

## Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee

### Forth Replacement Crossing Update 5

I refer to the commitment given by Transport Scotland to provide regular written update in relation to the Forth Replacement Crossing (FRC) project. This is the fifth update and covers the following topics:

Progress Update  
Subcontract and Supply Opportunities  
Stakeholder Engagement  
FRC Public Transport Strategy

#### **PROGRESS UPDATE**

##### **Principal Contract**

Good progress continues to be made on the Principal Contract and in particular on the new bridge's foundations with the successful installation of the steel caissons being carried out on schedule.

In November, work began on one of the key stages of the foundations, the Beamer Rock cofferdam, which will help form the concrete base for the Central Tower **(photograph 1)**. 2013 will see construction work commence on the bridge's main towers and the piers supporting the approach viaducts.

Ground works continue to progress on the north and southside of the Forth. On the southside excavation works at the Queensferry Junction and south launch area is ongoing **(photograph 2)**.

On the northside rock blasting at Whinny Hill is continuing on a fortnightly basis, and works continue to progress at Ferrytoll embankment and on the re-alignment of the B981 **(photograph 3)**.

##### **Fife Intelligent Transport System (ITS) Contract**

All 18 gantries have been installed and commissioned and construction works are now complete on the Fife ITS contract between Junction 1 (Admiralty) and Junction 3 (Halbeath) of the M90, A92 and A823 (M) at Pitreavie.

The Fife ITS **(photograph 4)** launched on 4 December, creating a dedicated bus lane and also variable mandatory speed limits which will be used during periods of congestion to smooth traffic flow, cut jams and make journey times more reliable. This is the first time such a system has been used in Scotland. Similar "managed motorways" have been successfully implemented in England, on the M25 and M42 for example.

As part of our information campaign we have produced a short video to give drivers a quick preview of what the system looks like when operational. The video and more information can be found on the FRC project website at [www.FRCits.info](http://www.FRCits.info)

## **M9 Junction 1a Contract**

Extremely good progress is being made on the M9 Junction 1a contract. The new slip roads at Junction 1a (**photograph 5**) are now nearing completion and when open will provide new direct connections between the Forth Road Bridge and the west via the M9 and M9 Spur. All 17 overhead gantries have now been erected and commissioning is nearing completion.

Carriageway reconstruction and surfacing has been a key feature of works over the last couple of months with the application of a new, durable, low noise carriageway surface along the M9 and M9 Spur.

Works on the new Bridge over the M9 and widening to the Newmains Bridge and Overton Road Bridge are practically complete and finishing works are currently being undertaken.

Consultation has concluded on the M9/A90/M90 Trunk Road (Humbie Rail Bridge to M9 Junction 1a) (Variable Speed Limits and Actively Managed Hard Shoulder) Regulations 2012 and the M9/A9 Trunk Road (Newbridge to Winchburgh) (Variable Speed Limits and Actively Managed Hard Shoulder) Regulations 2012, to allow for mandatory variable speed limits and bus hard shoulder running on the M9 and M9 Spur in the vicinity of Junction 1a.

The regulations were laid before Parliament in December 2012 for commencement in 2013.

The works to upgrade Junction 1a are now expected to be completed by the end of this month, several weeks ahead of the contract schedule.

## **Contact and Education Centre**

The Contact and Education Centre is now open to the public, with the Traffic Scotland Control Centre due to become operational in spring 2013 (**photograph 6**).

### **SUBCONTRACT AND SUPPLY OPPORTUNITIES**

In late October the project reached its forecast peak complement of directly supporting around 1200 construction jobs. Numbers on site will fluctuate with different phases of the works but this is the first time the peak has been reached since work started in the summer of 2011.

As of 31 December 2012, 200 out of 317 subcontracts opportunities have been awarded to Scottish firms with a total value of about £81 million. In addition, 6,064 supply orders have been awarded on the Principal Contract of which 5,403 have been awarded to Scottish companies with a total value of about £49 million. 334 Scottish firms have been awarded subcontract or supply orders on the FRC project with a total value of about £130 million.

## **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

Liaison Groups and Community Forums as referenced in the FRC Code of Construction Practice continue to take place on a regular basis, providing a useful platform for meaningful engagement.

The FRC project team will be holding update briefing sessions for elected members, key stakeholders and the local community in the new Contact and Education Centre at the end of January 2013. These events will focus on construction activities planned for the year ahead and provide a general update on project progress.

The first meeting of the Bridge Naming Advisory Panel took place on 27 November 2012, this coincided with the launch of the naming process to find the best name for the new crossing. Members of the public can submit their suggestions via the Name The Bridge website ([www.namethebridge.co.uk](http://www.namethebridge.co.uk)).

Since the launch, we have been actively encouraging participation from the public and, in particular, schools to become involved in the naming process. Indeed, many have already taken the opportunity to play their part by submitting suggestions, the closing date for which is 31 January 2013.

An independent panel will then create a shortlist which will be open to a final public vote before the name is announced in the summer of 2013.

The most recent project update leaflet is now available on the FRC project website: <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/projects/forth-replacement-crossing/news-and-events/newsletter>

## **FRC PUBLIC TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

As you are aware the refreshed FRC Public Transport Strategy was published on the 1 August 2012. To continue focus on the public transport strategy, a number of meetings have been arranged. On 28 February 2013, the Local Authorities; SEStran and Transport Scotland will meet to discuss potential infrastructure improvements to meet public transport needs around the Newbridge junction, and the next meeting of the Public Transport Working Group has been arranged for 13 May 2013.

One of the complementary schemes for the Public Transport Strategy is the Halbeath Park and Ride Project. The works, which are being project managed by the Fife Council and being constructed by the Robertson Group, commenced on 1 October 2012. The works continue to be on programme for completion in late summer 2013. This should be in advance of the anticipated major road works around the Ferrytoll area.

To support both the Halbeath Park and Ride project and the Forth Replacement Crossing, works are in hand to provide a Variable Message Sign on the A92 between the Halbeath site and the Cowdenbeath junction. This work should be completed in early summer 2013.

A regular written update will continue to be provided to the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee.

Yours sincerely

David Climie CEng FICE  
FRC Project Director

**Photograph 1 – Central Tower**



**Photograph 2 – Queensferry Junction**



**Photograph 3 – Ferrytoll Embankment**



**Photograph 4 – Fife ITS**





**Photograph 5 – M9 Junction 1a new slip roads**



**Photograph 6 – Contact and Education Centre**

