

**REPORT TO: WEALTHIER & FAIRER STRATEGIC GROUP 18
MARCH 2010**

**SUBJECT: DEVELOPING AN EVIDENCE BASE TO SUPPORT
THE CASE FOR INVESTMENT IN THE A96 AND A95**

This project has developed as it has proceeded, with most emphasis on the A96 due to unique opportunities which arose with the Transport Minister, and with success in gaining funding from HITRANS to carry out more detailed investigative work than was originally proposed. Conversely, work has progressed more slowly on the A95 because it is regarded as a lower priority by Transport Scotland. Therefore data on traffic flows and accident statistics was more difficult to obtain, and some information on the amount of retail goods moved along the A95 from Moray companies was not freely available for commercial reasons.

There are no blockages to completing the project but other processes will affect the timetable for completion. Most of the evidence for A96 improvements is already completed in a joint Moray Council - Transport Scotland report. The further work being carried out on the A96 by consultants, and funded by HITRANS, will conclude in April and will be reported to the appropriate service committee of the Council thereafter. All the necessary data has now been collected for the A95 evidence but a report has yet to be compiled.

The relatively slight delay in completing this work will have no influence on future success of gaining funds from Transport Scotland. The appropriate Transport Scotland budgets from which any significant infrastructure improvements would be funded are committed until end of 2012. Our bids will be for a post- 2012 funding programme.

I also attach a similar explanation for the "Elgin Traffic Management" project.