News story: Creating apps for travellers with disability: apply for contracts

[The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership](#) (SEStran) has £150,000 to support up to 5 projects that look at developing a mobile app to help travellers with a disability to meet the challenges of using public transport.

Up to £300,000 could be available in a second phase to prototype the 2 best ideas and test them in the field.

The competition is funded by Scottish Enterprise's [Can Do Innovation Challenge Fund](#) under the SBRI (Small Business Research Initiative) programme.

SEStran is a regional transport partnership between City of Edinburgh, Clackmannanshire, East Lothian, Falkirk, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian.

Its area has a range of transport modes and issues, including urban congestion, rural transport, ferries and planes. It already offers a [Thistle Assistance Card and app](#) to help older people and those with disabilities to get around.

Understanding the challenges of travel

Projects should identify and understand the challenges faced by travellers with a disability and how it affects the way they travel, to develop a mobile app that helps to overcome these issues.

The app must:

- benefit people with several disabilities, for example, sight impairment, hearing impairment, mobility issues and dementia
- incorporate journey planning and wayfinding features
- allow designated groups, such as family, emergency services and transport providers, to track the user in case of difficulty
- allow the user to ask third parties for help
- include multi-modal transport options
- have an adaptable user interface, dependent on what the disability is
- have the potential to be expanded at a later date to benefit people with disabilities not included in the initial launch

Competition information

- the competition opens on Monday 12 November 2018, and the deadline for registration is at midday on 2 January 2019
- organisations of any size can apply

- we expect costs to range in size up to £30,000 and projects to last up to 6 months
- projects will be 100% funded
- a [briefing event](#) will be held in Edinburgh on 26 November 2018