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**Glasgow City Region Bus Partnership (GBP)**

**Steering Group Meeting**

**Minutes of Meeting**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – 2pm to 4pm

[In-person]

**Attendees:**

<b>Independent Chair:</b>	Joan Aitken	(JA)
<b>Glasgow City Council:</b>	Christine Francis	(CF)
	Deborah Paton	(DP)
	Harjinder Gharyal	(HG)
	Lindsay Richardson	(LR)
	Steve Gray	(SG)
<b>East Dunbartonshire Council:</b>	Thomas McMenamin	(TM)
<b>South Lanarkshire Council:</b>	Stuart Laird	(SL)
<b>North Lanarkshire Council:</b>	Gary Wood	(GW)
<b>SPT:</b>	Bruce Kiloh	(BK)
	Gordon Dickson	(GD)
	Donald Booth	(DB)
<b>First Bus:</b>	Duncan Cameron	(DC)
<b>McGill's Buses:</b>	Alex Hornby	(AH)
	Ralph Roberts	(RR)
<b>Stagecoach:</b>	Fraser Smith	(FS)
<b>Sustrans:</b>	Matthew Davis	(MD)
<b>West Coast Motors:</b>	Sharon Morrison	(SM)
<b>Community Transport Glasgow:</b>	Graham Dunn	(GD)

**Apologies:**

Craig Cameron, Transport Scotland

Item	Discussion/Decision	Actions
1.	<b>Welcome, apologies, McGill's statement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>JA welcomed attendees and offered apologies from absent members.</li></ul> <b>McGill's statement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>JA suspended the agenda temporarily to note a statement read by RR from McGill's Buses. RR intimated that the company will withdraw from the GBP in context of the SPT's consultation on franchising, and from the GlasGo Bus Alliance.</li></ul>	
2.	<b>Minutes and matters arising</b>	

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	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January 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"> <li>- Item 2: FirstBus and West Coast Motors and Stagecoach agreed they would be happy to consider running a follow-up seminar with Elected Members in local authorities across the region following the successful bus finance seminar ran in 2023. The follow-up seminar would focus more on bus operations.</li> <li>- Item 2: DF Concerts are still keen to establish contact with bus operators and GCC have passed on contacts.</li> <li>- Item 4: JA to review and update TORS for Steering Group and for Workstreams.</li> </ul>	<p>GCC (SG)</p> <p>DC</p> <p>Bus operators JA</p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Scottish Government/Transport Scotland update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport Scotland (TS) provided update via JA (apologies given prior to SG mtg).</li> <li>• <u>Fair Fares Review</u> workstream published end March 2024.</li> <li>• Order before Scottish Parliament updating bus governance powers from 2019 Transport (Scotland) Act for all local transport authorities in Scotland.</li> <li>• TS will be in touch with GBP membership on a 'lessons learnt' exercise with regards to BPF.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Bus Partnership Fund (BPF) work:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GCC (SG) update on BPF-funded signal upgrade work on Paisley Road West, to be complete by end March and will be monitored. Operational observations welcomed from bus operators. Query from Sustrans (MD) on whether delays for pedestrians are being considered as part of the work.</li> </ul>	<p>Bus operators GCC (SG)</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>BPF Strategic Bus Network Plan and Workstream C:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As noted previously, GCC have already published the bus network gap map in Glasgow Transport Strategy <u>Spatial Delivery Framework</u> in January and February 2024. GCC reporting on Strategic Bus Network Plan work overall to committee in April 2024.</li> <li>• Other local authorities present noted the work is useful but there are concerns over delivery given lack of funding for bus infrastructure.</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>SPT Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SPT offered update on the Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy (SRBS) work and noted <u>publication of recommendations from first stage of the work</u>, with consultation on this due to commence in April 2024 for 6 weeks. Appraisal report will also be published. On track to complete SRBS by June 2025. SPT noted all are working together to secure more investment in bus in the region, and a strong private sector is also needed for franchising. Chair (JA) expressed surprise at use of “long term” under recommendation 4 against the need for a ‘bus friendly’ roads network. DC also noted an expectation that investment in bus priority infrastructure would have had a more prominent position in the report recommendations.</li> <li>• SPT Budget approved at SPT Partnership Board on 15<sup>th</sup> March, and still in dialogue with Transport Scotland.</li> <li>• Zoncard updates coming on-stream in summer. Query from operators as to why this has been delayed.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>GCC Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus Co-ordination Group – this group will now meet monthly instead of quarterly based on feedback from group members. Planning to submit a paper to AMOC to raise awareness of impact works have on buses. April mtg will include an update on forthcoming works by GCC (&amp; linked to Transport Scotland works) around Charing Cross.</li> <li>• Public facing bus enforcement campaign “Don’t be a bus blocker” – underway since February 2024 and gaining positive feedback and interactions on social media. Bus operators suggested they could aim to gather any feedback from bus drivers on noticeable improvements around issues being tackled by the campaign. GCC (CF) confirmed the bus co-ordination sub-group is also discussing the topic of lining and signing needing upgraded to support enforcement against irresponsible parking in bus stops and bus lanes.</li> <li>• GCC continuing to develop a proposal for Workplace Parking Licencing as per Council adopted policy. Workplace / business engagement will be commencing in 2024 and will include bus operators.</li> </ul>	<p>Bus operators</p> <p>GCC (CP)</p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Updates from other Councils</b></p> <p><b>East Dunbartonshire Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signalization project at Canniesburn Toll ongoing. Road open, but still working under temporary traffic lights until completion. The original completion is spring 2024 is likely to slip, but I have not been advised of the new date yet. Continue to liaise and update SPT and operators.</li> <li>• A803 Corridor Improvements Project part of City Deal - public consultation commenced in March with 3 shortlisted options. The drop-in event last week was very well attended. SPT and GCC involved in the project and consultation</li> <li>• A807 Consultation is also ongoing and includes proposed speed limit change and proposed changes to bus stop locations. SPT have responded to the consultation, and the only operator on the A807 in McColls who have also been asked for a view.</li> </ul> <p><b>South Lanarkshire Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A further 40 junctions being equipped with bus priority signal capability.</li> <li>• Final stage of Local Transport Strategy consultation in summer 2024/</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continuing to absorb impact of SPT Capital funding cuts, including impact on Lanark Interchange and bus integration at re-located Hairmyres rail station.</li></ul> <p><b>North Lanarkshire Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cumbernauld town centre being taken into public ownership so plans to redevelop the area. NLC will engage with GBP members in due course as would like to plan bus improvements including bus interchange.</li></ul>	
9.	<p><b>GlasGo Bus Alliance (GBA) Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Next GBA session is on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024.</li><li><u>Public survey launched</u>, ends end April.</li><li>Use of Glasgow Tripper continues to grow.</li></ul>	
10.	<p><b>The Clyde Metro</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SPT offered an update on Clyde Metro – current focus is on Case for Investment workstream which will be complete by early 2026. Initial work in 2024 on Case for Change and initial option development. Client advisory services work out to tender.</li></ul>	
11.	<p><b>Proposed dates for 2024 GBP Steering Group meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024</li><li>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024</li><li>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024</li><li>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024</li></ul>	