

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport Delivering for East Renfrewshire



Introduction

Welcome to "Strathclyde Partnership for Transport: Delivering for East Renfrewshire". In this report you will find out more about Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) and what we do across the west of Scotland, and specifically within East Renfrewshire. The report covers the period from 2017/18 to now and into the future, and is structured as follows: About SPT: Who We Are, What We Do; The changing context for transport; The importance of SPT's regional role; Delivering for East Renfrewshire: SPT Operational Activities; SPT Investing in East Renfrewshire; Working in Partnership; and finally, Looking to the Future, which considers upcoming challenges and priorities, and highlights some "asks" of our partners.





Some images in this document supplied courtesy of East Renfrewshire Council.



SPT: who we are...

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) is the Regional Transport Partnership for the west of Scotland. SPT was formed in 2006 as an outcome of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005, and as part of the new transport framework created by the Scottish Government, which is made up of a national transport agency, Transport Scotland and seven Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs). RTPs bring together local authorities and other key regional stakeholders to take a strategic approach to transport in their region. SPT's Partnership Board is made up of elected members from across its constituent councils along with appointed members with specific knowledge of transport and other sectors.

The SPT area comprises the following council areas: East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and the Helensburgh and Lomond area of Argyll and Bute. Our area covers 7,000 sq. km and is home to 2.2 million people (around 42% of Scotland's population) living in localities which range from rural and island communities to the most densely populated urban areas of Scotland.

...and what we do

SPT's role involves planning and delivering improvements for all modes of transport across the region in conjunction with our constituent councils, industry partners and others. SPT is at the centre of the region's transport planning, analysing travel needs and developing the transport system now and for the future. One of SPT's key responsibilities is preparation of the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), with a new one currently in development. SPT also has a range of operational responsibilities, some of which are undertaken on an agency basis on behalf of councils or through administrative support, including:

- Managing and operating the Subway;
- Managing and operating Buchanan, East Kilbride and Hamilton bus stations;
- The provision of socially necessary bus services, including the demand responsive transport service, MyBus, and analysing changes in commercial provision to determine any additional support requirements;
- Managing and maintaining bus stop and shelter infrastructure and arranging school transport on behalf of councils;
- Providing travel information, including the roll-out of Real-Time Passenger Information (RTPI) displays;
- Providing the secretariat for the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme (SCTS) on behalf of our councils and administering ZoneCard on behalf of participating transport operators; and
- Smartcard ticketing, through our joint venture, Nevis Technologies Limited, the major supplier of commercial smart ticketing in Scotland including for the Subway, ScotRail and McGill's buses.

In line with the RTS and local priorities, another key role for SPT is working with councils and other partners in developing and delivering capital infrastructure projects. Since 2017, SPT has invested £158 million in capital projects across our area, including £114 million on Subway Modernisation. £39 million capital investment is budgeted for the current financial year. Over the same time period, we have invested £58 million revenue funding in supporting bus services and undertaken £155 million of agency work on behalf of our councils.

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The changing context for transport

Over the last 5 years, transport in the west of Scotland has experienced a significantly shifting context, with the primary drivers of this change being responding to both the climate emergency and the Covid-19 pandemic. The latter in particular has resulted in a seismic shift in travel patterns and demand, with public transport patronage down, car use going up, bringing with it, significant challenges for the planning, operation and sustainability of our public transport network. The post-Covid future continues to remain very unclear at this stage, but travel demand and behaviours are likely to be affected by the pandemic for some time to come. What is certain is sustainable transport must be at the heart of any green economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The hosting of COP26 in Glasgow gave a global profile to our region, and expectations are high for positive change to achieve ambitious climate targets. While much has been achieved over recent years in transitioning towards a net zero future – e.g. growth in electric bus fleets and increased rates of walking and cycling – transport remains the biggest contributing sector for harmful emissions in Scotland. Addressing this challenge over the coming years will require transformational change in how we travel.

At a strategic level, there has been a welcomed greater recognition of transport's role in our health and wellbeing, and its contribution to place-making. Furthermore, changes in technology and how we use it, more people working from home, legislative changes through the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 (facilitating franchising, municipal bus operation and bus partnerships) and forthcoming initiatives such as the introduction of free bus travel for under-22s from January 2022, are just some of the other factors contributing to the shifting landscape for transport in our region both now and in the future.

The importance of SPT's regional role

The cross-council boundary nature of transport and travel in the west of Scotland, coupled with the pull of the conurbation and sub-regional towns and villages, results in a complex range of travel needs and behaviours which need to be understood, planned for, influenced, and accommodated, particularly at a regional level. Best practice from across the UK and Europe shows that to ensure your region performs well economically, environmentally and in an inclusive way, a strong regional approach to transport is essential. SPT provides that bridge between the local and the national bringing together key partners, including Transport Scotland, transport operators, local authorities, health boards and above all the public in seeking to ensure our transport system is the best it can be.

SPT's Partnership Board and committees serve to ensure democratic oversight and accountability over transport planning and service delivery in the west of Scotland, making sure that the needs of our communities are catered for in an efficient and effective way. Given the wide range of significant challenges we face, the integrated, co-ordinated and collaborative approach to regional transport, facilitated by SPT, remains more important than ever.

Delivering for East Renfrewshire: SPT Operational Activities

SPT's activities support the regional transport network to the benefit of all residents who travel across the area, for example, our investment in Glasgow benefits residents who may live in another council area but travel to the city for work or leisure, and we continue to deliver a range of services in East Renfrewshire and across the region either directly or on behalf of councils. While the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in significant impacts on our operational activities due to reduced travel demand, the majority of services were maintained to ensure transport remained in place for key workers and those making essential trips. The figures below provide some detail on SPT operations over recent years.



SPT Operational activity



5.1m bus station departures

Across Buchanan, Hamilton, East Kilbride, Greenock, Braehead and Silverburn (SPT management of departures at Greenock ended in 2019)



supported bus services accross Strathclyde

Around 200 supported bus services run by around 20 operators on behalf of SPT 8 supported services operating in East Renfrewshire (see appendix for details)



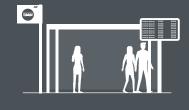
43.7m Subway journeys undertaken since 2017 (80% reduction in journeys in 2020/21 compared to the previous year, due to the pandemic)



MyBus services operate across the west of Scotland 38,000 trips scheduled on MyBus in East Renfrewshire (Since January 2019)



local bus contract and operator inspections in East Renfrewshire (Since August 2018)



472

pole-mounted information cases maintained **13** Real-Time Passenger Information displays and, **26** new bus shelters installed

SPT agency activity on behalf of East Renfrewshire Council

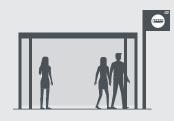


school children carried to and from school each day Across an average of 50 contracts



379

inspections of school transport have taken place to ensure the safety of school children



372 bus stops maintained in East Renfrewshire 206 shelters maintained

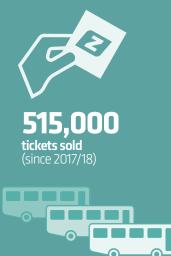


2,045 disabled persons National Entitlement Card (NEC) renewals

359 first time applications processed (70% reduction in first time applications in 2020/21 compared to the previous year, due to the pandemic)

Administrative activities

SPT administers the SPT ZoneCard on behalf of participating rail, Subway and bus operators, helping East Renfrewshire residents to save money when making multi-modal/multi-operator journeys.



£37m revenue to operators (since 2017/18)



1.4m weeks of travel sold (since 2017/18)

76% reduction in tickets and 79% reduction in no. of weeks sold in 2020/21 compared to the previous year.

Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme



SPT administers SCTS on behalf of East Renfrewshire Council and the 11 other SPT local authorities. The scheme provides eligible East Renfrewshire residents reduced fares on rail and Subway. The cost to local authorities of operating the scheme over the last 5 years has totalled £18.6 million. An estimated 25,000 East Renfrewshire residents hold an NEC, allowing for SCTS discounts.

SPT: Investing in East Renfrewshire

SPT receives capital funding each year from the Scottish Government which we invest in regional projects benefiting those travelling throughout the west of Scotland, as well as projects in council areas, through grants to our constituent local authorities. Examples of regional projects SPT has invested in over recent years include the Subway Modernisation project, our ongoing bus stop and shelter upgrade programme, Real-Time Passenger Information roll-out, enhancements to key interchange locations including those at Motherwell, Govan and Partick, and the refurbishment of Buchanan Bus Station.

Between 2017 and 2021, SPT has provided £1.830 million of capital funding to East Renfrewshire Council to support a range of sustainable transport projects, and in 2021/22, capital funding totalling £0.500 million¹ was awarded to the Council to support the continued delivery of these projects. A breakdown showing SPT's five-year transport investment in East Renfrewshire is provided in Table 2 in the appendix and further information on key projects is given below:

Investing in Bus Infrastructure

High quality bus infrastructure not only helps improve the passenger experience but also helps make buses more attractive, more accessible to users and encourages more people to travel by bus, thereby supporting passenger growth. A capital investment by SPT over the last 5 years has supported delivery of high-quality bus infrastructure across the East Renfrewshire. Since 2017, SPT has invested £525,000 in East Renfrewshire to help the Council deliver a series of targeted bus improvements.

Funding has helped deliver new and upgraded bus shelters; high access kerbs to help wheelchair users, people with pushchairs and those with reduced mobility to board and alight from buses more easily; buildouts and laybys to help the bus movement and Real-Time Passenger Information displays to provide bus users with timetable information.

SPT's investment has benefitted a number of local areas in East Renfrewshire including, Giffnock, Clarkston, Newton Mearns, Barrhead and Thornliebank, creating a more attractive environment for bus passengers, helping encourage more sustainable travel choices.

Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements

SPT continues to demonstrate commitment to improving active travel routes and to promoting walking, wheeling and cycling sustainable mode choices by funding active travel infrastructure across the west of Scotland. Since 2017, investment of £1.148 million by SPT has supported the Council in the ongoing delivery of its pedestrian and cycle improvements and A77 Strategic Cycle Corridor projects.

SPT's funding has supported the delivery of projects that improve walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure, including paths and lanes, pedestrian crossings, and other general improvements to the pedestrian environment.

The Council has also focused SPT investment on a number of local projects across the area designed to help pedestrians and cyclists get about more easily and safely. These measures have included new footway links in Barrhead, Clarkston and Newton Mearns; footway widening in Newton Mearns and Barrhead; installation of a zebra crossing in Newton Mearns; traffic calming measures on Glasgow Road, Waterfoot; puffin crossings in Newton Mearns, Barrhead, Eaglesham and Giffnock; and cycle path improvements on Stewarton Road, Newton Mearns.

A77 Strategic Cycle Corridor

SPT is supporting the Council in its ambitions to deliver the A77 Strategic Cycle Corridor project which will see over 5 kilometres of high-quality segregated walking and cycling infrastructure being introduced along the A77 road from Maidenhill to beyond Eastwood Toll roundabout linking to the Glasgow City boundary.

SPT funding of \pm 300,000 in 2021/22 enabled construction works to start on the first phase of the project which will improve the existing shared-use path between North Hillhead Road and the M77 overbridge.

Phase 2 of the project is due to get underway in 2022/23 and will deliver high-quality segregated walking and cycling infrastructure and public spaces between the M77 overbridge and the Malletsheugh roundabout, close to Mearns Primary School. This phase will also look at options for Malletsheugh roundabout in order to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists as well as help improve traffic flow.

The Council launched an online consultation in December 2021 asking people for their views on the proposals and will continue to engage with the local community and businesses as the project is developed over future years.

Park and Ride

Park and Ride facilities have an important role in promoting sustainable travel choices and help reduce the need for longer journey distances by car. Since 2017, SPT has provided funding of \pounds 657,000 towards the design and delivery of park and ride facilities in East Renfrewshire.

An investment of \pounds 600,000 by SPT helped the Council design and build a 50-space extension to the existing park and ride in Barrhead bringing the total capacity at the station to around 150 spaces.

The car park is built on the former training ground of the town's Arthurlie Football Club. With SPT funding, the site was purchased by the Council who had identified an opportunity to address parking issues more widely across the town. The car park was completed in November 2020 and includes an environmentally beneficial sustainable drainage system (SuDS). The extension has benefitted Barrhead residents by reducing on-street parking demand in surrounding residential streets.

Community Transport

In addition to capital investment, SPT has committed revenue funding to improve Community Transport (CT) in East Renfrewshire. CT operators deliver vital transport to local communities and voluntary groups, particularly for older people, disabled people and people on low incomes. CT services are designed to promote and support the delivery of high quality, reliable and accessible transport to communities across the SPT area and have supported communities through the pandemic including through access to vaccination centres. Since 2017, SPT has provided a total of £110,000, through annual grants, to Community Transport East Renfrewshire to support vehicle running and staff-related costs, allowing for the continued affordable provision of their services.

Community Transport East Renfrewshire provides transport to local voluntary and community groups and helps facilitate shopping and leisure trips for older people disabled people in East Renfrewshire. They also operate a volunteer car scheme which provides transport to take patients to GP, clinic and hospital appointments.













Working in Partnership

As a partnership body, SPT understands and values the benefits of strong partnership working, and we continually strive to ensure collaboration with and between our member councils, transport operators, Transport Scotland and other key stakeholders. The nature of our transport network necessitates this; for example, buses run by commercial operators or supported by SPT use public roads maintained by councils. Partnership working is therefore at the heart of what we do. Through building strong and effective relationships, we work with councils and a wide range of other partners to progress the delivery of capital projects, upgrade infrastructure, support planning and regeneration, support access to healthcare initiatives, and other initiatives, working collectively through such forums as the City Region Transport and Connectivity Group, the Regional Active Travel Group and the SPT/Councils Liaison Group meetings. SPT is also a member of the East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board. Our activities support the Board's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priority for transport links that are accessible, attractive and seamless to support improved employability, mental health and wellbeing, reduced social isolation, loneliness and increased safety.

Responding to Covid-19

Partnership working has been enhanced during the Covid-19 pandemic, with SPT working alongside councils, health boards and transport operators to ensure the travel needs of key workers were met and that access to vaccination centres for residents was available. Working with Traveline Scotland, a 24-hour local telephone hotline was provided to support travel to vaccination centres, and within the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde area, a multi-agency liaison group was established to respond to the rapidly changing situation and needs. The group, facilitated by SPT, comprised operators and representatives from the NHS and local authorities.

Throughout summer and autumn 2020 the Glasgow City Region Transport Transition Plan Group, comprising the eight Glasgow City Region councils, SPT, and jointly chaired by Transport Scotland and Glasgow City Council, met regularly to ensure co-ordination as we moved through the various stages of lockdown. This group provided a forum to address the challenges faced by the transport network during the Covid-19 pandemic while keeping partners informed to ensure a co-ordinated response. The group was instrumental in supporting delivery of Spaces for People active travel projects and the successful securing of £1.8 million Bus Priority Rapid Deployment Funding from Transport Scotland.

Further details on SPT's response to the pandemic can be found in our <u>Annual Report 2020/21</u>.

Looking to the Future

The key challenges of stimulating a green economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, achieving national climate targets, and more fundamentally, getting people back onboard public transport, means it is more important than ever that partners in the west of Scotland work together to improve our transport network, promote behaviour change towards more sustainable modes, and help create better places and opportunities for all. On-going investment in our transport network will continue to provide connections that are accessible, attractive and seamless in support of improved employability, mental health and wellbeing, reduced social isolation, loneliness and increased safety.

This section takes a look at some key workstreams underway which could help facilitate the above, and ends with some "asks" of partners as we move into the future.

Delivery

SPT will continue to play a key role in delivering improvements to the region's transport network and positive progress is expected in our own projects and initiatives, such as the next stages of the Subway Modernisation programme, developments in smart ticketing, including the roll-out of smart ZoneCard, and the review of our MyBus demand responsive transport service. We also remain focused on our 'day job', including the provision of socially necessary bus services where there is no commercial provision, the MyBus service for people for whom accessing mainstream bus services is difficult, the management and maintenance of bus stops, shelters and Real-Time Passenger Information displays and the roll-out of new bus information standards to ensure accurate and consistent information provision across the region, the provision of school transport, the operation of bus stations, continued support for Community Transport and much more.

Capital Investment

In East Renfrewshire, through our capital programme and over the coming year, we look forward to supporting the Council in completing the first phases of the A77 Strategic Cycle Corridor project.

We will work with the Council as they look to develop future phases of this important active travel corridor and will input into the optioneering and consultation stages, ensuring that the project meets the needs of local residents, businesses and complements existing transport provision in the area. Furthermore, we will continue to explore opportunities with the Council to expand walking, wheeling and cycling provision across East Renfrewshire through our ongoing investment in pedestrian and cycling improvements.

We will continue supporting bus infrastructure improvements across East Renfrewshire and in particular, will look to expand our investment in new and upgraded shelters and the installation of high access kerbs. We will work with the Council to explore opportunities for expanding the number of Real-Time Passenger Information displays across the council area. In particular, we look forward to working with Transport Scotland and councils across the region in taking forward the Clyde Metro proposal set out in the Strategic Transport Projects Review.

Regional Transport Strategy

The new Regional Transport Strategy and the Delivery Plan which flows from it will set the policy framework, targets and strategic programme of projects and initiatives for all partners in the west of Scotland for the next 20 years. Development of the new RTS is well underway, with councils and other partners having been fully involved in the process to date. The Draft RTS will be published for a 12-week consultation over summer 2022, and following that, and upon approval by SPT's Partnership Board, will be submitted to Scottish Ministers when, if approved, it will become a statutory document.

Strategic Transport Projects Review 2

Transport Scotland's second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) sets out a high-level, strategic programme for national level investment in major transport projects over the next 20 years. SPT and council partners have been heavily involved in the development process, and the draft STPR2 has now been published for a 12-week consultation. This, along with the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) will help set in place a framework for positive growth in sustainable transport over coming years. Key measures in the STPR2 include the Clyde Metro and measures to stimulate growth in bus and rail.

Bus Partnership Fund

The £500million, five-year Bus Partnership Fund (BPF) announced by Transport Scotland in 2019 presents a huge opportunity to deliver a much needed step-change in bus services, standards and infrastructure for the people and communities of the west of Scotland. Following announcement of successful bids to the first round of the BPF, work is now underway developing business cases for future investment and delivering projects on the ground. In line with Transport Scotland guidance, new Bus Partnerships in Glasgow City Region and in Ayrshire are also developing, providing forums for a new level of partnership working across the industry and indeed, other provisions of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 in addition to Bus Service Improvement Partnerships (BSIPs) are ready to be explored if necessary.

Continuing changing context

There are also a range of other changes happening in transport in 2022, such as the new Scottish Government-managed ScotRail taking over operation of the rail network from April. These changes, plus ongoing work in relation to initiatives like the Glasgow City Region City Deal, the Ayrshire Growth Deal and the Argyll and Bute Rural Growth Deal and projects from and bids to the new Levelling Up Fund, mean that the transport landscape is evolving at pace, and it is essential that any positive momentum is maintained if we are collectively to address such challenges as those noted earlier.



SPT's "Asks" of Partners

In March 2020, SPT's Chair and Vice-Chairs published their vision of the future of transport in our region – the "Transport for Strathclyde" report. This sought to stimulate debate about key issues in light of the new Regional Transport Strategy being developed. That debate will naturally continue and SPT believes it is an essential part of the process of positive change. In that spirit, and in concluding this report, SPT would like to put forward three "asks" of partners in the west of Scotland as we move into the future:

1 Help us build a strong project pipeline

SPT and councils have an impressive track record of project delivery across the west of Scotland over many years but we need to do more. In seeking to deliver our current and developing new Regional Transport Strategy and Local Transport Strategies, we need a strong project pipeline from early project development through to any "quick wins" or "shovel ready" schemes. SPT stands ready to assist where necessary in helping partners come forward with future ideas which deliver the change our region needs and deserves.

2 Let's take partnership working to a new level

Transport can seem a complex business and there are a wide range of organisations involved in policy, planning, project delivery and operations across the west of Scotland, so partnership working is an essential part of any future success. While there are many good examples over recent years, the sheer scale of some of the challenges we collectively face, from achieving climate change targets, to getting people back onboard public transport after the pandemic, means that how we work together in future needs to go to the next level. SPT looks forward to increasing its engagement with partners over 2022 to explore how we can make that happen.

3 Resources – Let's make the most of what we've got

A lack of funding is a key challenge which has faced the transport sector for many years now. But the time has come to face it head on – are there new sources of funding we can attain? Are there ways we can do the "day job" even better, more efficiently, smarter? Can we jointly resource some activities, both in terms of finance and staff? Is there opportunity for cross-discipline, inter-organisation approaches in fields such as planning, regeneration, economic development, climate change and transport, or for specific projects? SPT believes that these are questions which now, more than ever, we need to develop a collective response to and look forward to increasing dialogue with partners in that regard in the near future.

(11)

SPT hope that you have found this report useful in understanding how we are Delivering for East Renfrewshire. If you have any follow-up queries or comments, please direct them to <u>enquiry@spt.co.uk</u> and visit <u>www.spt.co.uk</u> for updates on our work.

Appendix

Table 1: SPT supported bus services operating in East Renfrewshire, September 2021.

Service no	Route	Operator	Support	Operating Area	
29	Newton Mearns - Mansewood - Shawlands	JMB Travel	Full Support	Operates to Glasgow City	
29A	Shawlands - Hillpark	JMB Travel	Full Support	Operates to Glasgow City	
49	Silverburn - Shawlands	West Coast Motors	Full Support	Operates to Glasgow City	
103	Glasgow - Barrhead	PVT Transfer	Full Support	Operates to Glasgow City	
129	Shawlands - Mansewood - Glasgow City Centre	JMB Travel	Full Support	Operates to Glasgow City	
166	Neilston - Paisley - Gallowhill	McGill's Bus Services	Full Support	Operates to Glasgow City	
374	Shawlands - Clarkston - Silverburn	McGill's Bus Services	Full Support	Operates to Glasgow City	
395	East Kilbride - Uplawmoor	McGill's Bus Service	Full Support	Operates to South Lanarkshire	

Project	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	Total spend	21/22 Grant Award	
		£000's					
A77 Strategic Cycle Corridor						300	
Barrhead Park & Ride Extension	92	40	10	515	657		
Bus Infrastructure Improvements	109	164	152	50	475	50	
Pedestrian and Cycling Improvements	4	330	264	100	698	150	
Total	205	534	426	665	1,830	500	



Partnership members (As of 1 December 2021)

(As of I December 202

Dr Martin Bartos Chair, Glasgow City Council Independent

Alan Moir Vice Chair, East Dunbartonshire Labour

David Wilson Vice Chair, Inverclyde Scottish Conservative and Unionist

Malcolm Balfour Glasgow City Council SNP

Greg Beecroft Appointed Member

Richard Bell Glasgow City Council SNP

Colin Cameron North Lanarkshire Council Scottish Conservative and Unionist

Graham Campbell Glasgow City Council SNP

Ian Cochrane South Ayrshire Council SNP

Maureen Devlin South Lanarkshire Council Labour

Jenna Dickson Appointed Member

Jim Finn West Dunbartonshire Council SNP

Provost Jim Fletcher East Renfrewshire Council Labour

Anne Follin Appointed Member William Goldie North Lanarkshire Council SNP

Graham Hardie Argyll and Bute Council Liberal Democrats

Dr George Hazel Appointed Member

Graham Johnston Appointed Member

Ed McGrachan Appointed Member

Marie McGurk Renfrewshire Council SNP

James McNally Appointed Member

Michael McPake North Lanarkshire Council Labour

Richard Nelson South Lanarkshire Council Scottish Conservative and Unionist

Donald Reid North Ayrshire Council Labour

Anna Richardson Glasgow City Council SNP

Jim Roberts East Ayrshire Council SNP

David Shearer South Lanarkshire Council SNP

Andrew Walters Appointed Member

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport 131 St. Vincent Street Glasgow G2 5JF

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