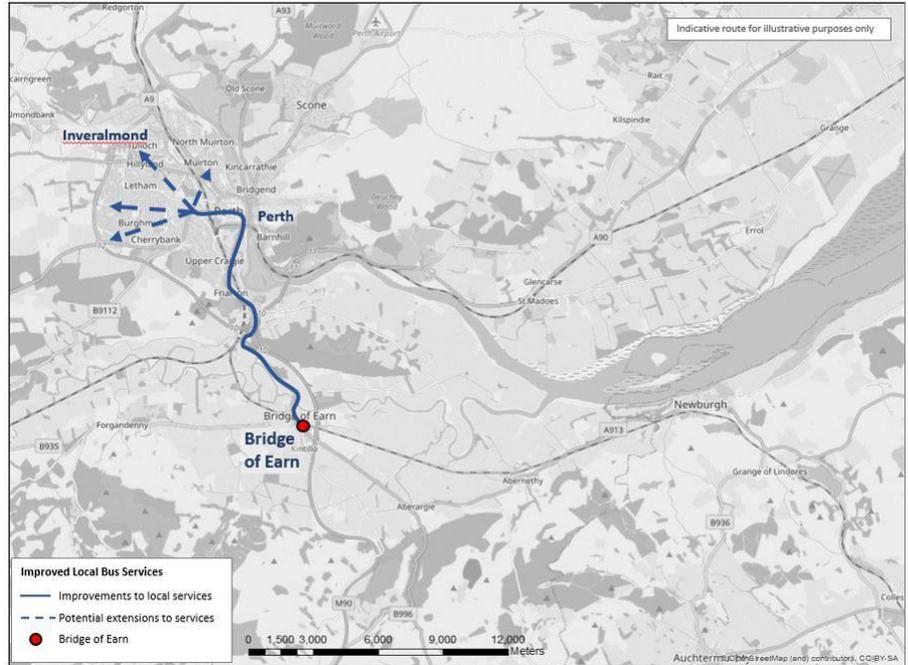
The third and final stage of the study, the 'Detailed Appraisal' is currently under way. This will see the interventions being assessed in greater detail against the STAG criteria of Environment, Economy,

¹ Tactran is one of 7 regional transport partnerships established by the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 [Regional Transport Partnerships](#)

Safety, Integration and Accessibility/Social Inclusion. The appraisal will also consider the options in the context of Cost to Government and Risk and Uncertainty. The following paragraphs summarise the various options being progressed in the Detailed Appraisal:

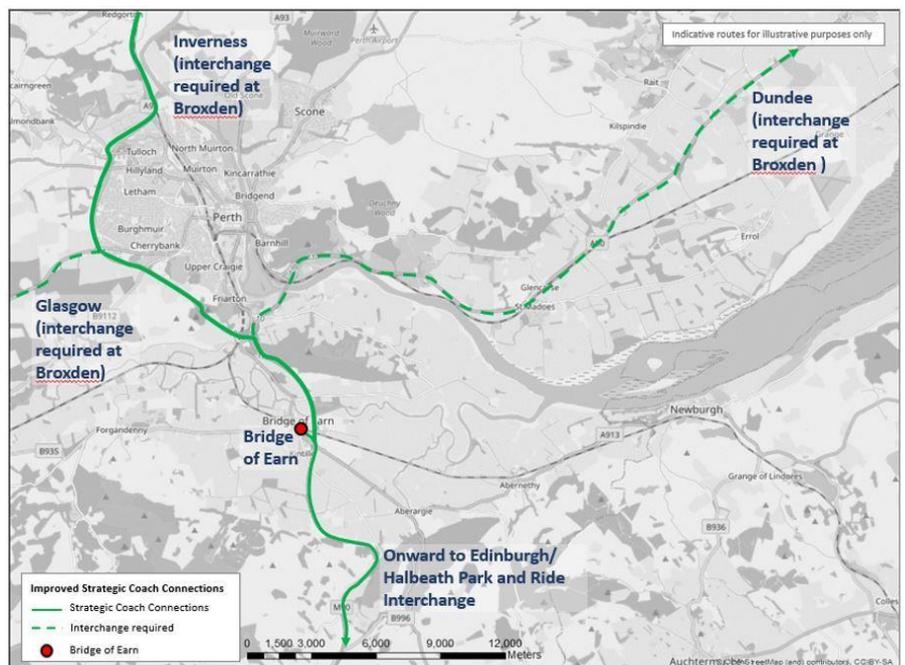
Option 1 - Improve local bus services from Bridge of Earn to destinations in Perth

The option includes improved bus services to Perth. This includes better frequencies of bus services and hours of operation, services linking Bridge of Earn to places in Perth other than the City Centre and improving connections with train services to help onward travel by train. The aim of this option is to improve public transport access and make it a more convenient option for people wanting to travel to Perth.



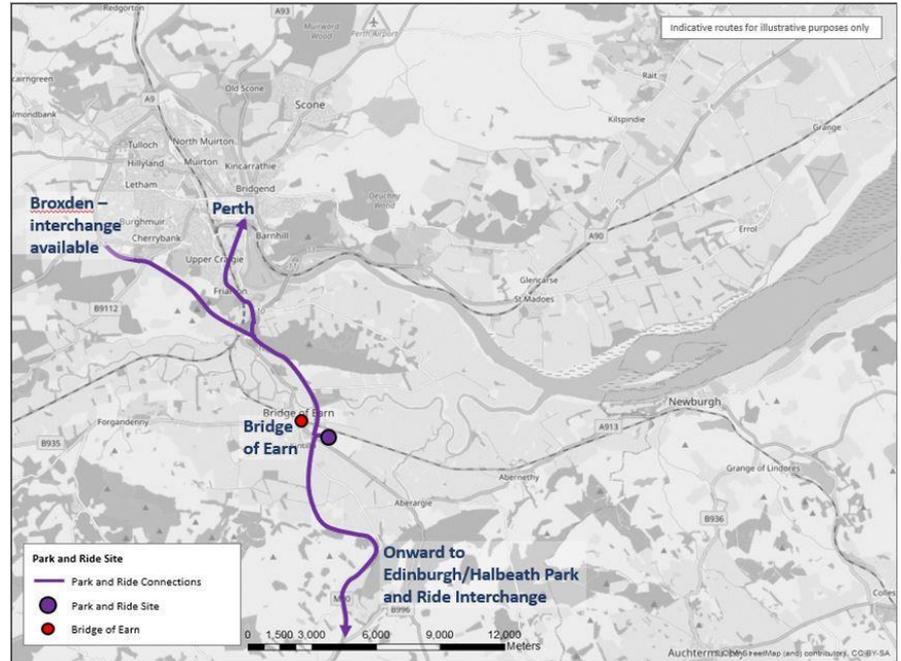
Option 2 - Improve strategic bus and coach services on the corridor

This option is to improve longer distance bus and coach connections between Bridge of Earn, Perth, Fife and Edinburgh. The aim of this option is to improve the current services and provide regular services throughout the day which would be an alternative to car, providing access to services and opportunities in Fife and Edinburgh.



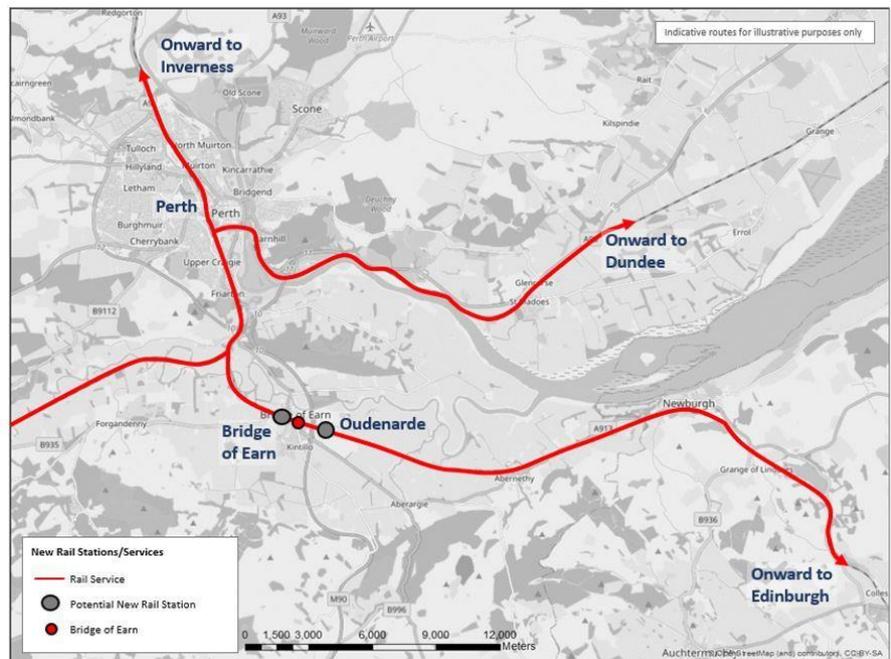
Option 3 - New bus-based Park & Ride

This option includes the development of a Park & Ride to the east of Bridge of Earn, south of the A912, with connections to Perth and southbound towards Edinburgh. The site would be served by local bus services to create a connection between Bridge of Earn and the P&R site and be an alternative to car when travelling to Perth and southbound to Fife and Edinburgh.



Option 4 - New railway station

This option includes the opening of a train station at Oudenarde or Bridge of Earn and introduction of a stopping Edinburgh to Perth service to increase public transport choice for trips to and from Oudenarde and Bridge of Earn.





SYSTRA

How to get involved

As part of the earlier stages of the project, we engaged with many of the local elected members and the Community Councils. We are keen to re-engage with stakeholders to understand views of the study and options. A project [website](#) has been developed to update the community on the study and we would encourage you to look at this and share your thoughts on the options. There is a [survey](#) which can be completed to share opinions on the proposed options and the impact they will have.

Timescales

Restrictions permitting, there are plans to host community events in late Summer and again in Autumn to share the emerging outcomes from the study and we will update the website and social media with details.