

Scottish Association for Public Transport

AGM & Conference 2026

Maldron Hotel, 50 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G2 3BW

Friday 22nd May 2026

13.00 Coffee/tea

13.20 Introduction: Stewart Stevenson, SAPT President

13.30 Dr Scott Arthur MP, Transport Select Committee

- **The Railways Bill:** while GBR provides the strategic direction, private sector innovation and investment remain essential to building a resilient, modern network.
- **Ending "Boom and Bust":** a long term (multi-decade) strategy is needed to stabilise the supply chain, moving away from erratic funding cycles that drive up costs and delay infrastructure.
- **The Anglo-Scottish Corridor:** Breaking the "three-hour journey" threshold is the vital tipping point for rail to surpass aviation. Success depends on resolving bottlenecks north of Birmingham and expanding freight capacity for key Scottish exports.
- **Safety & Accessibility:** to "design-in" safety (particularly for women) and ensure accessibility is a foundational requirement of GBR, not an afterthought.
- **Innovation & Net Zero:** Government is hoping to achieve a Net Zero railway by 2035 by a mix of traditional electrification and emerging hydrogen/battery technologies.

14.15 John Birtwistle, Head of Policy, First Bus

- **Partnerships:** taking account of recent developments in Glasgow and Aberdeen
- **Ticketing:** topical announcements about multi operator contactless capping

15.00 Colin Knight, Director – Innovation, Coventry City Council

- **Coventry Very Light Rail Project** – a game changer for conventional tram systems?
- **R&D journey** on developing an innovative trackform and a prototype vehicle. Learning points from a trial installation in City Centre and latest demonstration.

15.45 Vote of thanks from Professor David Murray-Smith and Close of Conference

15.50 AGM – for SAPT members only