

Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee

Forth Replacement Crossing Update 7

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 seventh update and covers the following topics:

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

Photographs illustrating progress can be found at Annex A,

Progress Update

Principal Contract

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 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.

Over the summer months significant progress has been made on the marine foundation works for the Queensferry Crossing. Major milestone events were –

- Filling the North Tower caisson with nearly 8,000 cubic metres of underwater concrete in a continuous eight day pour in July 2013. The caisson was pumped out on 01 August and work on the reinforced concrete tower base is now progressing in the dry. (Photographs 1 and 2)
- Filling the South Tower caisson with nearly 17,000 cubic metres of underwater concrete in a continuous fifteen and a half day pour from 21 August to 05 September. The caisson will be pumped out shortly. (Photograph 3)
- On the Centre Tower at Beamer Rock the tower base was cast in two concrete pours in early July and early August and the first pour of the tower leg itself was carried out on 09 September. This is the first of 54 pours required to form the full 210 metre height of the tower. (Photographs 4 and 5)
- On the approach viaduct foundations, the pier S1 caisson is in the final stages of rock cleaning prior to underwater concreting later this month, pier S4 underwater concreting will be completed this month, piers S5 and S6 are both working in the dry and the reinforced concrete base slabs have been cast. (Photograph 6)

On land, the V-shaped legs for piers S7 and S8 have started to be concreted and the South Abutment concrete has been completed to allow the launch of the south approach viaduct steelwork over it.

The first delivery of steelwork for the south approach viaducts arrived on site from Cleveland Bridge in Darlington on 09 September and is the first of about 100 deliveries due to be made between now and Spring 2014. The site assembly area for this steelwork including a large gantry crane has been prepared in the cutting that will eventually form the south approach road to the Queensferry Crossing. (Photograph 7)

Work has continued on the south connecting roads with good progress being made on the earthworks adjacent to Dundas Home Farm and the structures for the new Queensferry Junction. (Photograph 8). In the north the three new railway bridges and tunnel extension for the Rosyth freight branch line have been completed and the advance works to form the new route of the B981 and the new Ferrytoll Junction are well under way. (Photograph 9).

Reconstruction and widening of Society Road in South Queensferry, which will include a new footpath/cycleway has also commenced, with completion expected in October. This work has been advanced in the programme to provide an early community benefit.

Stakeholder Engagement

The “Name the Bridge” campaign came to a successful conclusion on 26 June when the First Minister visited the site to announce that the winning name from the five shortlisted is “Queensferry Crossing” which received more than 12,000 votes out of the over 35,000 cast. The draw for the schools which suggested the Queensferry name was made by the Transport Minister on 21 August and was won by Cleish Primary School and Madras College, St Andrews. The Transport Minister is visiting the winning schools on 30 October. The winning schools will receive a VIP visit to the site in Spring of 2014 and an invitation to the opening ceremony.

Regular open days have been held over the past three months at the Contact and Education Centre with up to 250 people attending on each day. Feedback continues to be positive and the project team are looking to arrange regular events throughout the rest 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.

A flyer has been distributed to all 2,722 primary and secondary schools in Scotland advising them of the availability of the Contact and Education Centre as a venue available for school visits and activities. This is the core part of the project’s education strategy and already over 50 definite bookings have been made for future visits.

The traffic calming works on the A904 in Newton village required as part of the Forth Replacement Crossing Act commenced construction in early August and are expected to be complete in early October.

FRC Public Transport Strategy

The Public Transport Working Group last met on 13 May 2013 to review the current strategy, with the next meeting planned for late autumn. The Group has continued to focus on potential public transport improvements in the vicinity of the Newbridge Junction and a number of productive sub group meetings have been held between the Local Authorities, SEStran, and Transport Scotland to take forward investigation work and feasibility design of public transport improvements at this location.

Construction of the Halbeath Park and Ride (1000 spaces) has made good progress through the summer and it is anticipated that it will open in November 2013. Installation of an additional Variable

Message Sign on the A92 east of this location has been completed. The Park and Ride site will be operational prior to the major road works anticipated around the Ferrytoll area which are likely to commence in 2014.

Subcontract and Supply Opportunities

The average number of people employed on the site in August 2013 was 874. Numbers on site will fluctuate with different phases of the work and it is expected that the peak figure of around 1,200 will be reached again in the next six months.

As of 30 June 2013, 216 out of 368 subcontract opportunities have been awarded to Scottish firms with a total value of about £82 million. In addition 10,758 supply orders have been awarded on the Principal Contract, of which 9,732 (over 90%) have been awarded to Scottish companies with a total value of about £61 million. On the project to date 365 Scottish businesses have been awarded subcontract or supply orders with a total value of about £143 million.

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

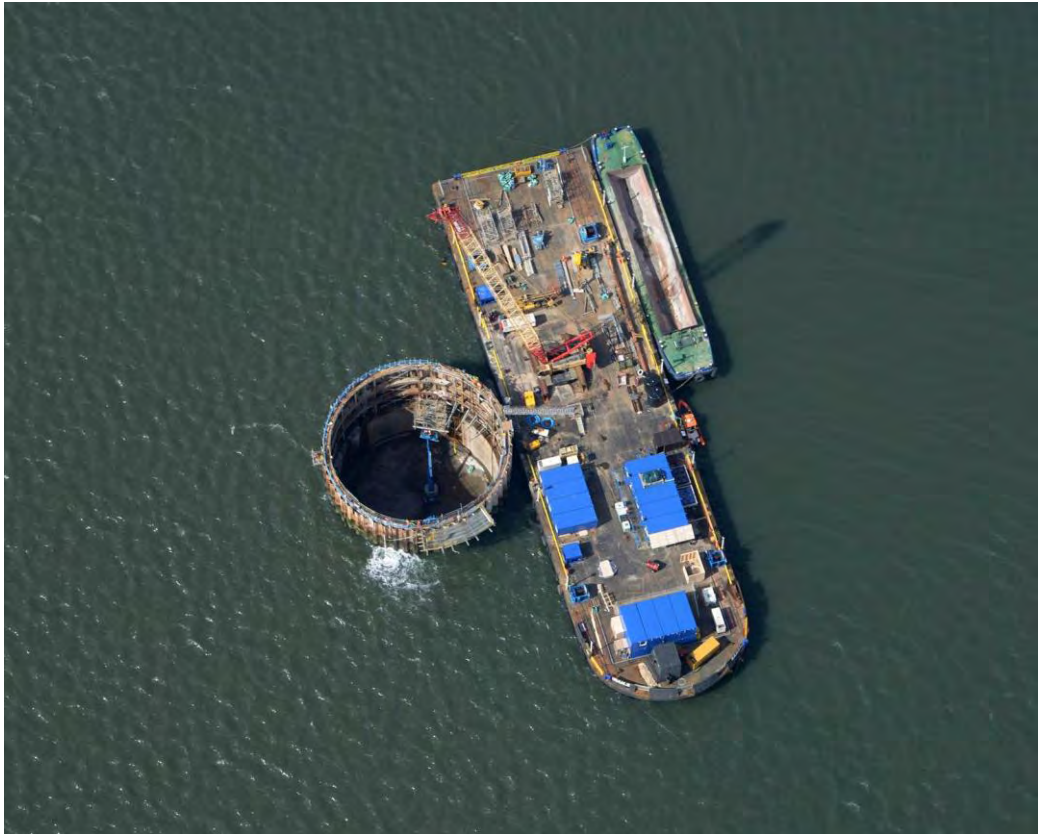


Photo 1 – North Tower caisson dewatering



Photo 2 – North Tower caisson dewatered



Photo 3 – South Tower caisson concreting at night

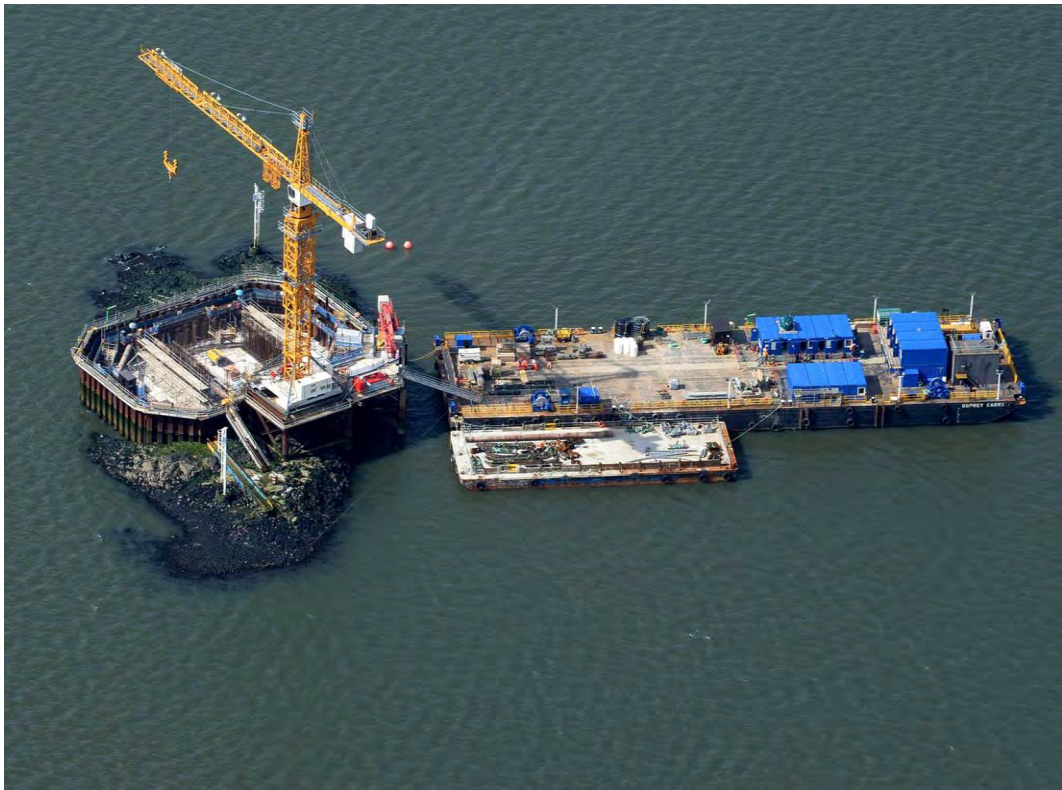


Photo 4 – Central Tower



Photo 5 – Central Tower First Leg Pour Reinforcement



Photo 6 – Bridge Alignment South View



Photo 7 – South side including South Viaduct assembly area



Photo 8 – Queensferry Gyratory



Photo 9 – New B981, Railway Bridges and Ferrytoll Embankment