
Project Name: Grangemouth STAG Transport Appraisal Study – Community Engagement Briefing Note
Date: March 11, 2024
Subject: Community Engagement Briefing Note

Introduction

Falkirk Council has long recognised several of the transport challenges facing Grangemouth, for residents and those who travel to the town to work, but also for business based in the town. In response to the opportunities presented by the Falkirk Growth Deal, Forth Ports Green Freeport and evolving industrial base, the Council is seeking to establish an evidence base and strategic framework within which future transport investment proposals can be developed.

Falkirk Council has commissioned a consultancy team formed of Stantec UK Ltd, ProVersa Ltd and AllanRail to produce a transport appraisal study. This study will consider Grangemouth's transport requirements both now and, in the future.

The study will be produced in accordance with the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG). This is a framework produced by Transport Scotland within which all transport investment proposals must be developed.

This study will initially involve the production of a 'Case for Change' which is the first stage of the STAG process. This will entail establishing and evidencing key transport-related problems and opportunities experienced by those who live in Grangemouth, travel to the town or whose business is located there. This will be followed by the development of Transport Planning Objectives (TPOs) Grangemouth which effectively define the outcomes sought from any investment, e.g., reduced journey times, improved public transport connectivity etc.

Following the completion of the 'Case for Change,' we will generate a 'long list' of transport options for Grangemouth. These will be wide-ranging and cover all modes of transport including walking, wheeling and cycling, road and rail freight and public transport.

Principally the study will determine:

- **Why** transport improvements are needed within and to/from Grangemouth, with reference to local problems and opportunities; and
- **What** the future potential transport improvements within and to / from Grangemouth could be.

This briefing note summarises our study approach and how you can contribute.

Background

A map outlining the extent of the study area (in red) is shown overleaf in Figure 1.

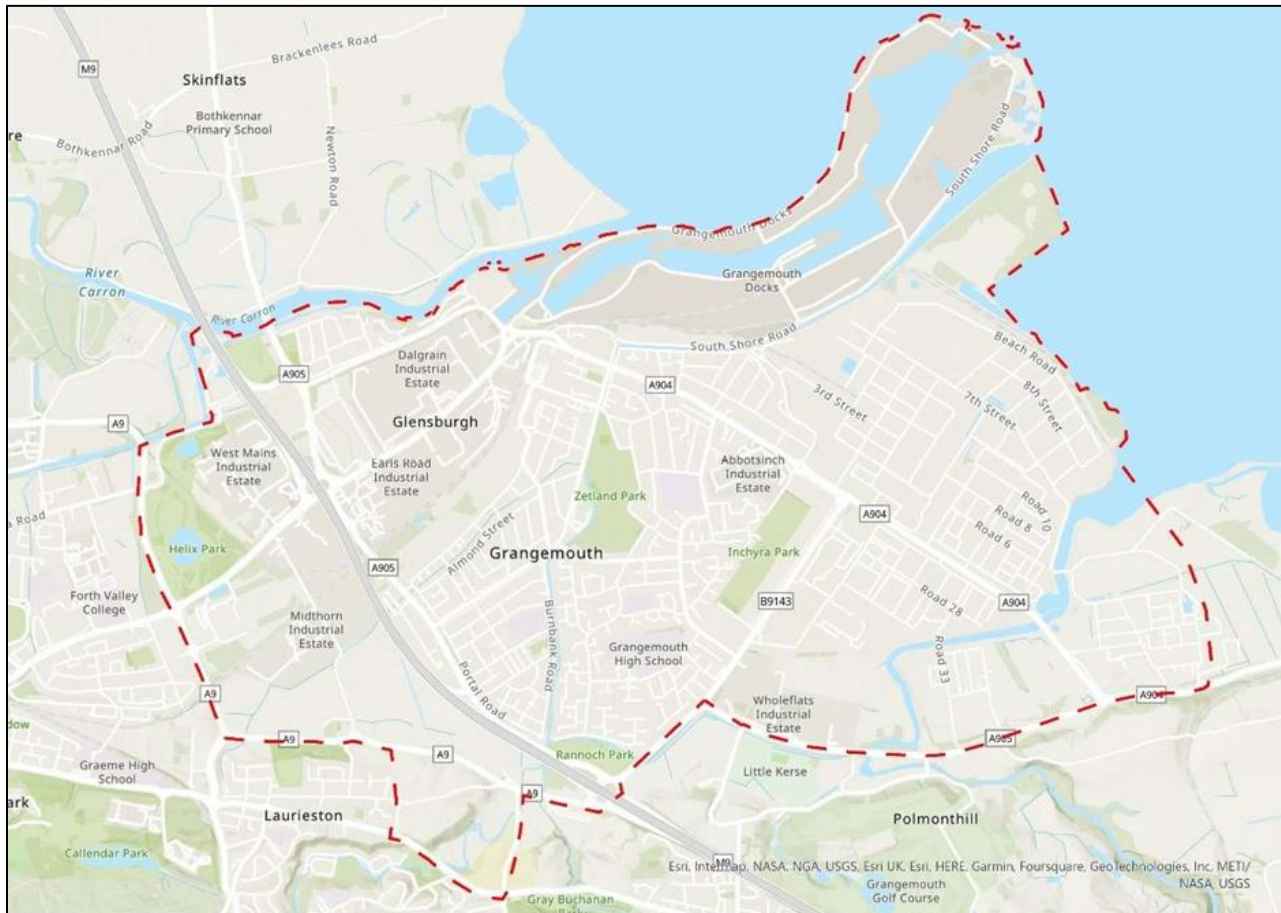


Figure 1: Study area boundary (shown in red)

The town is the second largest settlement in the Falkirk Council area with around 16,000 residents and hosts one of the most foremost industrial complexes in Scotland. This principally includes the refinery and petrochemical complex and Grangemouth Port. In addition, there is a wider employment base including inter-modal freight terminals and several distribution, manufacturing, and office sites.

Existing Transport Situation

From a walking, wheeling, and cycling perspective, Grangemouth is served by National Cycle Route 76 which crosses the town and connects to Bo’ness approximately 5km to the east. There is active travel infrastructure at the Cadger’s Brae and Earl’s Gate Roundabouts whilst there is a shared walking, wheeling and cycling route next to the River Carron which connects to the The Kelpies and Helix Park. An underpass is also accessible via Primrose Avenue which connects to off-road paths towards Falkirk.

McGill’s operates most bus services in Grangemouth which includes Services 2, 2A, 3 and 4 which connect the town to Falkirk, Larbert and Bo’ness. Grangemouth has a railway

which is frequently used by freight trains to access three freight terminals including one at Grangemouth Port and within the Petroineos site. There are no passenger railway stations within Grangemouth, with the nearest rail stations located at Polmont and Falkirk Grahamston which are located approximately 3.5km and 4km from the town centre, respectively.

Grangemouth is located to the north east of the M9 which can be accessed via the Cadger's Brae Roundabout (Junction 5) and Earl's Gate Roundabout (Junction 6). The Earl's Gate Roundabout does not have a southbound on-slip on to the M9 or a northbound off-slip from the M9. This means traffic routing on the M9 to and from Edinburgh must use the Cadger's Brae Roundabout to access Grangemouth. In addition, Junction 5 has a staggered arrangement whereby traffic leaving the M9 southbound carriageway joins the A905 via a signal-controlled junction rather than joining the local road network directly at the Cadger's Brae Roundabout. The A904 runs through the town centre which connects to Falkirk and Bo'ness whilst also serving as the main access route to key destinations such as Grangemouth Port and Petroineos.

Study Method and STAG Process

As noted above, this study will be delivered in accordance with STAG. This will include the development of a 'Case for Change' followed by devising a long-list of potential transport improvement options. The study will comprise of the following key stages:

1. **Evidence Base Analysis:** This will involve an examination of all key evidence to establish a 'Case for Change'. This will consider evidence from a wide range of sources including a review of relevant policies, consideration of the existing transport network condition, usage, and capacity, and analysing current travel behaviour to and from the town.
2. **Stakeholder and Community Engagement:** We will hold discussions including with local businesses and organisations, principally to understand what people think about transport in and around the town and how it could be improved in the future. We will also seek the views of people who live or work in Grangemouth through an online survey and a public drop-in event.
3. **Transport Problems and Transport Planning Objective Development:** We will collate the transport problems which will then be used to identify overarching Transport Planning Objectives to guide how transport infrastructure could be improved in the future.
4. **Potential Option Identification:** We will develop a 'long list' of potential future transport network improvement options in and around Grangemouth; and
5. **Option Sifting:** Once the 'long-list' is complete, we will compare the options against our Transport Planning Objectives. This process will be used to sift out some of the options which would clearly not deliver against the objectives.

Your Involvement

As previously noted, we are keen to hear what people think about transport in and around the town to inform our study. The purpose of this is to:

- Establish what people think about the current and future transport problems impacting Grangemouth
- Seek people's views on how transport could be improved in Grangemouth in the future.

We are therefore keen to hear what your views are on the following questions:

1. What transport problems do people living in Grangemouth regularly face?
2. What transport problems do people travelling to and from work in Grangemouth regularly face?
3. What transport related problems do businesses located in Grangemouth face?
Please consider staff travel as well as freight movement (by road, rail and sea).
4. How could transport be improved in and around Grangemouth in the future?
5. Are there any specific transport improvements you think should be in our 'long-list' of potential options?