

# Developing effective commuter rail networks in rural areas

*Re-think - optimise - rebuild*

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11 Sept 2013





# Far North

- 1960 rationalisation- local station closures, Wick Kyle only (plus summer)
- 1973 Alness reopening
- 1976 Muir of Ord reopening
- 1989 Ness Viaduct washed away while firths were being bridged
- 1994 Basic railway RETB signalled, 3xKyle 3xWck plus IGD terminator  
Highland Railcard - Kyle 26s
- 1996 Privatisation run up. Thurso depot closes



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Highland

# Opportunities

- Growing commuting into Inverness for work and education
- Leisure/ shopping opportunities- not just tourism
- Under used railway
- Geared towards internal sleeper connections/mail/papers/ferries
- Early start from Wick to connect with key train to Edb
- But pm peak northbound
- Trialled 1980s Igd- not successful
- 1530 Igd terminator/ Summer to Wick
- DMU only, 98 last Gmas split



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# Enhancements

- 1998 Highland Rail Network Development Partnership- LAs plus HIE, Railtrack, ScotRail, FOCs, RUGs -grew from pressure from rail user groups FOFNL/FOKL/FOWHL
- Tain commuter proposed pre privatisation £30k from HC
- Dingwall commuter 1998 first new service in the ScotRail franchise
- 2000 158 operations
- 2000 Tain starter HRP funded
- 2001 Sundays all year round
- 2002 Beauly £247k –inc SRA funds 55k pax up 108% since 04
- 2002 Enhanced SuO WHL



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# Enhancements

- 2005 Invernet Kingussie plus 2 x Tain 2x Igd Lairg starter £1.5m locally funded- subsumed into Franchise 2. Pax up 49%>business case
- 2006 158 refurb £9.1m
- 2006 4<sup>th</sup> southbound Wick introduced to permit better connectivity Orkney. 1747 north 4 car-2 locked out
- 2008 recast to 4 Wicks 4 Kyles, 2230 Tain FSO, Ardgay starter/terminator Conon slots , Kingussie starter cutback to Avm. B Atholl, Arrochar
- Conon Bridge Station (15m platform lengths) and Timetable Enhancements with Twelve Months Operation of 4<sup>th</sup> Kyle Service (Optimistic Growth) 12.25
- 2010 Kyle retime to 0621
- 2012 extra Elgin am
- 2012 CIS lite
- 2013 Conon Bridge reopens £600k
- 2014 Oban 6.2 (BCR 5.1 five a day)



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# Review

- Dingwall 196% Invergordon 329% growth- folk have changed habits
- More interchange to longer distance
- Strong walk/cycle access
- Capacity now reached
- Next franchise- opportunities? More capacity please!



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Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership