

RTP Collaborative Manifesto – “Keeping Regions Moving”

How the Regional Transport Partnerships of Scotland can help transform transport

About us: RTPs are statutory public bodies tasked with improving transport across our regions. We are partnerships of councils, with our board members coming from across the political and professional spectrum, democratically accountable to the communities we serve. The RTPs have a strong track record of regional delivery in practice: from major projects to innovative policy initiatives, to the operation of lifeline services, the RTPs are proud to play a key role in the everyday journeys of millions of Scots. Further detail on how RTPs could further help improve transport in Scotland can be found in the Develop to Deliver – 2023 Refresh at www.nestrans.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Develop-to-Deliver-final.pdf

Why transport matters: Transport is a major contributor to the delivery of national outcomes and has a huge impact across many sectors, such as economic growth, health and community wellbeing, and reducing environmental impact. The regional solution to a transport issue is often the most effective, and the RTPs have the flexibility, consistency, and ability to deliver. We stand ready to help the new Scottish Government achieve the transport system our nation needs.

How RTPs can help: Transport across Scotland must be shaped by the unique needs of its individual regions and communities, each with distinct requirements and priorities that demand tailored and diverse place-based solutions. Each RTP is different too, reflecting their region, and have produced their own series of offers of how they can help address these needs; links to these are provided below. There are, however, four key points applicable to and supported by all RTPs:

1. **Back our plans and we will deliver:** No-one knows our regional transport networks like we do, and we have bold and ambitious Regional Transport Strategies in place, developed through the strong networks we have with our communities and partners, with projects ready to deliver the changes needed.
2. **Empower our regions and help us make change happen:** Our knowledge, skills and experience mean, with enhanced powers and regional governance arrangements, we would be ideally placed to provide greater co-ordination of our regional transport networks, eliminating duplication, ensuring delivery, providing better integration between operators and other partners including Regional Economic Partnerships, and with wider sectors such as land-use planning and healthcare.
3. **Let's make sure our communities don't get left behind:** Every £1 invested in bus brings an economic return of £4.55, yet the withdrawal or reduction of bus services has regrettably become all too common across Scotland over recent years. Reversing this decline is essential and requires meaningful investment via RTPs - both in revenue and capital support - to restore and strengthen the services people rely on in their daily lives.
4. **Commit to funding us long-term:** the annual race to secure capital and revenue funding can take up significant time and resources and is not conducive to making real, lasting progress in transforming our transport

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network. Our work, often supporting statutory services, like the NHS through improving access to healthcare, needs the certainty of multi-year funding settlements, which in turn gives confidence to our communities, partners and stakeholders that change is on its way.

Please see the link below to SWestrans website for their own manifesto briefing ahead of the elections:

[South West of Scotland Transport Partnership \(SWestrans\) Strategic Transport](#)

The RTPs of Scotland can help deliver national objectives and outcomes at a regional level. With your support and commitment to back our plans, help reinforce RTPs as the ‘go-to’ organisations for transport, and invest over the long-term in sustainable transport, we can continue to help keeping our regions moving.

For further information, please contact swestrans@dumgal.gov.uk