

Forth Replacement Crossing
Major Transport Infrastructure Projects

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Mr Steve Farrell
Clerk to the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee
The Scottish Parliament

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20 December 2013

Issued by email

Dear Mr Farrell

Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee

Forth Replacement Crossing Update 8

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

- Progress Update
- Stakeholder Engagement
- FRC Public Transport Strategy
- Awards

Photographs illustrating progress can be found at Annex A.

Progress Update

Overall, work on the project continues to progress on time and to a reduced budget. The new budget range for the Forth Replacement Crossing is £1.4 billion to £1.45 billion, down from the previous range established in June 2011 of £1.45 billion to £1.6 billion. We are now over two and a half years into the project and progress so far means that £145 million worth of savings have been released on the project since construction started in June 2011.

Reconstruction and widening of Society Road in South Queensferry, which includes a new footpath/cycleway, was successfully completed in November 2013. This work has been advanced in the programme to provide an early community benefit. Following representations from the local community to extend this new footpath to Linn Mill beyond the FRC project boundary, an agreement to undertake this work has been reached between Transport Scotland and the City of Edinburgh Council, who own this section of road. This means that the design of the footpath extension will be progressed in the coming months, with the construction works being undertaken in 2016 as soon as practicably possible in conjunction with the removal of the site haul road crossing of Society Road immediately adjacent to this work.

The traffic calming works on the A904 in Newton village, required as part of the Forth Replacement Crossing Act, have also been completed.

In recent months significant progress has been made on the new Queensferry Junction, on the South Approach viaduct launch area and the marine foundation works for the Queensferry Crossing. Major milestone events are –

- Earthmoving opposite Dundas Home Farm and around the B800 significantly advanced, with earthworks for the Southbound bus link substantially complete and well advanced on the line of the new M90 between Dundas and Echline. (Photograph 1)
- Completion of the new Queensferry Junction bridge piers and placing of deck beams. (Photograph 2)
- Assembling the first span for the South Approach viaducts and undertaking final preparation for the first launch operation over the South abutment structure. (Photograph 3)
- Piers S8 and S7 are approaching full height, Pier S6, S5 and S4 foundation concrete bases are in place. (Photograph 4)
- Final tower base concrete pour completed at South Tower with preparation underway for the tower crane to be installed and concreting of the tower itself to start. (Photograph 5)
- Completion of the third Centre Tower concrete pour with jump formwork being modified and prepared for lift number four (of 54). (Photograph 6)
- On the North Tower, the first tower concrete pour has taken place and the tower crane has been installed. (Photograph 7)
- On the North side, various road works activities are on-going on the B981, Castlandhill Road and King Malcolm Drive realignments and piling has commenced for the Ferrytoll viaduct. (Photograph 8)

Stakeholder Engagement

The Open Day events held at the Contact and Education Centre continue to generate significant interest and enthusiasm in the project. In the past three months, over 1000 visitors have attended the Open Days to find out more about the project and learn about the progress of construction.

The project Outreach and Education programme is gaining momentum and increased interest from a wide spectrum of interested groups and schools with over 1000 people attending talks and presentations, and over 500 school pupils attending for science, technology, engineering and mathematics related activities. There are a further 60 education programme bookings still to take place in 2014.

The feedback continues to be very positive and the project team is currently looking to enhance the regular programme of activities made available to interested groups and individuals throughout the remainder of the project.

Community Forums, Noise Liaison Group, Marine Liaison Group, Environmental Liaison Group and Traffic Management Working Group have all continued to meet regularly and with no significant areas of concern being raised.

We have held site visits for Community Forum members and Dundas Home Farm residents which have been extremely well received.

FRC Public Transport Strategy

The Public Transport Working Group last met on 12 November 2013 to review the current strategy. An agreement between Transport Scotland, City of Edinburgh Council and West Lothian Council has been reached to progress a study into public transport improvements in the Newbridge area. The Halbeath Park and Ride (1000 spaces) was officially opened on 26 November 2013.

Awards

Civil Engineering Environmental Quality (CEEQUAL) award presentations took place at the Contact and Education Centre on 9 December 2013 to celebrate the successful achievement of 'excellent' CEEQUAL ratings by two of the contracts for the project, Fife Intelligent Transport System and M9 Junction 1A.

A regular written update will continue to be provided to the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee on a quarterly basis, and the next Committee appearance by the project team is to be scheduled for March/April 2014.

Yours sincerely

David Climie CEng FICE
FRC Project Director

ANNEX A – PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1 – Earthworks between Dundas and Echline



Photo 2 – Queensferry Junction



Photo 3 – South Approach Viaduct launch preparation



Photo 4 – Piers S7 and S8



Photo 5 – South Tower

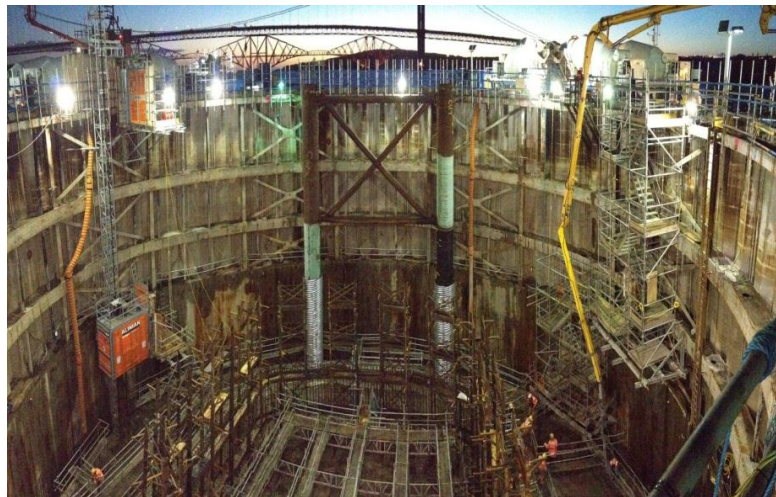


Photo 6 – Centre Tower



Photo 7 – North Tower

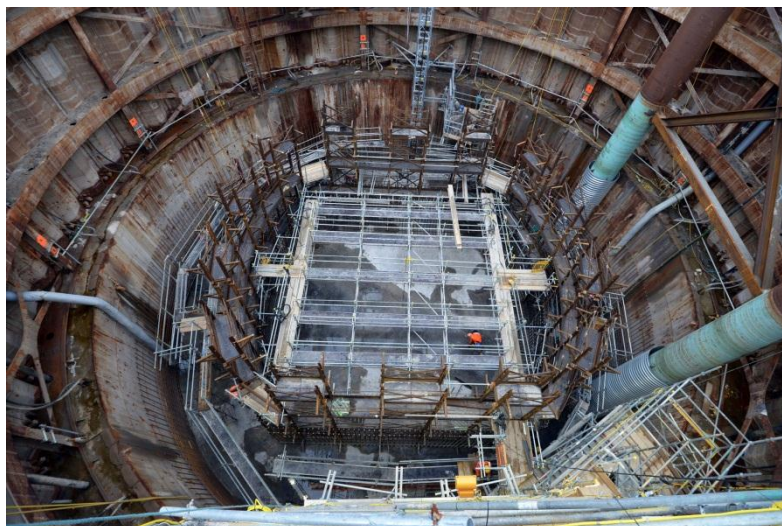


Photo 8 – B981 Castlandhill Road and King Malcolm Drive realignments

