TRANSPORT
SCOTLAND
CÒMHDHAIL **ALBA**

Call for Evidence
National Transport Strategy Review
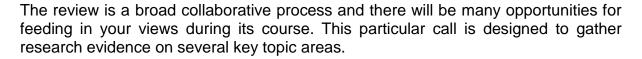Research and Evidence Working Group

April 2017

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1   Foreword

The National Transport Strategy (NTS) sets out the long term vision for transport policies in Scotland. As part of its on-going review, I am very pleased to be able to launch this 'Call for Evidence' on behalf of the NTS Review Research and Evidence Working Group.

The Research and Evidence Group's remit is to ensure the wider National Transport Strategy review process is informed by the best evidence available. We aim to support the review by providing as complete a view as possible on evidence pertinent to the strategic transport issues that Scotland faces, an aim that is crucial to supporting the policy making aspects of the review.

The review is a broad collaborative process and there will be many opportunities for feeding in your views during its course. This particular call is designed to gather research evidence on several key topic areas.

The Research and Evidence Group has deliberately defined the types of evidence we are interested in broadly; submissions from the academic, private, public and third sectors are all welcome. We are particularly interested in responses that take a balanced view on the evidence supporting responses to the questions we have posed, considering both its strengths and its limitations as they apply to the context in Scotland.

The Research and Evidence Group and I encourage you to participate in this call before it closes on 14 July 2017, and we look forward to reading your submissions.

Professor Jillian Anable
Leeds University (Chair)

On behalf of the National Transport Strategy Review Research and Evidence Working Group:

Professor Jillian Anable, Leeds University (Chair)
Professor John Nelson, University of Aberdeen
Professor Graham Parkhurst, University of the West of England
Professor Tom Rye, Edinburgh Napier University
John Galilee, Transport Scotland
Paul Junik, Transport Scotland
Douglas Krestoff, Transport Scotland
Rory Morrison, Transport Scotland

2   Context

The National Transport Strategy (NTS) Review

The National Transport Strategy (NTS) sets out the long-term vision for transport policies in Scotland up to around 2026. It was first published in 2006, and refreshed in 2016.

The 2016 refresh concluded that the strategic outcomes set out in the original 2006 NTS were still valid. The three outcomes were:

- improved journey times and connections, to tackle congestion and lack of integration and connections in transport

- reduced emissions, to tackle climate change, air quality, health improvement

- improved quality, accessibility and affordability, to give choice of public transport, better quality services and value for money, or alternative to car

The 2016 refresh noted that the constitutional and political landscape and context has changed significantly since 2006, including the devolution of further powers to the Scottish Parliament, a reinvigorated relationship between central and local government, and new approaches developed at both local and national levels for significant global challenges such as climate change.

The 2016 refresh also observed changes in the use of transport and its impacts, though in some areas, to less of an extent than was envisaged in 2006. It noted remarkable improvements in some long term trends, such as the reduction in road casualties, though also highlighted the continuing reliance upon cars and reduction in bus journeys.

The 2016 refresh concluded that, while the outcomes of the original NTS remained valid, the changing landscape brings them into sharper relief, raising new questions and challenges. These challenges, and other questions identified by the Research and Evidence Group, include:

- is the continuing decline in bus patronage a trend that will continue, or a trend that is amenable to change, if the right policy levers are pulled?

- will current levels of travel demand (and associated emissions) remain static or reduce, or will a strong economic rebound at some point impose new demands on the transport system and the environment, such as through increased car use?

- do we understand the mechanisms underpinning recent changes in car ownership and use by younger generations in Scotland and how should these trends inform transport policy over the next 20 years?

- to what extent will digital communications substitute or supplement surface and air trips in the future, and how can these trends be shaped by policy?

In order to better understand these issues, the 2016 refresh of the NTS also recommended that a fuller, collaborative review of the NTS should take place in this Scottish Parliamentary term.

The review was announced by the Minster for Transport and the Islands, Humza Yousaf MSP, in August 2016. The review of the NTS will set out an updated vision for what kind of transport we want for the whole of Scotland in 20 years' time and how we plan to get there. It will look at how we can successfully address the strategic challenges facing our transport network and how we can take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves.

Transport Scotland is committed to delivering a collaborative review of the NTS, by giving stakeholders and communities across Scotland a greater say in influencing the development of transport policy at a local, regional and national level.

You can read more about the review, and the NTS in general on the Transport Scotland website: www.transport.gov.scot/strategy/national-transport-strategy

The NTS review Research and Evidence Group

This call for evidence is being conducted by the Research and Evidence Group of the NTS review. The Research and Evidence Group comprises of independent academic experts and Transport Scotland officials, with a remit of ensuring the review is informed by the best available evidence.

Theme of the call for evidence

As part of the engagement approach being taken for the NTS review, the Research and Evidence Group is seeking evidence to inform the development of the strategy through this call. To influence strategic thinking on transport policy, we are seeking evidence, including international research, on **what transport policy, land use and technological or digital interventions would be most effective in supporting the Scottish Government's Strategic Objectives**[1]; delivering a transport system that enables Scotland to be wealthier and fairer, smarter, healthier, safer & stronger, and greener.

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[1] Scottish Government. Scotland Performs: National Performance Framework (NPF). Available from: www.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms

How the information provided during the call for evidence will be used

Information gathered during the call for evidence will be considered by the members of the Research and Evidence Group, with the aim of **summarising what the evidence says about the transport policy, land use and technological decisions and directions that are most likely to achieve the Scottish Government's strategic objectives.** It will inform the wider NTS review and also identify **gaps, conflicts and uncertainties** in the existing evidence that need to be resolved.

A summary of the input received from this call for evidence will be published on the Transport Scotland website in Autumn 2017. The Group may invite individuals or organisations who have submitted evidence to follow-up activity (for example, to provide further written contribution or to participate in any events being organised as part of the wider NTS review).

Other opportunities to contribute to the NTS review

Transport Scotland is committed to conducting the NTS review in partnership and collaboration, and also to carrying out a broad programme of engagement with stakeholders and communities in Scotland throughout the course of the review. An early engagement survey on the NTS ran from December 2016 until March 2017. An analysis of the results from this exercise will be shared on the Transport Scotland website.

From Summer 2017 onwards, a wide programme of more in-depth engagement will commence, including stakeholder events and engagement activity making use of online/digital channels, culminating in a full public consultation on the draft strategy.

3   Questions

The questions that the NTS Research and Evidence Group has devised to assist stakeholders in formulating their response to this call for evidence are below.

Before responding to the questions, the Group would be grateful if you review the notes below on the kind of evidence we are seeking.

What do we mean by evidence?

The Group acknowledges that evidence can take many forms, and as such this call is not constrained to evidence published academically. Submissions of evidence from within or outside Scotland originating from the public, private, or third sectors are all welcome. However, the Group **particularly values responses** that:

- provide **complete references to the underlying evidence** supporting the responses to the questions that follow

- prioritise evidence that is **relevant to the questions being asked**

- **consider the relevancy of international evidence** to the context in Scotland

- describe **what we don't know, or what doesn't work** (in the case of an intervention), in addition to documenting what we know

- consider whether potential responses to the issue in question **differ by location or context** (e.g. urban/rural contrasts)

- consider whether the issue has **different impacts across the social gradient** from least to most affluent

- include evidence from **systematic reviews**, or otherwise synthesised results from a body of literature in addition to isolated single studies

- include scenario and forecasting studies

- consider and comment on the quality of the evidence being cited, including the sample sizes used and the presence of any control group or follow-up study

By implication, the Group is **less interested** in responses that:

- are primarily 'opinion' or 'think pieces' citing limited evidence

- cite supporting evidence *incompletely* (i.e. so it cannot readily be located or scrutinised)

- focus narrowly on one or a small number of issues that are of limited wider strategic relevance

Call for evidence questions

Economic growth and inclusive growth

1. What does evidence say about the ways in which transport can best support economic growth and do so in a cost-effective way? What are the implications of this in terms of *inclusive* economic growth (economic growth that distributes its benefits fairly across society)?

Transport mode choice and demand

2. To what degree are travel behaviours such as mode choice (including freight transport) and demand amenable to intervention? Which policy interventions change behaviours or demand and why? What does research tell us about the types of interventions that fail to change behaviours, particularly over the long term?

Environmental impact of transport

3. What does evidence suggest the most effective means of reducing transport's local (air quality) and global (climate change) emissions are? How have other countries reduced the environmental impact of transport and to what degree are any such measures also likely to be successful in Scotland? When are routes to reducing carbon emissions from transport also consistent with tackling air quality issues, and when are they not?

Active travel (e.g. walking and cycling)

4. What does the evidence suggest are the best ways to achieve improved health outcomes from active travel? What are the most important constraining factors to the uptake of active travel that can be targeted by policy in the Scottish context?

Safe and resilient* transport

5. What are the current and emerging risks to the safe operation and resilience of Scotland's transport network and what does evidence say about the ways in which these risks can be best managed? What does evidence tell us about what adaptation measures (in response to environmental, or other, changes) may be effective to respond to changing pressures on the network?

the capacity to plan for, respond to and recover from negative impacts

Transport governance

6. What does evidence say the most effective forms of governance and institutional arrangements around transport might be, in order to meet the Scottish Government's strategic objectives?

Potential changes in society and technology

7. In the next 20 years, what will be the most significant changes and new technologies influencing the way people live, work and consume that will impact on travel behaviour and demand? Are there examples of places that have already experienced some of this change and therefore provide evidence on how travel behaviour might change in Scotland? How can uncertainties about the future be robustly considered in transport strategy development?

4   How to respond

Format

Please ensure that submission provide a relevant written response explicitly addressing some or all of the preceding questions, rather than supplying supporting evidence alone (e.g. a list of research) without reference to how it addresses the questions posed.

A relevant written response could take the format of a relatively short email responding briefly to the call questions with links to further background evidence, but could equally be a longer analysis if preferred. However, respondents to this call are requested to keep their submissions **to no more than 10 pages of substantive text** (excluding any lists of references, supporting/supplementary material, or the full text of studies provided in support of submissions).

Submissions are preferred electronically in MS Word format, or failing that in portable document (.pdf) format, sent to the email address below. Hard copies of submissions may be provided, by exception, by posting them to the address below.

How to submit

Please provide submissions to the details below **by the closing date for this call for evidence of Friday 14 July 2017.** Electronic submissions can be emailed to NTSreview@transport.gov.scot

Hard copies can be sent to:

> NTS Review Call for Evidence
> Transport Strategy Unit, 7th floor
> Buchanan House,
> 58 Port Dundas Road
> Glasgow
> G4 0HF

How we may use your submission

The NTS review Research and Evidence Group may publish part or in whole any submissions received. If you wish all or part of your submission to remain confidential, please inform us when submitting. Please be aware that Transport Scotland is subject to the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 which, along with other applicable legislation, may require the release of information submitted during this call.

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Further copies of this document are available, on request, in audio and visual formats and in
community languages. Any enquiries regarding this document / publication should be
sent to us at NTSreview@transport.gov.scot

This document is also available on the Transport Scotland website: www.transport.gov.scot
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