



Advising Scottish Ministers
on Accessible Travel

Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland

Annual Report



Convener's Introduction – Linda Bamford



This is the fourth annual report I have written as Convener of the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland (MACS).



MACS has worked to make sure:

- changes to transport are accessible and better for everyone.
- transport is Available, Accessible and Affordable to all (MACS triple A check).
- the voices of disabled people are heard particularly at meetings where plans are being made.



Our 6 new MACS members will bring new experience and ideas into the Committee.



I thank all the people and organisations who have supported us and who we have worked with this year.

2. What has changed because of coronavirus?



We have worked on new transport guidance for the public and for transport organisations.

Transport Scotland asked MACS to give information and be part of groups that have made changes to transport.

3. Workstream Leads Update



A lot of MACS work is done through workstreams.

Each has a person who is a Workstream Lead.

3 Workstream Leads have retired and one has left.

Planning and Strategy: David Hunter and Linda Bamford



The other Workstream Leads are on this team to make sure work links up.

The most important things that happened this year are:

- Giving information to national plans about transport changes.



- Making guidance for transport services about what disabled people need and want.
- Giving information to a report about changes to transport because of coronavirus.

National Transport Strategy 2

MACS members are on groups looking at this plan to make transport better.



Transport Scotland Analytical Team -

David and Linda met with the team to talk about collecting facts and figures on how disabled people travel.



Motability – MACS still think the Motability scheme does not give value for money.

Some of the profits should go back to customers every year.

MACS wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People about this.



The Accessible Vehicle scheme will be reviewed in Spring 2022.

It is hoped that Motability will not be the only company that can provide this service.

MACS suggested that bicycles should also be looked at as a mobility aid.



David talked to the Poverty and Inequality Commission about Motability.

They agree the scheme should be looked at to see if it is working well.



MACS will talk to Motability about electric vehicle charging and support for community transport.



David and Linda met with a group about the National Transport Strategy.

They talked about concessionary travel. Concessionary travel lets young people, people over 60 and disabled people have free or cheaper bus fares.



The meeting said all councils should have the same concessionary travel scheme for all kinds of transport.



MACS members have worked with groups looking at how spaces are designed to work well for everyone.

Ferries and Planes:

Hilary Stubbs supported by Linda Bamford and Naghat Ahmed.



Hilary is part of a group looking at the Gourock to Dunoon ferry.

Hilary gave information to an assessment about how island communities depend on ferry services.

The most important 2 things were:



1. How other transport like buses and trains link with ferries and planes. This can be difficult for disabled people.



2. Pets need to be booked before traveling on a ferry but assistance dogs do not.



Ardrossan harbour and new ferries have many things MACS wanted that support accessible travel.



Hilary worked with airports about passenger assistance and on what organisations get money to make ferries accessible.



Work started on the plan to keep islands connected.

Hilary worked with groups in Wales and Northern Ireland about how Brexit rules affect travel across borders.

Bus and Community Transport: Audrey Birt supported by Joanne Devitt.



Not many people are travelling by bus because of coronavirus.

Bus services must work with councils and health boards to make public transport work well for everyone.



Audrey is on a group working on transport in Grampian.

It links with MACS work on Transport to Health and Social Care and how to make this better.



There have been meetings with the Community Transport Association about future work.



Keith Robertson worked with the Energy Saving Trust on what will be difficult for community transport in the change to low emission vehicles.



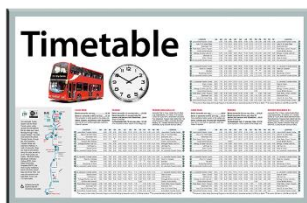
MACS think the Community Transport Association should be part of all planning meetings.



At the end of 2020 MACS sent a survey about taxi cards to all councils.

Not many councils answered.

We need to find better ways to use taxis and community transport.



Bus services in the countryside are still a problem.

Community Transport could help with this.

Roads, Infrastructure and Active Travel:

Keith Robertson supported by Susan Fulton, David Hunter, Naghat Ahmed, Michael Tornow, Fraser Sutherland and Joanne Devitt.



Keith asked the Scottish Roadwork Commissioner to ask companies to make sure road signs are on the road and not on the pavement so people have space for physical distancing.



Keith is on a group working on mobility and tactile paving which helps visual impaired people when walking.

He has helped the Department for Transport to change the guidance.

Roads for All Forum

This group talked about cycling and changes to streets.



MACS talked about wider spaces for people walking and wheeling so disabled people have good access.



E-Scooters

MACS will check to see how rules and about e-scooters will change in England and Wales after they had a consultation to ask people what they thought.



Cycling by Design

A group are working on new guidance.



Design of Town Centres and Busy Streets

MACS are an important part of this group and facts and figures were published in February this year.



Living Streets Walking Summit.

Keith gave a speech at this webinar.



Countryside For All Guide

MACS go to meetings about changing this guide.

It will be changed when there is money to do it.



Enterprise Scotland Challenge Fund

MACS have been part of assessments for this money.

It will look at how to make electric vehicle charging more accessible to disabled people.

Active Travel



MACS gave information to Spaces for People.

It looks at how to make spaces safe when people are walking, wheeling and cycling during the coronavirus pandemic.



David and Keith made and sent out MACS guidance on good access for councils planning temporary street measures.



Linda offered MACS support to Sustrans in their work about active travel and about physical distancing.



In June 2020 Susan went to the National Walking Forum.



Linda wants disabled people included in bike and ebike hire schemes.

MACS go to meetings about adapted bike share.



MACS helped the bike and wheelchair voucher repair scheme to change from £50 to £100.

Rail: Marsali Craig and Hussein Patwa supported by Fraser Sutherland, Michael Tornow and Susan Fulton.



Not many people are travelling by train because of coronavirus.

ScotRail services will be under Scottish Government control after March 2022.



Passenger Assistance

Rail companies got new guidance for passengers.

MACS told lots of people about it.



MACS are pleased that ScotRail worked hard to make sure safe passenger assistance was available.

People can now book ScotRail Passenger Assistance only an hour before they travel.



Mystery Shopping

This is when someone checks a service without letting staff know.

Transport Scotland want money to be spent on a mystery shop that includes people with hidden disabilities.

This work will start in 2021.



Minor Works Programme 2020-2021

MACS have given advice to ScotRail about this.

Trains that are not accessible have been taken off the Fife Circle line.



Edinburgh Trams Project

MACS gave important advice and information about the design of Part 2 of the Edinburgh Trams project.



Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations

These rules make sure public transport is safe.

The Department for Transport said some organisations do not have to follow the rules.



MACS tell train companies they must give accessible transport when train services are cancelled.



Office of Rail and Road

MACS is part of a group that looks at accessibility.



Rail Delivery Group

MACS go to a group that gives advice about the Passenger Assist booking app starting in 2021.



ScotRail Equalities Group

MACS have spoken to Transport Scotland and ScotRail about having equality assessments before changing guidance for passengers.



Development Day

The Development Day in August 2021 will be about rail travel.

Meetings with Scottish Government Ministers.

MACS met:



- Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Mr Michael Matheson.
- Minister for Older People and Equalities, Ms Christina McKelvie,
- Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, Mr Wheelhouse
- Minister for Public Health and Sport, Ms Mairi Gougeon.

The meetings were about:

Spaces for People Schemes and Equality Impact Assessments

Councils have not done assessments to see how changes affect people.

Disabled people have not been involved.



The Public Sector Equality Duty



In 2021 there will be a report to see if public services have treated people equally during the coronavirus pandemic.

MACS will give information to the report.



Taskforce for Human Rights

MACS will be sent a weblink to find out more about this work.



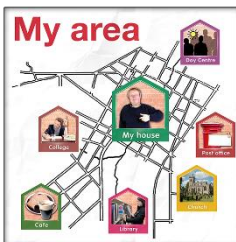
The National Islands Plan

The Minister's staff will work with MACS so they can give information to the plan for how this work happens.



Accessible Transport

Work to make sure people who live on the islands or in the countryside can get accessible transport when they need it and that all people have access to Health and Social Care Services



20 minute neighbourhoods and how they affect disabled people and older people.

These are places where residents have easy access to the places and services they use every day.



In June 2020 MACS members were invited by Jeremy Balfour MSP to a meeting of MSPs of all political parties.

It was a good chance to talk about MACS work.

5. Our Other Activity

Knowing Me, Knowing You – Team Sessions



These sessions were about:

- disabilities that cannot be seen
- how travel can be difficult for people with learning difficulties, and autistic people.
- the different kinds of deafness.

Development Days

Our August 2020 Development Day was cancelled.



We will have Development Days in April 2021 about inclusive travel from door to door, and in August 2021 about rail travel.

Scoping Day

The Cabinet Secretary for Transport, came to MACS Scoping Day.

We talked with him about:

- Active Travel and Spaces for People.

Councils must check guidance is working well.

MACS think the changes have made things harder for disabled people.

The Cabinet Secretary has asked staff to work with councils to make this better.



- Checking if transport plans are working well.

MACS will work with the Cabinet Secretary's staff on accessibility of public transport.



- Internet services, Traveline Scotland and bus services in the countryside all need to be made better for disabled people.

The Cabinet Secretary thanked MACS for working to tell Ministers about access and inclusion.

MACS are making a difference.





Linda has sent out the draft Strategic Plan for 2021-2024 and Work Plan

MACS think Transport Scotland should have a conference about accessible transport.

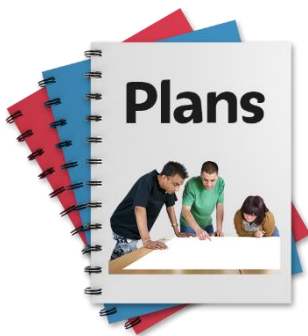
Four Nations Meetings

This meeting in October 2020 was about:



- Travel changes because of coronavirus
- Changes for people travelling with assistance dogs
- e-scooters, Motability, the Highway Code Review, and pavement parking
- The National Strategy for Disabled People.

Work we have found hard.



MACS asked for updates on:

- How it will be checked to see if accessible travel plans are working well.
- How to link with other work plans.



Programme for Government

MACS is pleased the Programme for Government has equality and human rights at the centre of all work and that it includes:

- **20-minute neighbourhoods –**

Transport Scotland had a webinar with Disability Equality Scotland about this.

We are working with the Alliance Scotland and Disability Equality Scotland to look more at this.



- **Active Travel**

MACS will keep asking for active travel to be accessible.

Cycling is not the only form of active travel and people who walk or wheel are not always included.



- **Low Emission Zones**

MACS will work to make sure disabled people can use these zones.

Some vehicles are stopped from being in the zones so the air is cleaner.





- **Review of Adult Social Care Services**

MACS thinks this is a good report.

Accessible and affordable transport is very important for people if their social care is not provided at home.



Traveline Scotland

MACS are pleased to see some improvements with Traveline Scotland.

Transport Scotland are having workshops about the app.



Public Service Vehicle Access Regulations

MACS are disappointed that some transport services do not have to follow these rules until 2021.

7. Meet our new Committee members



Graham Dunn, Pauline Kelly and Simon Watkins join on 1 May.

Ewan Mathieson, Lynsey Shovlin and Heather Still join on 1 October.



MACS Objectives - what we want to happen.



1. To work for a fair, accessible and inclusive Scotland as it says in the Programme for Government.



2. To work with Government Ministers so there is an accessible transport system.



3. To make sure Scottish Government and councils understand accessible public transport laws.



4. To ask organisations to get advice from MACS when making new policies, plans or contracts and to make sure they think about accessibility.



5. To look every year at how well the Accessible Travel Framework Delivery Plan and the National Transport Strategy are working and what needs to change.



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