

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
Tuesday 7 October 2025
30th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

Update on Scottish Government transport policies and performance

Introduction

1. The Net Zero, Energy and Transport (NZET) Committee agreed to hold an evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Fiona Hyslop, to explore areas of interest within her remit.

Background

2. The Cabinet Secretary was appointed in May 2024, having previously been the Minister for Transport.
3. Two documents guide the overall vision and spending on transport in Scotland:
 - [The National Transport Strategy 2](#) was published in 2020 and outlines the Scottish Government's 20-year vision for Scotland's transport system.
 - Transport Scotland published the [second Strategic Transport Projects Review](#) final recommendations in 2022. The review informs transport investment in Scotland for the next 20 years.
4. In recent months the Cabinet Secretary and the Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity, have made several notable announcements on transport, including:
 - The [decision to revise the target to reduce car kms by 20% by 2030](#), following Audit Scotland's report - [Sustainable transport: Reducing car use](#) - which highlighted that the Scottish Government did "not have a clear plan to achieve this" target.
 - An update on [efforts to purchase Ardrossan Harbour](#), which is currently owned by the private company Peel Ports and requires investment before the new Glen Sannox and Glen Rosa ferries can sail from it.
 - Several funding announcements related to buses, including:
 - The launch of the [£20 million Bus Infrastructure Fund](#), which the Scottish Government say includes improvements to local bus stops, interchange between bus and other modes of travel, and the development of large scale bus priority on key routes into cities.
 - The extension of the [Scottish Zero Emission Bus Challenge Fund](#) to make available up to £40 million of additional capital funding. This aims to support the transition to zero emission vehicles and infrastructure.

- And [the extension of the Plugged in Communities Grant Fund](#), which the Scottish Government say has increased to £4 million for 2025-26, up from £650,000 in 2024-25. This fund aims to support community transport operators in Scotland to purchase zero emission community transport vehicles and charging infrastructure.
 - [The approval of £343.3 million of funding](#) to support the electrification of routes on the Fife and Borders railway network.
5. Updates have also been provided to the Committee on key transport infrastructure projects, including:
- [On the dualling of the A9](#), with the latest update advising that the delivery timeline remains in line with previous updates.
 - That the consultation [on the review of the A96 Corridor](#) ended on 21 February 2025.
 - On four new vessels being built in Cemre in Türkiye. The first vessel, the MV Isle of Islay, was expected to be delivered by 30 September 2025, however [the 1 September update advised](#) that this deadline would not be met, and a [further 30 September update](#) indicated it is now expected to be delivered in November 2025.
 - [On the delivery of the MV Glen Rosa](#) being built in Ferguson Marine Port Glasgow, advising that the deadline remains Q2 2026 and the forecasted cost to complete remains at £172.5m with a £12.5m risk contingency.
6. The Committee has also undertaken recent work on [transport in Scotland](#), including:
- A visit to Ferguson Marine Port Glasgow and Hunterston Park (to, amongst other things, meet with representatives of Peel Ports Group) on 19 September.
 - Two evidence sessions on train and bus services in Scotland on [22 April](#) and [29 April](#) 2025 hearing from passenger groups, staff representatives, operators and infrastructure providers.
 - An evidence session on a Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Bill and related evidence on decarbonising aviation in Scotland on [30 September](#) 2025.

Meeting on 7 October

7. At its meeting on 7 October, the Committee will hear from the Cabinet Secretary and supporting officials, as listed on the agenda, on the Scottish Government's transport policies and priorities.

Clerks to the Committee
October 2025