

Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee

13th Meeting, 2012 (Session 4), Wednesday, 12 September 2012

Forth Replacement Crossing Update 4

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

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

PROGRESS UPDATE

Principal Contract

Since my last update I am pleased to report that the operation to position all three foundation caissons on the seabed of the Forth has been successfully carried out (**Photograph 1**). Over the coming months the caissons will be excavated and sunk to bedrock level and then filled with concrete ready for the start of work on the three towers early next year.

Ground works are progressing well on the north and southside of the Forth. The south satellite compound in Echline field is complete and staff are now operating out of this site, construction of the bridge and southern approach roads are being managed from this location. Earthworks are underway around the A904/Builyeon Road/Bo'ness Road area (**Photograph 2**) and excavation of the working area for the south approach viaduct assembly and launch continues.

On the northside, excavation and blasting at St Margaret's Hope is continuing, allowing work to progress on the assembly area for the north approach viaduct. Blasting and excavation work is also continuing at Whinny Hill, and the excavated material is being used for the Ferrytoll embankment, which when complete will be up to 25 metres high (**Photograph 3**).

Fife Intelligent Transport System (ITS) Contract

The Fife ITS contract is nearing completion. Traffic management (including average speed cameras) has been removed from the M90, A92 and A823 (M) on schedule and final finishing works are in progress.

Hard standing areas, gantry bases and the steelwork support legs have all been constructed ready for gantry installation (**Photograph 4**). All the gantries are scheduled to be erected by the end of September with the ITS facilities and bus lane becoming operational shortly after.

M9 Junction 1a Contract

Construction works on the M9 Junction 1a contract are progressing on schedule. Works are continuing on the Overton Road structure (**Photograph 5**), which will provide widening of the

M9 for the two new west facing slip roads to and from the M9. The new bridge over the M9 motorway at the centre of the junction is at an advanced stage. This new bridge will carry traffic travelling towards the FRC from the M8 and Edinburgh City Bypass. Drainage works, pavement works and earthworks continue to progress throughout the site and work continues on the installation and commissioning of the ITS gantries.

From the end of September major works to upgrade the M9 carriageway are due to commence. As with the closures that occurred on the M90 in May, extensive public information exercises will be undertaken to inform road users of these works.

Contact and Education Centre

Construction is progressing and we expect the centre to be fully open to the public from January 2013 (**Photograph 6**).

SUBCONTRACT AND SUPPLY OPPORTUNITIES

As of 31 July 2012, 156 subcontract opportunities out of 258 have been awarded to Scottish firms with a total value of about £31 million. In addition, 3,640 supply orders have been awarded on the Principal Contract of which 3,150 have been awarded to Scottish companies with a total value of £41 million. 306 Scottish firms have been awarded subcontract or supply orders on the FRC project with a total value of about £72 million.

There are now over 1,100 people directly employed on building the FRC and we expect to reach our projected peak of 1,200 jobs later this year. Whilst this reflects the number of people working directly on site, many more will be indirectly employed and benefitting through the main contractor's supply chain.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The FRC project team and contractors continue to engage with members of the local community on a regular basis. The most recent project update leaflet which is widely distributed to stakeholders and the public can be found on the FRC project website: <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/projects/forth-replacement-crossing/news-and-events/newsletter>

Last month Community Forums were held in Rosyth, South Queensferry and Kirkliston. At the South Community Forum the issue of localised flooding near to the south compound was discussed, following exceptionally high periods of rainfall throughout June and July. This matter has been subject to a joint investigation by Transport Scotland and FCBC and an investigation report and action plan has been prepared and issued to the affected residents, the Community Council and City of Edinburgh Council. Transport Scotland and the contractor will continue to monitor the situation. No other major issues or concerns were raised at the forums. The next forums are scheduled to be held in November.

The other Liaison Groups, as referenced in the Code of Construction Practice, continue to meet on a regular basis. These groups discuss and agree current and future works associated with the FRC project, and how best to minimise their impact on the local community and travelling public.

FRC PUBLIC TRANSPORT STRATEGY

The refreshed FRC Public Transport Strategy has recently been completed by the Public Transport Working Group and has been published on the Transport Scotland website: <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/projects/forth-replacement-crossing/about-the-scheme/public-transport>

The Public Transport Working Group will continue to meet on a six-monthly basis with the main objective of monitoring progress and the performance of the various interventions stated in the Strategy. The next meeting has been arranged for 12 November 2012.

In addition to the public transport interventions included in the various FRC projects, one of the other complementary schemes for the Public Transport Strategy is the Halbeath Park and Ride Project. The contract was awarded to the Robertson Group in early July 2012, with the works being designed and supervised by Fife Council. In advance of site works, the barley field over which the project will be built will be cropped, and a small archaeological study will be undertaken. The pre-contract meeting was held on 24 July between the contractor - the Robertson Group, Fife Council and Transport Scotland. The works are on programme to be completed by late summer 2013, which should be in advance of the anticipated disruption around the Ferrytoll area.

Overall the FRC Project continues to progress on programme for completion by the end of 2016 and within the published budget range of £1.45 to £1.6 billion. A regular written update will continue to be provided to the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee and the project team look forward to the forthcoming Committee appearance on 12 September 2012.

Yours sincerely

David Climie CEng FICE
FRC Project Director

Photograph 1
Principal Contract – foundation caissons



Photograph 2
Principal Contract – earthworks Echline Field (south compound area)



Photograph 3
Principal Contract – Ferrytoll embankment / St Margaret's Hope



Photograph 4
Fife ITS Contract – southbound gantry supports



Photograph 5
M9 Junction 1a Contract – Overton Road structure



Photograph 6
Contact and Education Centre

