

## **PE1653/J**

Scottish Government submission of 14 June 2019

Thank you for your letter of 16 May relating to petition PE1653 requesting information on when the Trunk Road Walking and Cycling Initiative will be updated to reflect the findings of the Task Force report and also requesting an update on how active travel matters are being progressed through the review of the National Transport Strategy.

The Minister for Transport and the Islands announced the establishment of the Independent Active Travel Task Force in November 2016, after two local authorities halted delivery of further phases of a segregated cycle path and removed another already in place. The Task Force 's remit was to 'identify and make recommendations on ways to improve delivery of ambitious and inclusive walking and cycling projects in Scotland, helping to create high quality places and communities that support health and wellbeing'. The report was published on 6 June 2018.

The report includes 18 recommendations covering infrastructure; policies, processes and resources; community engagement; and behaviour change and culture. We have also developed a shared delivery plan with our partners; the actions to deliver the recommendations have been agreed to 'make it easier to deliver new infrastructure, change behaviours and ensure that communities are involved from the outset in the projects which will benefit communities and maximise our investment in walking, cycling, wheeling and place making projects'. The delivery plan is due to be published at the end of June 2019.

The Delivery Plan has been drafted in consultation with Scottish Government and Transport Scotland colleagues as well as Delivery Partners and is due to be published shortly.

In answer to your request for an update on how active travel matters are being progressed through the review of the National Transport Strategy (NTS), we continue to progress our review of the NTS based on our approach of building a robust evidence base, working collaboratively with our partners and engaging with transport users across Scotland.

The draft Strategy is built around a strategic framework, which sets out our vision for transport which is: *We will have a sustainable, inclusive and accessible transport system helping to deliver a healthier, fairer and more prosperous Scotland for communities, businesses and visitors.* The vision is underpinned by four themes: Promotes Equality, Takes Climate Action, Helps our Economy Prosper and Improves our Health and Wellbeing. Each theme has three outcomes which will help to deliver the framework.

The Improves our Health and Wellbeing theme recognises a need for Scotland's transport system to enable a healthy, fit and safe nation and to allow people to make active travel choices to improve their wellbeing.

The draft Strategy also recognises the transport system's role in making our communities great places to live. Cleaner and greener streets which encourage walking and cycling will deliver more social interaction, support local businesses and services and create vibrant communities, making our towns and cities more attractive and healthier places to live and work. The prevention and reduction of incidents on the transport network will continue to be a priority to help deliver a secure transport system for all users.

We will launch our consultation of the draft National Transport Strategy in July of this year to enable even more citizens, businesses and partners to have their say. We are committed to publishing the final Strategy post-consultation by the end of this year.

I hope this is helpful.