

CPG on Rail in the Scottish Parliament Minutes

AGM at Holyrood 31st October 2017

Sederunt: Humza Yousaf MSP (Minister for Transport and the Islands), Alexaner Stewart MSP, Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Gordon MacLeod (Transport Scotland), Frank Roach (HITRANS), Iain MacDonald (Light Rail UK), Cllr T. Roberts (WCR250 Group), Rosemary Blumfield (WCR250 Group), Nigel Mullan (Newburgh Train Station Group), Derick Murray (NESTRANS), Ian Budd (FoFNL), Roderick McDougall (Rail Futures Scotland), James Harkins (Light Rail Scotland), Paul Tetlaw (Transform Scotland), Vic McKinlay (Light Rail Transit Association), Stewart Leighton (Rail Future Scotland), Ken Sutherland (Rail Future Scotland), Dita Stanis-Traken (St Andrews Rail Link Campaign), David Johnstone (Grayling), Richard Arden (FoFNL), Don Barclay (LMRC), Barrie Forrest (Rail Action Group – East of Scotland), Caroline Kingston (Network Rail), Nicholas Scott-Gray (Montrose Port Authority), Mark Cessford (Rix Shipping Scotland), David Prescott (Allan Rail)

Co-Convenor: John Mason MSP

Co-Convenor: Pauline McNeill MSP

Apologies: Pauline McNeill MSP, John Finnie MSP, Oliver Mundell MSP, Angus Macdonald MSP, Jackie Baillie MSP, Damien Henderson, Robert Drysdale, Allan McLean, Lawrence Marshall, Eric Guthrie, Colin Howden, Alison Cosgrove, Niamh Hegarty, Alex Hynes

Co-Convenor, John Mason MSP, welcomed members to the meeting, and gave a rundown of the programme for the meeting. He thanked the Minister for Transport and the Islands for attending, and relayed that the Minister would have to leave early.

Humza Yousaf (Minister for Transport and the Islands) delivered a brief talk on rail in Scotland

The update covered:

- The potential for new rail projects, with particular reference to the good work of the Levenmouth campaign
- The Scottish Government's public sector bid for running the rail franchise
- The positive things going on in rail that have cross-party support, and the record investment in Scotland's railways

- The debate around the Statement of Funds Available for CP6, and the effects of different funding scenarios

The Minister then answered questions from the group.

Topics raised included:

- Low Emissions Zones
- Management of capital projects
- Decision making around new rail proposals
- Levenmouth Rail campaign specifically
- Investment in Robroyston
- The allocation of transport funding between Road and Rail
- New flexible approach to capital projects
- Improving accuracy of cost estimates
- Glasgow Crossrail

The Minister encouraged members of the CPG who had any questions to email him.

John Mason thanked the Minister for attending the CPG, and for answering questions.

AGM

The meeting moved on to formal AGM business.

Election of Office Bearers:

John Mason and Pauline McNeill were re-elected as Co-conveners.

It was agreed that the ScotRail Alliance would continue to provide secretarial support.

It was agreed that there was no need for a treasurer.

Formal AGM business concludes.

General Business

Minutes from previous meeting agreed, subject to minor corrections.

Meeting moved to general discussion.

The CPG discussed several topics, including:

- The feasibility of tram-train in Glasgow
- Lengthy discussion on the benefits of tram–train in general, and connectivity between trams to wider transport network
- Low Emission Zone in Glasgow, and its implications
- Glasgow Crossrail
- Glasgow Airport rail link
- Lines with single track sections causing delays, and whether double tracking was the solution – mentioning Montrose-Usan, Aberdeen – Inverness
- Cutting the journey time on Montrose-Usan line
- Funding between Road and Rail
- Levenmouth rail campaign
- Statement of Funds Available

John Mason agreed to follow up on a letter that was written from member of CPG, which has not received a response. John Mason reiterated that, where there was agreement, he was happy to write on behalf of the CPG, which is more likely to receive a response.

Future Meetings

It was suggested that Light Rail, including a discussion on emissions, was a potential future topic. In relation to discussions on Glasgow transport, John Mason suggested that the CPG may also wish to look at contacting the Council and SPT.

Dates of future meetings were announced, with the day of the CPG being moved to Wednesday from now on.

- 29th Nov
- 28th Feb
- 2nd May
- 26th September
- 21st Nov

John Mason agreed to forward on these dates to members, but noted that they might be subject to change.

John Mason thanked the members for attending, closing the meeting.