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Glasgow Bus Partnership (GBP) Steering Group Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

Monday 9th October 2023 – 2pm to 4pm

[In-person]

Attendees:

Independent Chair:	Joan Aitken	(JA)
GCC:	Andy Waddell	(AW)
	Christine Francis	(CF)
	Chris Paterson	(CP)
	Deborah Paton	(DP)
	Lindsay Richardson	(LR)
	Stephen Macleod	(SML)
	Steve Gray	(SGR)
Renfrewshire:	Alastair Scott	(AS)
South Lanarkshire:	Stuart Laird	(SL)
SPT:	Gordon Dickson	(GDK)
First Bus:	Duncan Cameron	(DC)
	Graeme Macfarlan	(GM)
	Linda Shields	(LS)
McGill's Buses:	Ralph Roberts	(RR)
Stagecoach:	Fiona Doherty	(FD)
Sustrans:	Matthew Davis	(MD)
West Coast Motors:	Murray Rogers	(MR)
Transport Scotland:	Craig Cameron	(CC)

Apologies:

Donald Booth, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Fraser Smith, Stagecoach
Gerard Hannah, Renfrewshire Council
Greig Mackay, Bus Users Group
Harjinder Gharyal, Glasgow City Council
Gail MacFarlane, West Dunbartonshire Council
Gary Wood, North Lanarkshire Council
Mark Higginbotham, Renfrewshire Council
Sharon Morrison, West Coast Motors

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Item	Discussion/Decision	Actions
1.	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JA welcomed attendees to the meeting 	
2.	<p>Minutes of the previous Meeting dated 14th August 2023 and matters arising not otherwise on the agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the previous meeting dated 14th August 2023 were approved and are to be uploaded onto the Glasgow City Council (GCC) webpage • First meeting of the GBP Core Group held on 18th September 2023 to discuss high-level issues affecting the bus industry. • Item 9 of previous minutes – DP provided an update on Smart Choices/Smart Places funding. £75,000 funding allocated for bus stop enforcement and encouraging bus use. Considering three types of campaigns and promotional methods. Dialogue with bus operators to be arranged by Kevin Argue at GCC. 	<p>SML</p> <p>GCC</p>
3.	<p>Bus Partnership Fund Work – progress reports from workstreams A & B on the five strategic bus corridors and Paisley Town Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG provided an update on five strategic bus corridors works. Outline Business Cases (OBCs) submitted to Transport Scotland (TS). Waiting for feedback from TS through Gateway Review. • Opportunity to assign any underspend on ‘quick wins’. Virtual loops system on Paisley Road West is being considered. TS are happy with that concept and advised GCC to submit change control request. • CC advised attendees that the OBC for Paisley Road West will be going to the TS Evaluation Panel in a few weeks. • Discussion on timescales and ways of speeding up the process of funding interventions. TS advised that evidence such as bus journey time savings would help. • AS provided an update on Paisley Town Centre junction improvement works. Looking at implementing bus lane and turning area. Consultation with businesses has concluded; drawings amended following feedback received. Waiting for Renfrewshire Council Convenor to sign-off on four-week public consultation. RR offered to assist with on bus publicity for the consultation. • Renfrewshire Council also looking at making technology improvements at two junctions along Glasgow Road which ties in with the Paisley Road West bus corridor project. Change control request submitted to TS. • JA highlighted to AS the dirty condition of some bus stops/information panels in Paisley – cleaning these regularly would enhance the bus passenger experience in Paisley. 	<p>SG</p> <p>RR</p> <p>AS</p>
4.	<p>Strategic Bus Network Plan – update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CP provided an update on the Strategic Bus Network Plan (SBNP). Final reporting received from the consultants last week and currently being reviewed by GCC and SPT. These will be circulated to GBP members imminently. 	<p>CP</p>

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<p>5.</p>	<p>Current Bus Network Operations – the night economy; network registration changes with running time (congestion); financial impact of road closures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus network affected by the UCI Cycling World Championships event - serious loss of revenue and passenger numbers; WCM sightseeing services particularly affected. • GCC proposing to set up a new liaison/coordination group with bus operators on a 8-week cycle to discuss impact of events and roadworks on bus network. Bus operators welcomed this - DC urging the Council to be ambitious. Noting and welcoming Christine Francis back in role of Head of Roads Asset Management and member of the Steering Group. JA encouraged all to use this initiative to effect a transformation in the interests of the bus travelling public. • FirstBus in the process of reviewing timetables to address punctuality issues arising from congestion. • RR reported an increase in night bus patronage. 	<p>AW</p>
<p>6.</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>c)</p>	<p>Fares and Ticketing</p> <p>From Workstream E on fares including the development and publicising of the Glasgow Tripper Smart Card (www.glasgowtripper.co.uk) mobile and multi-operator ticketing within the City Region; Tap and Cap/Tap On Tap Off</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM provided an update on the work GBP Workstream E have been doing • Glasgow Tripper ticketing now live and available on different bus operator apps – press release. Bus patronage expected to increase following launch. Tripper has also been highlighted to GCC Elected Members. This is an achievement for the Alliance. • Some changes being made later this year to encourage further growth/use of Tap On Tap Off • The removal of tickets for concessionary travellers was of huge benefit. <p>SPT Zoncards operation and impact of Peak Scotrail Fares</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical development of SPT Zoncard ongoing – testing cards, ticketing machines and new app, and ongoing discussions on revenue allocation • A report on the Zoncard and products to be circulated to GBP members as soon as practical and definitely before the next meeting. <p>Transport Scotland Fair Fares Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Review is still underway. Acknowledgement within TS that engagement with stakeholders is necessary. 	<p>GDK</p> <p>GDK</p>

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<p>7.</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>c)</p> <p>d)</p>	<p>Transport Scotland update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BPF update – TS currently dealing with 18 business cases across Scotland. TS trying to identify projects that can be taken forward quickly using remaining budget of current grant funding allocation. <p>To note that The Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 (Commencement No.7) Regulations 2023 which commence Sections 35-37 (Bus Services Improvement Partnerships) and Section 38 (Local Services Franchising) of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019. These bus provisions will come into force on 4th December 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted by attendees at the GBP Steering Group meeting • CC encouraged GBP members to take part in the Tribunals (Scotland) Act 2014 – Draft Regulations consultation <p>To be aware of the Community Bus Fund allocations for rural bus services and opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted by attendees at the GBP Steering Group meeting • Several local authorities highlighted difficulty of spending grant funding within the current financial year (timescales) at this late stage in the financial year <p>Managed Motorways – any update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update at present <p>Bus Task Force</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to be published on Bus Task Force later this year. 	<p>All</p> <p>TS</p>
<p>8.</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p>	<p>SPT update</p> <p>SPT Capital Programme (Note from Donald Booth dated August 2023) – prompt for ideas for 2024/25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This report was circulated to GBP members in September 2023 • RR highlighted the importance of bus operators receiving these updates to find out how much is being spent on bus and also highlighted differences in funding between rail and bus at a national level with the bus passenger/bus opportunities at material and continuing disadvantage. The level of funding needs to be at least three times that of now. <p>SPT Regional Bus Strategy and Delivery Plan – Board paper Case for Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDK provided an update 	

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<p>9.</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p>	<p>GlasGo Bus Alliance operator update</p> <p>CPT Scottish Conference – feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First opportunity for transport partners to meet post-pandemic – many panel discussions that focused on a range of transport issues. Positive feedback on the event. <p>Recruitment to the GlasGo Bus Alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the intention of the GlasGo Bus Alliance to sort out key elements of their manifesto before inviting smaller operators on board. • Work continues on refreshing the Alliance’s manifesto. 	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Glasgow Transport Strategy: Spatial Delivery Framework – live consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on Part 2: Spatial Delivery Framework (SDF) of the Glasgow Transport Strategy (GTS) ongoing and will conclude at the end of October 2023 • Workshops have been held with key stakeholders – good responses to date • More information about the SDF available on the GTS webpage: www.glasgow.gov.uk/transportstrategy 	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Moving towards a BSIP – GCC discussions with other Councils; collaring information on match funding; and GBP achievements to date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As discussed under Item 7a. 	
<p>12.</p>	<p>Next GBP Steering Group Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 4th December 2023 (in-person) 2pm – 4pm 	