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MEDIA RELEASE

Travelling across Glasgow just got smarter

City's main bus operators work in partnership to deliver The Glasgow Tripper

- Transport Minister launches Glasgow's first multi-operator smart card
- Bus passengers can store tickets on their smart card and travel with any operator
- Unlimited travel available for £5 per day (£2.50 for children)
- The Tripper card makes bus travel even more convenient and cost-effective

Today, Humza Yousaf, Minister for Transport and the Islands, officially launched the Glasgow Tripper; a new multi-operator smart card that offers bus customers in and around Glasgow access to more than a thousand buses from the city's main bus operators.

The Glasgow Tripper smart card has been developed by Glasgow's bus companies First Glasgow, McGill's, Glasgow Citybus, Stagecoach West Scotland and Whitelaws - to make it easier for customers to travel across all of their services, with just one ticket.

Customers can order their personalised Glasgow Tripper card at www.glasgowtripper.com and then add tickets to it on the bus, making it easier for customers to seamlessly travel across a wide bus network. The Tripper serves the city and surrounding areas including Barrhead, Lenzie, Paisley, Old Kilpatrick, Howwood and Eaglesham.

Ticket types currently available on bus include an adult and child day ticket priced at £5 and £2.50 respectively. A range of weekly tickets will follow in early 2018, along with the ability to buy tickets online.

The introduction of the Glasgow Tripper card is evidence of the bus industry's commitment to providing a convenient, dependable and affordable public transport service for the city – and beyond.

The Glasgow Tripper card was officially launched at the Glasgow Science Centre by the Scottish Transport Minister, alongside representative from the bus companies involved in the multi-operator scheme.

Andrew Jarvis, managing director of First Glasgow commented:

“First is delighted to partner with Glasgow's other bus companies to offer all of our customers the Glasgow Tripper card. It will make taking the bus in and around the city an even more attractive and cost-effective travel option.”

McGill's managing director, Ralph Roberts added:

"McGill's is proud to support the launch of the Glasgow Tripper for bus users across the city. It makes bus travel a smarter and simpler alternative for those customers who currently make journeys that require separate tickets from each company. The city-wide coverage of the smart card is impressive too – covering bus journeys from Milngavie to Eaglesham and from Linwood to Bargeddie – all with one ticket!"

Murray Rogers, general manager of Glasgow Citybus said: "Glasgow Citybus is pleased to work in partnership with other operators. The Glasgow Tripper offering should make bus travel easier and cheaper for those making one or more bus trips across the city and beyond. We hope it also plays a part in reducing congestion in our towns and cities by encouraging more people out of cars and on to buses."

Commenting on the launch of the Glasgow Tripper card, Tom Bridge, managing director of Stagecoach West Scotland said: "We are delighted to work jointly with our industry partners to deliver seamless bus travel for customers currently making multi-operator journeys in and around Glasgow. The Glasgow Tripper should make customers journeys easier and attract more people on board buses operating across the city."

Sandra Whitelaw, director of Whitelaws added: "Whitelaws is pleased to participate in the delivery of the Glasgow Tripper, and to play our part in ensuring wider operator coverage of the Tripper network in those areas partly covered by our services."

The initiative has also been welcomed by Humza Yousaf, Minister for Transport and the Islands:

"The Scottish Government is committed to making public transport easier to access through smarter ticketing options. Giving passengers the option of one ticket, valid across multiple operators, is a key step towards this.

"That is why I am delighted to help launch The Glasgow Tripper – a delivery milestone that will go a long way to encourage more people out of their cars and onto public transport on a regular basis. This SmartZone scheme, which is supported by Transport Scotland, builds on the success of similar zones in the Aberdeen and Dundee areas. I look forward to seeing the delivery of a similar scheme in Edinburgh in 2018."

Visit www.glasgowtripper.com to sign up for a card. Tickets can be added to a Glasgow Tripper card on the bus.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The Glasgow Tripper card launched on 30 November 2017. Customers can sign-up for their Glasgow Tripper card at www.glasgowtripper.com.

A Tripper card costs £1.75 and allows smart, multi-operator bus travel across the city. There is no paper alternative, with all journeys recorded on bus by placing the smart card on the bus ticket machine.

Customers can purchase Tripper day tickets on bus (£5 adult/£2.50 child) and enjoy unlimited travel on 1000s of buses in and around Glasgow.

Weekly tickets will be available to add to a Glasgow Tripper ticket in early 2018. Online ticket sales via www.glasgowtripper.com will also go live in early 2018.

A map showing the coverage of the Glasgow Tripper can be viewed at www.glasgowtripper.com Full details of all boundary points can be found on the website.

The Minister for Transport and Islands, Humza Yousaf attended the Glasgow Tripper launch with Andrew Jarvis (managing director, First Glasgow), Ralph Roberts (managing director, McGill's), Sandra Whitelaw (director, Whitelaws Coaches), Murray Rogers (general manager, Glasgow Citybus) and Paul Thomas (managing director, Stagecoach East Scotland).

The bus plays a crucial economic role for city centres, with research indicating that 29% of all city centre spending is generated by bus users.*

The bus is an environmentally-friendly travel option. Replacing one car journey a month with a bus journey would mean one billion fewer car journeys and save 2 million tonnes of CO2 every year.*

*See <https://getonboardwithbus.scot/> for more information.

Press Enquiries: Isabelle Murray, 07544 156121.