

## **TAS Research Update**

### **Air**

#### *Economic Assessment of Air Departure Tax*

- We commissioned external analysis (Contractor: PBA) to provide an economic assessment of the Scottish Government's plans for a 50% reduction in the overall burden of Air Departure Tax (ADT) by the end of the current session of the Scottish Parliament
- The final report from this project will be published December 2017/early 2018.

#### *Noise Impact Assessment of Air Departure Tax*

- We commissioned external analysis (Contractor: AECOM) to assess the potential noise impact resulting from the Scottish Government's plans for a 50% reduction in the overall burden of Air Departure Tax (ADT) by the end of the current session of the Scottish Parliament.
- The final report from this project will be published early 2018.

#### *Air Departure Tax - Analysis of Responses to a Consultation on an Overall 50% Reduction Policy Plan and an Environmental Report*

- We commissioned external analysis (Contractor: Craigforth) to analyse responses to a public consultation on the Government's policy for an overall 50% reduction in Air Departure Tax (ADT) and the Environmental report which outlines the likely environmental impacts from the proposed reduction.
- The final report from this project will be published December 2017/early 2018.

### **Bus**

#### *Analysis of Responses to the Consultation on Free Bus Travel for Older and Disabled People and Modern Apprentices*

- The consultation is asking stakeholders for their views on the longer-term sustainability of the scheme as well as extending free bus travel to Modern Apprentices, and is also exploring a number of different options for possible changes in eligibility for the scheme.
- We commissioned external analysis (Contractor: Craigforth) to analyse responses to the consultation and will report on this in early 2018.

### **Corporate**

#### *National Transport Strategy Review*

- To inform the National Transport Strategy Review we are overseeing a programme of analytical work which includes a 'call for evidence', commissioned research, public engagement, stakeholder events, and in-house analysis.
- Analysis of responses to the early engagement consultation on existing transport strategic objectives (Contractor: KSO) was published earlier this year.
- In-house analysis of responses to the 'call for evidence' has recently concluded and is informing the work of the NTS thematic working groups.

## **Ferries**

### *Appraisal of Options for the Specification of the 2018 Northern Isles Ferry Services*

- This commission (Contractor: PBA) is undertaking a comprehensive transport appraisal, in line with the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG), which involves exploring and assessing potential options for the specification of the next NIFS contract.

### *Development of a Financial Model for Compensating Commercial Operators on the Pentland Firth*

- This commissioned project (Contractor: PBA) is developing a methodology to compensate commercial operators participating in the fare reduction scheme on the Northern Isles Ferry Services network.

### *Appraisal of options for the Outer Hebrides Ferry Services*

- The appraisal will identify and evaluate strategic options for the long-term provision of services to, from and within the Outer Hebrides to assess potential changes to the current networks of routes and services and how appropriate and cost-effective vessels and shore side infrastructure could be provided (Contractor: PBA).

## **Rail**

### *Borders Railway - Year 2 Evaluation*

- This commissioned project (Contractor: PBA) has surveyed both users and non-users of the Borders Railway to understand more about their travel patterns and their perceptions of the service two years after its opening.
- The data from this study will be used to inform wider evaluation work of the project to ascertain whether it is meeting its key investment objectives.

## **Road works**

### *Analysis of Responses to the Consultation on Raising Standards and Improving the Quality of Road Works in Scotland*

- This commission (Contractor: KSO) analysed responses to a consultation on raising standards and improving the quality of road works in Scotland.
- The final report from this project will be published in early 2018.

## **Sustainable Transport**

### *Monitoring the Cycling Action Plan*

- The team continues to work with Cycling Scotland and Sustrans to ensure that cycling levels are accurately monitored in line with the recommendations of the plan.

## **Transport Policy**

### *Miscellaneous Transport Bill Consultation - Analysis of Responses to Consultations on Improving Delivery of Local Bus Services in Scotland, and The Future of Smart Ticketing*

- This commission (Contractor: Dialogue by Design) is analysing responses to the on-going consultations on proposals to improve the delivery of local bus services in Scotland, and the Future of Smart Ticketing which will be included in the Miscellaneous Transport Bill Consultation.