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Glasgow City Region Bus Partnership (GBP)
Steering Group Meeting
Minutes of Meeting

Monday 23rd September 2024 – 2pm to 4pm

[In-person] Exchange House, 231 George Street, Glasgow, G1 1RX

Attendees:

Interim Chair:	Martin Heath	(MH)
Glasgow City Council (GCC):	Harjinder Gharyal	(HG)
	Lindsay Richardson	(LR)
	Steven Gray	(SG)
	Christine Francis	(CF)
East Dunbartonshire Council (EDC):	Thomas McMenamin	(TM)
South Lanarkshire Council (SLC):	Stuart Laird	(SL)
North Lanarkshire Council (NLC):	Gary Wood	(GW)
Renfrewshire Council (RC)	Alastair Scott	(AS)
SPT:	Bruce Kiloh	(BK)
	Gordon Dickson	(GD)
	Donald Booth	(DB)
First Bus:	Duncan Cameron	(DC)
	Graeme McFarlane	(GM)
Stagecoach:	Fraser Smith	(FS)
Bus Users UK	Greig MacKay	(GMcK)

Apologies: Deborah Paton (GCC), Gail MacFarlane, (WDC) John Wallace (RC), John Shelton (ERC), Sharon Morrison (West Coast Motors) Matthew Davis (Sustrans)

Item	Discussion/Decision	Actions
1.	<p>Welcome, apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HG welcomed attendees, offered apologies from absent members and introduced Martin Heath GCC Divisional Director (Roads and Transportation). MH is to take up the Interim Chair Role until an Independent Chair is appointed. 	
2.	<p>Minutes and matters arising</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting on 3rd June 2024 were approved and are to be uploaded onto the Glasgow City Council (GCC) webpage.</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional local authority bus finance seminar by bus operators – no further progress on this currently. 	

<p>3.</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>	<p>Future of the GBP</p> <p>Chair and GBP Secretariat arrangements</p> <p>All agreed that an Independent Chair is important to promote the Glasgow City Region Bus Partnership, maximise the benefits of collaborative working, shared decision making and effective governance.</p> <p>It was highlighted the challenges of delivering bus priority schemes and the need to probably engage and convey the benefits. This was shown by the recent objection to a bus gate in Inverness</p> <p>The Partnership and the Chair needs to be lobbying the case for bus, and ensure it receives it fair share of funding. The role partly needs to be to Sell the benefits of Bus” to both politicians and the business community.</p> <p>Discussion on the Chair and Secretariat has to be funded and this will have to be met by the Partnership either as a financial contribution or resources.</p> <p>Action: MH to have further discussion with key members and welcome suggestions for the Chair.</p> <p>Terms of reference Discussion</p> <p>It was recognised that perhaps more work needs to be undertaken as focused groups and that the sub-groups should play a more important role but they need strong governance. The key sub-groups that were suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure • SRBS / BSIP • Bus Co-Ordination Group / Events • Data • Promotion <p>It was recognised that perhaps a more streamlined group would be beneficial but with one or 2 full Steering Groups</p> <p>Action: Agree sub-groups, membership and produce terms of reference</p>	<p>MH</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Round-the-table updates:</p> <p>Bus Users Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catch the Bus campaign runs through September www.bususers.org/catchthebusmonth/ <p>SPT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported services programme under increased pressure due to funding constraints • SRBS Options to be reported on and further stakeholder consultation planned in the autumn. A wider 12 week public consultation is likely to take place next year • Zonocard Smartcard now up and running 	

Glasgow City Council

- Bus co-ordination meeting is going well and to be increased to 6 weekly following operator requests. As part of this a presentation was given on the upcoming Avenues programme and highlighted that the disruption likely to be caused for buses during construction works.
- Looking to add major PU infrastructure works to the bus co-ordination meeting and it would be helpful if a bus operator attended the next RAUC meeting. **Action CF to arrange for invite to be passed on**
- There has been an increase in Bus Lane and Parking Charges from £60 to £100
- Glasgow has been awarded the Commonwealth Games for 2026, details are still to be finalized but the event is to be scaled down and likely to be much less disruption and probably No Games Lanes and possibly also no road races.

CF

South Lanarkshire Council

- Hairmyres Railway station relocation and opportunities for Park and Ride is being procured and due to open May 2025
- Local Transport Strategy is to be consulted on later in the year
- Re-surfacing of main Street is being undertake including lining and signing and operators should be aware of some disruption whilst the works are taking place

North Lanarkshire Council

- Motherwell Town Centre plan is being developed
- Cumbernauld Town Centre being reviewed and a traffic model is currently being built. Once produced ad options developed both SPT and bus operators will be consulted

East Dunbartonshire Council

- Signalization project at Canniesburn Toll is due to complete 27th Sep 24. Dates for some testing still to be confirmed and some minor items may still get picked up but should be fully operational in early October and we would welcome any feedback from the bus operators that have routes using Canniesburn Toll.
- A803 Corridor Improvements Project is part of City Deal and increased costs significantly impacting on the various elements of the project and as such there have been some proposed changes.
 - A803 RIBA stage 2 is due to complete by mid-October.
 - City Deal Team have submitted a Change Paper to PMO which explains the proposed changes due to affordability issues, the A803 project will be deferred from City Deal. The paper hasn't been approved by City Deal yet, however approval is anticipated, and our draft OBC has been submitted on the basis that we only progress WDR and the Civic space improvements through the overall City Deal Project.
 - It is EDC intention to advance the elements of the project that we feel are worthwhile to improve the corridor, making use of alternative funding opportunities.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ We have discussed and agreed this approach with SPT and GCC and will continue to work with them (where appropriate) to deliver improvements on the A803• Although not directly impacting Bus the A807 Projects detailed design completed on first section (Section 1a) and hoping to appoint a contractor early in 2025. Work will then begin on detailed design of section 1b and the procurement of a consultant to deliver detailed designs of Section 2 and 3. The statutory process for the consolidation of the speed limit changes is underway, with public consultation the next step.• Pavement Parking – working on implementation of exemptions before enforcement commences <p>Renfrewshire Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LTS is being produced www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/localtransportstrategy with the draft strategy and a report on the environmental impacts being completed in 2025• Renfrew Bridge due to open in Nov 24 <p>Stagecoach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The next network review change is in January• Looking to electrify the bus fleet but current challenge is to upgrade depot infrastructure. <p>First Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passenger Growth up• More running time being introduced• Prospective being used for data analysis of routes to assist in timetabling• Requested that where feasible operators are given as much advance notice as possible on any reduction in School Bus Services	
5.	AOCB <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None.	
6.	Proposed dates for 2024 GBP Steering Group meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday 2nd December 2024	