



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilear

Transport in the Highlands and Islands

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Transport Policy Delivery in H&I

- **Transport Scotland (Scottish Government's transport agency):** overall national transport policy and strategy, aviation, ferries, bus & freight transport, trunk road and rail policy & delivery.
- **Local authorities:** all local transport – roads and public transport, local transport planning, ferries, aviation.
- **HITRANS (covers most of H&I area):** regional transport strategy, co-ordination between local authorities, research & influencing.
- **ZetTrans:** Shetland's transport strategy, research & influencing.
- **Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd:** operation of 10 airports, including Inverness Airport.
- **UK Government:** airports & aviation policy, cross-border rail, transport fuels policy, fuel & aviation duty.

HIE's role in transport

- Research & Influencing – working with regional partners to evidence the case for transport improvements across road, ferries, aviation and rail.
- Contributing to major reviews of the transport network, including Scottish Government's Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) and Islands Connectivity Plan.
- Involvement in partnership transport initiatives e.g. Sustainable Aviation Test Environment (SATE).
- Funding for businesses to support the switch to electric vehicles (EVs) and active travel.

THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

422 miles north to south
170 miles east to west

Over Half the Land Area of Scotland

POPULATION - 468,396

(8.5% of Scotland – lowest population density in UK, amongst lowest in Europe)

- 62% LIVE IN REMOTE AREAS
- 20% LIVE IN A LARGE SETTLEMENT
- 22% LIVE ON AN ISLAND



Importance of Transport in H&I

Enabling Economic Growth

Transport key enabler of growth – businesses reliant for sourcing raw materials, selling to national and international markets and accessing labour.

Enhancing growth and productivity requires reduced journey times from H&I to Scotland's main economic centres – chiefly Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen.

HIE Business Panel Survey:

- 40% reported improved transport infrastructure would encourage them to invest in their business.
- Two-thirds (65%) highlighted insufficient transport links as a risk to their business.

Accessible, Sustainable Communities

Transport in H&I makes an important contribution to delivering sustainable communities , i.e.:

- Improved public transport can create more access to job and educational opportunities for those that don't have access to a car.
- Investment in transport is often critical for remote areas to make significant contributions to the wider Scottish economy.

Many transport links are 'Lifeline Services' – often single routes (by road, ferry or air).

Cost of transport options critical, especially for Highlands and Islands communities that experience a high cost of living and for businesses based in remote locations.

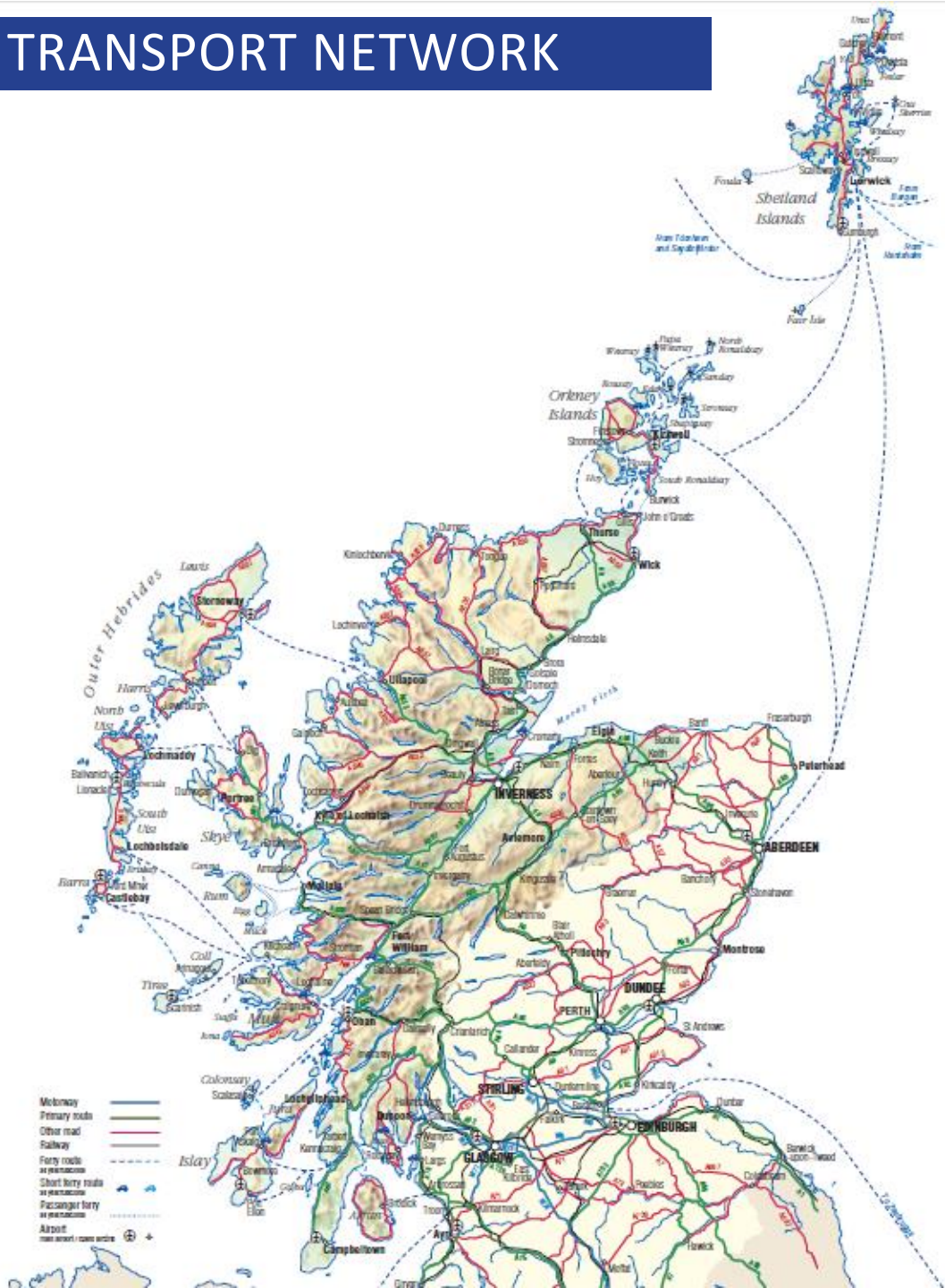
Historical Investments with Long Term Benefits

Over the decades, transformational transport interventions have included:

- Bridges in Highland local authority area (Ballachulish, Kylesku, Cromarty, Kessock, Dornoch and Skye)
- Construction of causeways and bridges in the Outer Hebrides (Vatersay, Eriskay, Berneray and Scalpay)
- Introduction of roll-on-roll-off ferries across the region
- Development of intra-regional air services have substantially improved regional accessibility, while air links to the rest of the UK and beyond have enhanced international reach.
- Various critical road upgrades

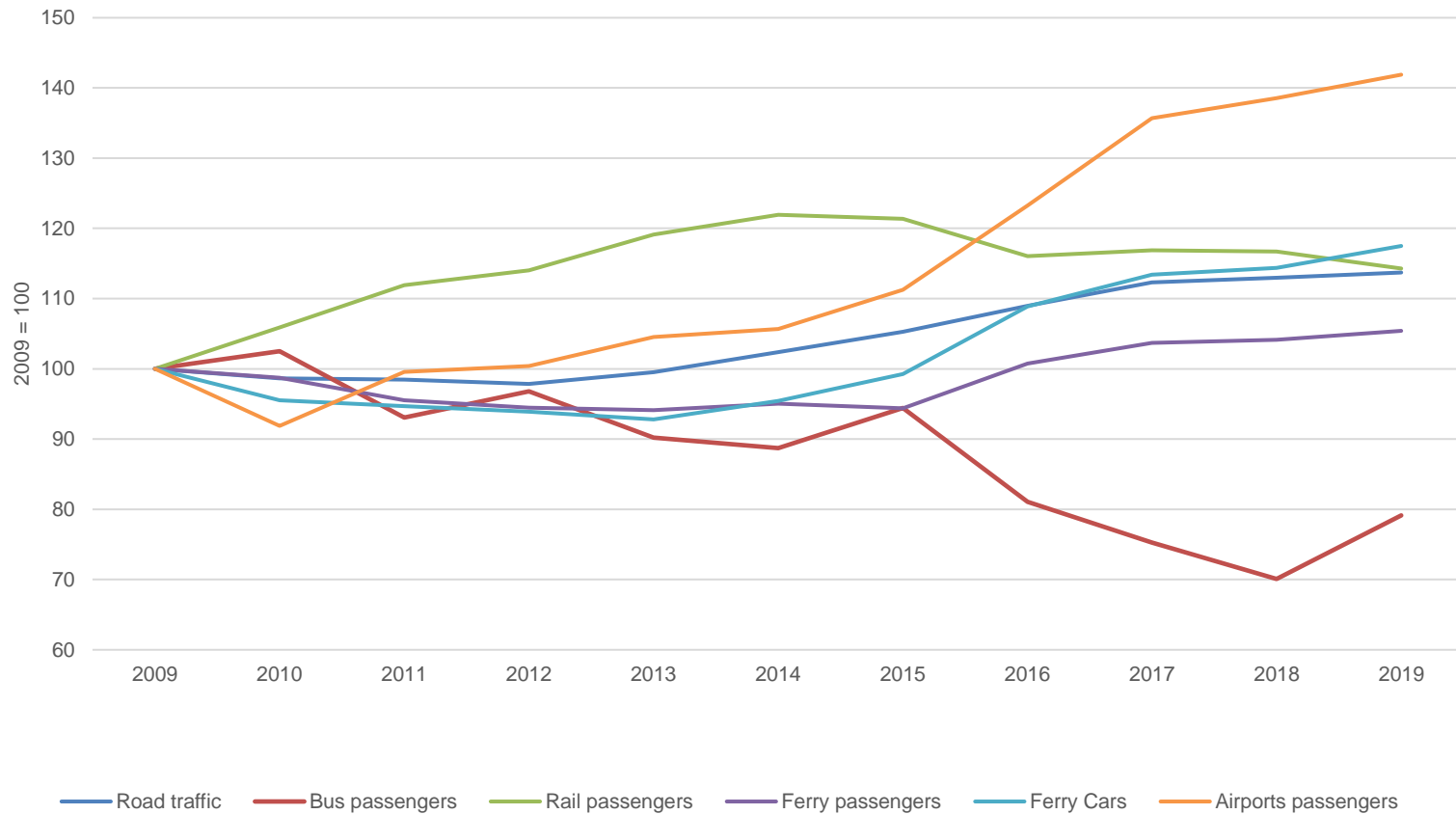
Examples of strategic transport infrastructure, when closely aligned with wider economic development and regeneration efforts, securing long-term benefits e.g. reversing population decline and enabling business growth.

H&I TRANSPORT NETWORK



H&I TRANSPORT TRENDS

Trends 2009-2019:



Trends Post-pandemic:

- Road and Ferry traffic – returned to pre-Covid levels
- Air Travel – passenger numbers at HIAL airports returned to near pre-Covid levels
- Bus and Rail – passenger numbers are generally still to recover

Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2)

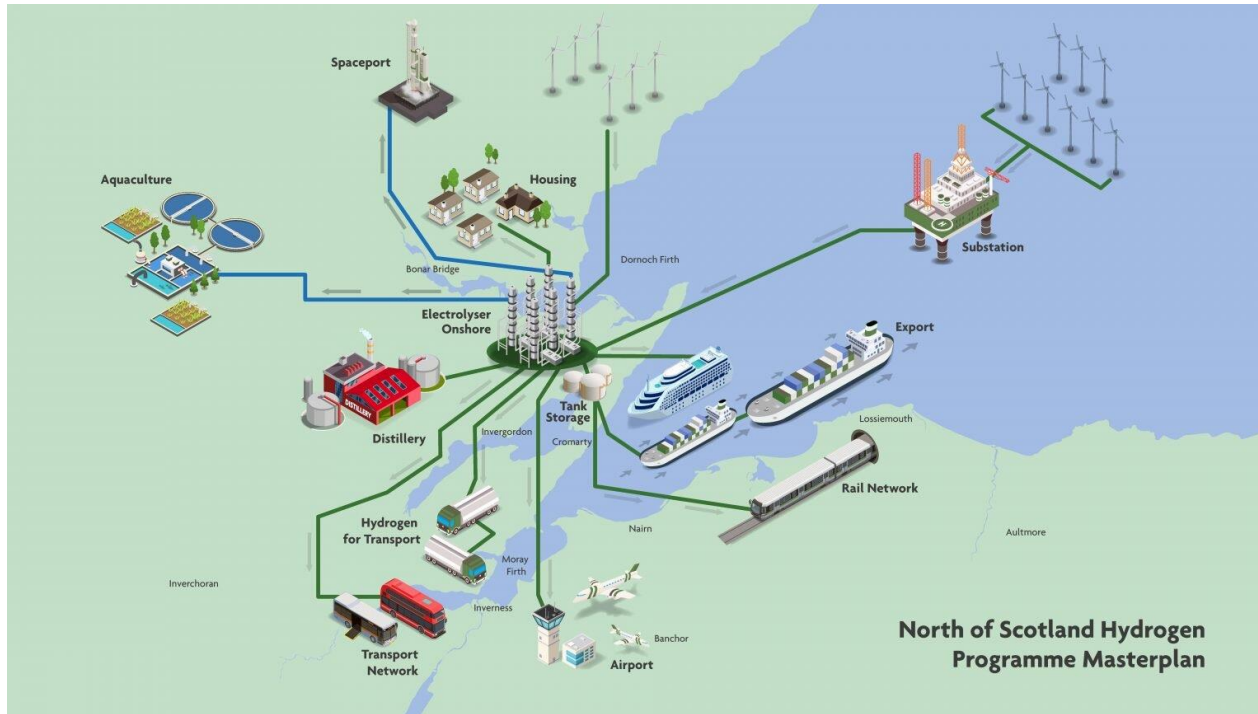
STPR2, published 2022, sets out Scottish Government's major transport major transport infrastructure priorities for the next 20 years.

Interventions that will benefit H&I include:

- Ferries - Vessel renewal and replacement and investment in port infrastructure (funding of £580M 2022-26); Supporting integrated journeys at ferry terminals.
- Rail – Enhancements to Highland Mainline; Inverness Railway Station redevelopment; Decarbonisation of the Scottish rail network by 2035.
- Road – A83 R&BT Road – Long term solution to problem of landslips on this road section (project currently being advanced).
- Bus – Provision of strategic bus priority measures; Investment in Demand Responsive Transport (DRT).
- Active Travel – various improvements
- Zero emission vehicles and infrastructure transition – targeted funding to accelerate investment in zero emission fleets, facilities and emerging technologies.

In addition, SG has a long-standing commitment to dual the A9 road (Inverness-Perth) and is currently reviewing dualling plans for the A96 road (Inverness-Aberdeen).

Low Carbon Transport



transport.gov.scot

**Rail Services
Decarbonisation Action Plan**
Transport Scotland

SATE

SUSTAINABLE AVIATION TEST ENVIRONMENT



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Questions?

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