

URS

Stromeferry Options Appraisal

STAG
Pre-Appraisal

Stakeholder Workshop

Update on Discussions
and Findings Rev B

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Rev	Date	Details	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
-	12-12-2012	Issue for Information	Anke Menzinger Project Engineer	David Taylor Commission Project manager	David Taylor Commission Project manager
A	08-01-13	Issue for Discussion	Anke Menzinger Project Engineer	David Taylor Commission Project manager	David Taylor Commission Project manager
B	16-01-13	Amendments from both 2 nd Stakeholder workshops included	Anke Menzinger Project Engineer	David Taylor Commission Project manager	David Taylor Commission Project manager

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Stromeferry Options Appraisal Stakeholder Workshop Update on Discussions and Findings

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Appendices:

None

Introduction

The information provided within this document is aimed to summarise the notes taken during discussions held with both the Regulatory and Economic Stakeholder groups throughout all workshops held in November and December 2012, and has been further amended to include the discussions held during the Economic Stakeholder workshop on the 10th January 2013.

It is proposed to circulate this document to all Stakeholders after the 2nd Economic Stakeholder workshop in January 2013, in order to provide an agreed record of the discussions. This is also aiming to set agreed draft SMART Objectives, which will form an important part of the route appraisal which is to follow as part of Stages 1 and 2 of this appraisal process.

It is proposed to have a final discussion to agree on the tabled SMART Objectives shown on page 16 of this report during the proposed joint Stakeholder workshop on the 31st of January 2013.

The final agreed SMART objectives, together with any objectives drawn from Government or Government Agencies' policies or directives, as well as a report on agreed route options, will form part of the Pre-Appraisal report, which is to conclude this phase of the STAG Appraisal process.

Identified Problems

Identified Existing Problems					
Group	Item No	Item from List of identified 'Problems', 'Opportunities' and 'Constraints'	Action	Opportunity	Reference
Health & Safety	H1	Safety Concerns (risk of personal injury and damage to property from rock fall) & reliability of existing route (lack of local confidence in stability of rock face and high risk of future rock fall)	Will become Objective, be addressed in study and solution made reliable. Condition of existing route (for any solution) will have to be addressed. Use to create opportunity	Improvement of whole section between Strathcarron and Strome Create a suitable route using 'Best Practice' techniques	O13 O2
	H2	Poor Standard of existing road & alignment	Use to create opportunity	As above and O1	
	H3	Emergency vehicle and access to Broadford hospital on Skye potentially disrupted	Will be addressed by new route, including considerations during construction. Contingency plan currently in place.	Create a reliable access route	O14
	H4	Risk of rock fall onto railway line	Contingency plan currently in place. Refer to R1		

Identified Future Problems					
Group	Item No	Item from List of identified 'Problems', 'Opportunities' and 'Constraints'	Action	Opportunity	Reference
Health & Safety	H5	Future weathering of rock face	Inter relationship with road and rail will become part of appraisal for on-line or off line route. Close working relationship to be built with railway colleagues to identify 'best' mutual solutions		
	H6	Potential of heavy transport movements through Lochcarron Village			
	H7	H&S issues due to unstable rock faces, during maintenance & construction works	CDM considerations during Options appraisal	Provide safe, (off-line) route	

Identified Existing Problems (continued)					
Group	Item No	Item from List of identified 'Problems', 'Opportunities' and 'Constraints'	Action	Opportunity	Reference
Disruption	D1	Effectiveness of existing rock netting / protection			
	D2	Journey times during diversion, cost to local businesses, tourists etc.	Journey times will become objective. Use to create opportunity	Reduce journey times	O9
	D3	Potential disruption of public transport links, school bus services, postal and other services in the area	Will be addressed by new route, including considerations during construction. Contingency plan currently in place.	Provide a reliable, safe route	1
	D4	Mitigation measures during disruptions limited; ferry availability very limited (daytime hours only)	Contingency plan currently in place Use to create opportunity	Opportunity to re-instate the ferry service on a reliable basis	O17
	D5	No guaranteed resilience of existing route / constant risk of road closure	See H1 Use to create opportunity	Identify best option and create route to modern, appropriate standard	O1 O5
	D6	Perceived lengthy journey time due to congestion during summer months			
	D7	Transport link for livestock movements between Kyle and Dingwall. Prolonged journey times cause added stress to livestock			

Identified Future Problems (continued)					
Group	Item No	Item from List of identified 'Problems', 'Opportunities' and 'Constraints'	Action	Opportunity	Reference
Disruption	D8	Potential disruptions and road closures during on-line construction works			

Identified Existing Problems (continued)					
Group	Item No	Item from List of identified 'Problems', 'Opportunities' and 'Constraints'	Action	Opportunity	Reference
Landscape & Environmental	L&E1	Existing rock netting conceals SSI area of rock cut (site of geological importance)	Recognised but will need to link to R1		
	L&E2	Problems with current route prohibit enjoyment of natural heritage and area	Benefit to Natural Heritage taken to Objective Create opportunity	Enhance driver / tourist experience on route Consider road cantilevered over lochside (Pulpit rock design) Potential for new loch side access	O3 O4 O7
	L&E3	Steep topography of area	Consider during Options appraisal	Consider routing alleviating problems with steep gradients	

Identified Future Problems					
Group	Item No	Item from List of identified 'Problems', 'Opportunities' and 'Constraints'	Action	Opportunity	Reference
Landscape & Environmental	L&E4	Unscheduled archaeology uncovered during excavations	Investigations will be undertaken. Specification and Programme will address this during construction		
	L&E5	Strome Narrows bridge crossing would greatly impact on natural landscape	Apply best practice principles	Refer to Opportunity O3	
	L&E6	Areas of ecological potentially effected by all routes	Apply best practice principles	Refer to Opportunities O1 & O4	
	L&E7	Likelihood of future rock fall from cut faces along existing route due to geological nature of rock	Consider both on and off line solutions, not forgetting the longterm obligations to protect from rock fall along the existing route		
	L&E8	Potential for higher altitude road levels for off-line routes with impact on winter maintenance	Consider during route appraisal		
	L&E9	Potential impact on water environment and flood risk			
	L&E 10	Available corridor for land purchase not adequate to achieve full habitat / environmental mitigation	Consider under SMART objectives		
		Existing deer and livestock management, as well as fish farming etc restricting development areas			
		Restricted clearance for ship movements underneath new bridge structure			
		Impact on scheduled monument of Strome Castle and it's surroundings			

Identified Existing Problems (continued)					
Group	Item No	Item from List of identified 'Problems', 'Opportunities' and 'Constraints'	Action	Opportunity	Reference
Socio – Economics	S1	Southern routes would bypass village of Lochcarron, which is already isolated due to existing road network at present	Will be considered during study when considering options.		
		In the event of a rock fall and road closure, 140 mile detour required	Consider source and target of traffic		
	S2	Existing road is unreliable and alignment does not comply with modern standards	Carried to Objectives, will be addressed. Create opportunity	Refer to O1. Consider NMU particularly cyclists	O10
	S3	Poor existing Community Transport (all transport links to and from the communities)	Create Objective. Traffic & Economic assessment will address this.		
	S4	Poor / restricted access to Community Services & Leisure Facilities			
	S5	Poor vehicular access to and from South Strome ferry slipway			
		Forestry – unreliable road link with no feasible alternative routes adding to high transport costs			
		Forestry – areas for potential timber extraction restricted due to lack of suitable road access			

Identified Future Problems (continued)					
Group	Item No	Item from List of identified 'Problems', 'Opportunities' and 'Constraints'	Action	Opportunity	Reference
Socio – Economics	S6	Existing routes unsuitable to cope with traffic growth on road and rail (heavy traffic associated with future local developments at Kishorn etc) Reference Carron & Lair Bridges, Maman Hill etc	Make Objective. Traffic & Economic assessment will address this. Create opportunity	Design to consider future expectations as far as possible Enhanced Kishorn port access (local access as well as south towards Ft William) Potential for renewables schemes (tidal, wind etc) could open up further funding Opening new areas for forest harvesting, fish farming, walkers etc	O4 O8 15 16
	S7	Community linkage during construction	Specification and Programme will address this during construction		
	S8	Accessibility and social inclusion within the wider area of Scotland	Create Objective. Traffic & Economic assessment will address this. Consider as opportunity	Improved access to Broadford Airport, consider links between Skye and Wester Ross	O14
	S9	Confidence in team to deliver project and potential difficulty identifying preferred solution	Create Objective		
	S10	Suitable access for Utility Companies			
	S11	Potential for extended journey times on new routes (inland route)	See also D6. This will be assessed as part of the traffic & economic exercise		

Identified Existing Problems (continued)					
Group	Item No	Item from List of identified 'Problems', 'Opportunities' and 'Constraints'	Action	Opportunity	Reference
Financial	F1	Cost and maintenance of existing route	Will become assessment factor during route selection		
	F2	Transport costs increased due to unreliable route / length of route / potential for disruptions & diversions		Improved transport links along west coast, east and south from the area	

Identified Future Problems					
Group	Item No	Item from List of identified 'Problems', 'Opportunities' and 'Constraints'	Action	Opportunity	Reference
Financial	F3	Securing funding for scheme	Important point, which is to be consolidated later on in the appraisal process	Explore funding opportunities through renewable developments	

Identified Existing Problems (continued)					
Group	Item No	Item from List of identified 'Problems', 'Opportunities' and 'Constraints'	Action	Opportunity	Reference
Railway Interface	R1	Existing road provides some protection to railway line. If road removed, residual risks for railway to be considered	Inter relationship with road and rail will become part of appraisal for on-line or off line route. Close working relationship to be built with railway colleagues to identify 'best' mutual solutions . Use to create opportunity	Provide a wider / standard cross section with adequate separation of road and rail by improving existing transport corridor	O5
	R2	Close proximity of road to railway and vulnerability of both to rock fall	As above		
	R3	Railway line currently categorised as 'high risk' with the result of speed restrictions on this route to 30mph	As above		
	R4	Railway line currently not used to full potential (transport of heavy goods, poor timetable etc)			
	R5	Existing railway line not suitable for heavy transport or higher speed?		Opportunity to improve railway line and services	
	R6	Existing level crossing at Strathcarron			

Identified Future Problems					
Group	Item No	Item from List of identified 'Problems', 'Opportunities' and 'Constraints'	Action	Opportunity	Reference
Railway Interface	R7	Separation road / rail	Inter relationship with road and rail will become part of appraisal for on-line or off line route. Close working relationship to be built with railway colleagues to identify 'best' mutual solutions Consider as opportunity	Consider a level, shared road / rail solution long term Remove level crossings	O11 O12
	R8	If new route established, what happens to existing road corridor & railway line	Problem acknowledged and will be addressed at the route selection stage.	Create engineered separation between railway and rock face using road corridor for rock ditches	

Identified Opportunities

Opportunities Identified during Stakeholder Workshops	
Item No	Opportunity
O1	Road design to an appropriate (design) standard and appropriate / proportionate for the area considering the value of the natural environment, with an aspiration to provide single carriageway width throughout
O2	Introduce Best Practice Principles
O3	Enhance driver / tourist experience on route
O4	Design to consider future expectations as far as possible
O5	Provide a wider / standard cross section with adequate separation of road and rail by improving existing transport corridor
O6	Consider road cantilevered over lochside (Pulpit rock design)
O7	Potential for new loch side access
O8	Enhanced Kishorn port access (local access as well as considering access south towards Ft William and with particular emphasis on access east towards Invergordon)
O9	Reduced journey times (<i>particularly considering school transport and business access</i>)
O10	Consider cyclists
O11	Consider a level, shared road / rail solution long term
O12	Remove level crossings
O13	Improvement of whole section between Strathcarron Junction and Strome
O14	Improved access to Broadford Airport, consider links between Skye and Wester Ross
O15	Potential for renewables schemes (tidal, wind etc) could open up further funding
O16	Opening new areas for forest harvesting, fishfarming, walkers, renewables etc
O17	Opportunity to re-instate the ferry service on a reliable basis
O18	Create new employment opportunities in the area
O19	Improved access to leisure facilities, in particular for young people
O20	Opportunity to create new links to sea transport from road and rail
O21	Improved accessibility – including for existing routes
O22	Improved reliability – including for existing routes
O23	Improved integration of Lochcarron Village
O24	Enhance Public Transport routes
O25	Create new business opportunities in the area (yachting etc) and enhance West Coast route
O26	Use opportunity to enhance the water and wider environment as part of design considerations

Identified Constraints

Constraints Identified during Stakeholder Workshops	
Item No	Constraint
C1	Nature of existing rock cuts could always lead to more failures and intervention would never be guaranteed to protect longterm
C2	Unknown stability of future rock cuts
C3	Topography of the area, hillside and steep sided shoreline, loch, <i>altitude, gradients</i> etc
C4	Potential level above OD of new routes
C5	Existing railway line
C6	Level crossing at Strathcarron (if road widening or re-alignment considered)
C7	Existing SSSI – rock faces are site of geotechnical importance
C8	Potential Flood risks (design consideration)
C9	Impact on peat and wetlands (design of new routes) and potential for peat bogs etc
C10	Available corridor for land purchase too limited to achieve full habitat / environmental mitigation measures
C11	Deer and livestock management
C12	Strome Narrows, site of national importance with regards to it's natural heritage and high quality landscape (but not designated site). Marine consultation area.
C13	Clearance / headroom requirements for bridge options
C14	Strome Castle, scheduled monument within area of natural beauty; listing of monument includes the setting of the castle
C15	High quality natural landscape – Natural Heritage of area
C16	Tides and currents, fish movements, fish farming
C17	Rail to sea at South Strome for Kishorn Port
C18	Forestry – unreliable road link with no feasible alternative routes adding to high transport costs
C19	Forestry – areas for potential timber extraction restricted due to lack of suitable road access
C20	Landownership & Land Use (Crofting etc)
C21	Finance to achieve objectives
C22	Environmental constraints (Attadale route; eagles, water voles, badgers etc)
C23	Unacceptable disruptions due to effect on tourism & local business during construction (road closures)
C24	Consider short term disruption to (rail) travellers to achieve long term solution and consider phased delivery to include renewable opportunity

Developed Objectives

TRANSPORT PLANNING OBJECTIVES DEVELOPED DURING STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS						
Ref.	Draft Transport Planning Objectives	Appraisal Criteria Objective				
		Environment	Safety	Economy	Integration	Accessibility
1	Safeguard the natural environment and areas of national importance (geological SSSI) and heritage by applying best practice principles to engineering solution	√				
2	Use the opportunity to enhance the natural & built environment & habitat (natural heritage) and driver experience by adopting best practice procedures in developing a solution	√	√			
3	Reduce / minimise risks during <i>design</i> , construction, maintenance, <i>and operation</i> .	√	√	√		
4	Deliverability of outcome with minimum of <i>all</i> risk, at reasonable timescale and feasible cost	√		√		
5	Provide a (new) safe and reliable <i>2 lane carriageway</i> , that users will have confidence in, now and in the future, by (means of providing a road to modern standards, considering local business, tourists, cyclists (NMU), community & strategic aspirations,) applying appropriate / proportionate design standards. Aspiration to provide single carriageway width (2 way traffic) throughout Aspiration to e Consider wider area <i>by providing suitable route east to Dingwall and Invergordon, south to Ft William and along west coast (tourist route)</i>		√	√	√	√
6	Solution does not increase (<i>reduces?</i>) the risk to the railway and maintains suitable access to the railway line		√			√
7	Reduce maintenance burden of existing route <i>by providing 'Good value for money' deliverable solution providing a deliverable solution</i> which is proportionate to location and needs and is 'future proofed'			√		
8	Work effectively to ensure speedy scheme delivery			√		
9	Consider Maintain and enhance short and long term employment in solution opportunities			√		
10	Enable & enhance economic / social development cohesion in local and wider area, including the Kishorn yard and potential for renewable developments and development and sustainable economic growth, locally, regionally and nationally, exploiting opportunities presented by Kishorn, Kyleheha and other potential renewable developments			√	√	√
11	Maintain / enhance choice of transport & public transport links in the area			√	√	√
12	Minimise journey times long term <i>Maximise network efficiency, considering journey times and reliability</i>			√	√	√
13	Provide direct transport link from Lochcarron to Lochalsh <i>Improve longterm sustainable network connectivity along a north / soth corridor for the Wester Ross area</i>			√	√	√
14	Provide opportunity for sustainable development and economic growth to local area. Solution not to prohibit renewable energy opportunities and maximise benefits for tourism, local business and housing <i>Sustain and maintain economic growth in the local area by exploiting opportunities provided by the renewable energy sector, tourism and other key sectors</i>			√	√	√
15	Improve <i>Ensure policy integration, considering local and national planning strategies</i>				√	
16	Maintain continuous community transport links between Lochcarron and Kyle during construction <i>Keep the A 890 and peripheral road network open during construction</i>				√	√
17	Improve accessibility & social inclusion <i>Maintain and improve accessibility to local and regional leisure facilities, health and educational services, with particular emphasis on emergency services</i>				√	√

Note: Amendments made during workshop discussions on the 10th January 2013 are shown *italic*.
Deletions from the list are shown ~~xxxxx~~.

Developed Transport Planning Objectives translated into proposed SMART Objectives

The draft Transport Planning Objectives shown on page 14 were previously developed into proposed SMART Objectives as shown below. After further discussions of pages 14 and 15 during the 2nd Economic Stakeholder workshop, the table below has been superseded and translated into re-worded draft SMART Objectives as shown on page 16 of this document.

TRANSPORT PLANNING OBJECTIVES TRANSLATED INTO PROPOSED SMART OBJECTIVES				REV2
Appraisal Criteria	Nr	Objective	Reference	
Environment	a)	Avoid risk to the environment during the life cycle of the project including the construction and maintenance phase, safeguarding and, where feasible and appropriate, enhancing the natural and built environment and assets of national importance and heritage, by applying best practice principles.	1, 2, 3, & 4	
Safety	b)	Provide a positive, safe and reliable two way route, that users will have confidence in, by means of using appropriate / proportionate design standards.	2, 5	
	c)	Consider a route and design that reduces risks during construction, maintenance and decommissioning.	3	
	d)	Solution does not increase the risk to the railway and maintains suitable access to the railway line.	6	
Economy	e)	Maximise opportunity for sustainable development and economic growth to local area, considering community & strategic aspirations.	9, 11, 15	
	f)	Ensure deliverability of scheme (giving due consideration to capital cost, programme & maintenance).	7, 8	
	g)	Minimise short term disruption to local transport links to achieve long term solution and consider phased delivery.	10, 17	
Integration	h)	Maintain / enhance choice of transport & public transport links in the local and wider area.	5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18	
	i)	Reduce journey times by considering more direct links, and thus reducing transport costs and attracting through traffic from other routes.	13, 14	
Accessibility	j)	Solution should recognise longterm aspiration for railway and maintain suitable access.	6	
	k)	Ensure sufficient (transport) linkage to enable & enhance economic / social development in local and wider area.	11	
	l)	Maintain / enhance choice of transport & public transport links in the area, during construction and long term, thus improving accessibility & social inclusion	12, 16, 18	

The above Project Objectives were derived from the Stakeholder Workshop discussions held to-date and developed into 'SMART' objectives.

We would appreciate further comments to finalise the above list.

Please note, that the above objectives are considered 'local' objectives, and strategic objectives are yet to be considered in addition to the above.

Replies received from Regulatory Stakeholders up to 08/01/13 are included in above Rev2

Proposed SMART Objectives

The following table shows the latest version of proposed SMART Objectives developed for this project. Objectives previously included on page 15 have been re-worded in order to make these 'SMARTER', ie more **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant and **T**imed.

The Draft SMART Objectives shown below will be discussed and final wording agreed during the proposed joint Stakeholder workshop on the 31st January 2013.

TRANSPORT PLANNING OBJECTIVES TRANSLATED INTO PROPOSED SMART OBJECTIVES				REV3				
Ref.	Draft SMART Objectives			Appraisal Criteria Objective				
				Environment	Safety	Economy	Integration	Accessibility
A(1)	Safeguard and, where possible and appropriate, enhance the natural and built environment and areas of national importance and heritage, during construction, maintenance and operation of the scheme (with reference to environmental appraisal)	a)		√				
B(2)	Minimise all risk during design, construction, operation and maintenance (with reference to Risk Register)	a) c)		√	√	√		
C(3)	Ensure deliverability of scheme within a set programme and to agreed capital cost and maintenance budgets, thus providing 'Value for Money'	f)				√		
D(4)	Deliver a safe and reliable, 2 lane carriageway, by applying appropriate / proportionate design standards	b)			√	√	√	√
E(5)	Deliver a solution that minimises the risk of damage to the railway line and disruption to railway operations, and meets the long term aspiration for the railway in terms of timetable performance and maintenance access over the life of the scheme	d) j)			√	√		√
F(6)	Keep the A 890 and peripheral road network open during construction	g)				√	√	√
G(7)	Maintain and improve social cohesion by improving accessibility for both emergency services responding to call-outs, as well as for the local population making use of local and regional leisure, health and educational facilities, by reducing journey times of the trips involved	l)				√	√	√
H(8)	Maintain and improve choice of transport mode and integration of public transport links over the lifetime of the scheme	l)				√	√	√
I(9)	Ensure scheme compatibility and policy integration with local and national planning strategies			√			√	
J(10)	Improve longterm sustainable network connectivity	i)				√	√	√
K(11)	Maximise / improve network efficiency and sustainable connectivity in terms of journey times and journey reliability in both the Wester Ross area and along a wider north / south corridor	i) h) k)				√	√	√
L(12)	Deliver a scheme that assists both the local businesses in the area to maximise opportunities for sustainable development and economic growth, as well as help local people exploit employment opportunities provided by the renewable energy sector, tourism and other key sectors over the life of the scheme	e)				√	√	√