transform scotland

Annual Report 2019

WELCOME

Message from the Chair

This year's school strikes for the climate injected some long-overdue impetus into climate action. In Scotland, the subsequent announcement of a Climate Emergency by the First Minister was welcome, and some real leadership was demonstrated by the decision to abandon plans for the abolition of Air Passenger Duty, something for which we had campaigned for many years.

But much remains to be done. Transport remains the most difficult area for climate policy. Despite the Climate Emergency announcement, the Scottish Government's multi-billion pound road-building programme means that its capital expenditure plans remain horribly skewed towards high-carbon transport.

The next year will demonstrate whether Scotland's politicians are prepared to match their rhetoric on climate with funded programmes for decarbonisation. We will be setting out our own proposals on how to achieve zero-carbon transport. But the outcome of the Strategic Transport Projects Review will be crucial. Will this fund more major road-building, or will the Scottish Ministers follow through on their good intentions and prioritise investment in sustainable transport?

Phil Matthews, Chair

WHO WE ARE

TRANSFORM SCOTLAND is the national alliance for sustainable transport. We campaign for walking, cycling and public transport to be the easiest and most affordable options for everyone. We are a registered charity, politically independent and strictly science-based.

TRANSFORM CONSULTING is Scotland's specialised research and communications consultancy for sustainable transport. All our profits are reinvested in the charitable campaigns of Transform Scotland.

TRANSFORM CREATIVE is a multi-disciplinary design agency for organisations with a social or environmental agenda. We create eye-catching, effective and ethical communication materials and campaigns. All our profits are reinvested in the charitable campaigns of Transform Scotland.

LOOKING BACK

Activities in 2018/19

INFLUENCING

We were delighted when the Government abandoned its proposal to abolish Air Passenger Duty, following a long campaign by ourselves and our partners. We continued to press for urgent action to cut climate emissions, presenting evidence to the Parliament's environment and transport committees, the Just Transition Commission and the Infrastructure Commission. We successfully made the case for Workplace Parking Levy powers in the Transport Bill. As a long-standing advocate for the tram, we welcomed Edinburgh Council's decision to extend it to Leith, and were thrilled when the Government decided to reopen the Levenmouth rail line, a campaign we supported for many years.

LEADERSHIP

We continued to provide new ideas and transport policy expertise to government. We provided a strong voice for sustainable transport in the National Transport Strategy and Strategic Transport Projects Review, where we are represented on a number of working groups. We continued to influence rail policy through our participation in the High Speed Rail Scottish Partnership Group, the ScotRail Stakeholder Advisory Panel (which we chaired) and meetings with senior civil servants. We provided the secretariat for the Cross Party Group on Cycling, Walking and Buses, raising the profile of sustainable transport in the Scottish Parliament.

PARTNERSHIP

We welcomed several new members, including Alexander Dennis Limited, Glasgow City Council and Grampian Cycle Partnership. We increased our influence by building new alliances, including The Poverty Alliance and the Faculty of Public Health, and continued to work with existing partners. We launched two major new projects. We are partnering with Napier TRI, Glasgow City Council and Aberdeenshire Council to pilot continental-style zebra crossings, which would allow local authorities to install more pedestrian crossings quickly and cost-effectively. Meanwhile in Ayrshire, we are running the #lovemybus campaign together with Stagecoach West Scotland to champion bus travel.

ENTERPRISE

Our two social enterprises 'Transform Consulting' and 'Transform Creative' completed transport consultancy and creative commissions for a wide range of clients. Transform Consulting carried out a stakeholder engagement survey for ScotRail and commenced work on a series of transport decarbonisation research reports. Transform Creative delivered design and communications work for clients including CBRE, CEIS, Clean Water Wave, Deep Time Walk, European Transport Safety Council, Glasgow City Council, GOES Foundation, Living Streets, Social Enterprise Scotland, Scotland's International Development Alliance, Scotland's Social Way, Sustrans and Tactran.

OUR MEMBERS

- Abellio Group
- Aberdeen Friends of the Earth
- Alexander Dennis Limited
- Association of Community Rail Partnerships
- Aviation Environment Federation
- CalMac Ferries Ltd
- Campaign for Better Transport
- Campaign for Borders Rail
- Capital Rail Action Group
- Central Scotland Green Network Trust
- Centre for Scottish Public Policy
- The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport
- The Cockburn Association
- CoMoUK
- Cycling Scotland
- Cycling UK
- Dundee City Council
- The City of Edinburgh Council
- Edinburgh Trams
- The City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council
- Faculty of Public Health (in Scotland)
- First Group
- Friends of the Earth Scotland
- Friends of the Far North Line
- Glasgow City Council
- Go Bike! Strathclyde Cycle Campaign
- Grampian Cycle Partnership
- Highland Cycle Campaign
- IDP Architects LLP
- Levenmouth Rail Campaign
- Liftshare
- Living Streets Scotland
- LNER
- Lothian Community Transport Services
- Paths for All
- The Poverty Alliance
- Queen Margaret University
- Rail Freight Group
- Railfuture Scotland
- Ramblers Scotland
- Road Action Group Salen
- RoadPeace
- Royal Scottish Geographical Society
- Scotland's Towns Partnership
- ScotRail
- Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance
- Scottish Association for Public Transport
- Spokes
- Stagecoach Group
- Sustrans Scotland
- Transport Focus
- Transport for Edinburgh
- Transport Research Institute, Edinburgh Napier University
- Transport Salaried Staffs' Association
- The University of Edinburgh
- Virgin Trains
- WWF Scotland
- Xplore Dundee

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