

Minister for Transport and Veterans
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Maureen Watt MSP
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ICI Committee

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In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the World



11 June 2014

Dear Maureen

I wanted to take this opportunity to update the Committee on recent progress on the procurement of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie to Tipperty Project. Following a comprehensive and robust procurement exercise, we are now in a position to appoint a preferred bidder and I have today announced the Scottish Government's intention to appoint Connect Roads (CRD) as preferred bidder for the Project.

This essential project represents a major investment in Scotland's essential trunk road infrastructure. The employment benefits that the project will deliver are expected to be similar in scale to the M74 Completion, which directly supported around 900 construction jobs at its peak and we expect that the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie to Tipperty Project will deliver similar benefits. We will also see considerable community benefits delivered as a result of this project, including opportunities for on the job training for apprentices and local employment. Today's announcement is a key milestone in its delivery. It is now well on track to be completed by Spring 2018 as set out by the First Minister in October 2012.

My officials have been working with a number of world class contractors to drive innovation and deliver best value for the project on behalf of the Scottish taxpayer. Following this appointment, officials will work closely with the preferred bidder to refine and finalise the details of the bid towards an expected contract award later this year. Final contract costs will not be available until the procurement process is complete at contract award. At that point I will provide a further update to the Committee.

This project will provide substantial benefits across the whole of the North East and will the economy; increase business and tourism opportunities; improve safety and cut congestion as well as increasing opportunities for improvements in public transport facilities. After many years of unwanted delay, I am delighted to have this opportunity to inform you that we have reached such an important milestone.

Kind regards

KEITH BROWN

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