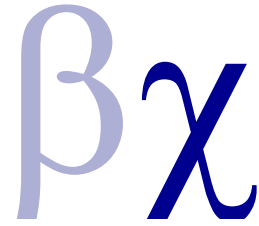


Major Transport Infrastructure Projects

Forth Replacement Crossing

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

Issued by Email

Our ref:
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Date:
16 December
2015

Dear Mr Farrell

Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee

Forth Replacement Crossing Update 16

I refer to the commitment given by Transport Scotland to provide regular updates in relation to the Forth Replacement Crossing (FRC) Project. Update 16 covers the following topics:

- Progress Update
- Stakeholder Engagement
- FRC Public Transport Strategy

Photographs illustrating progress can be found at **Annex A**.

Progress Update

The project remains on time and within the reduced budget range of £1.35 - £1.4 billion.

Since the last update, significant progress has been made on the North and South approach roads and the Queensferry Crossing.

The project has reached another new peak of employment with an average of 1287 people working on the site in November and an average of nearly 1,200 throughout this year.

Significant milestones achieved in the past few months include:

- Demolition of old B800 bridge completed on 1 November 2015. (Photograph 1)
- South Approach Viaduct – second west side deck concrete pour completed on 6 November. (Photograph 2)
- Precast deck sections – precast concrete decks have now been constructed on 41 of the deck units, in the Marine Yard at Rosyth. (Photograph 3)
- Deck lifting commenced on 7 September and 24 deck units (out of 110) erected by 15 December. Deck lifts being carried out during lulls in winter winds. (Photograph 4)
- North Tower – Final concrete pour completed on 16 October (Tower at full height). 8 deck units erected. (Photograph 5)
- South Tower – Final concrete pour completed on 11 November (Tower at full height). 8 deck units erected. (Photograph 6)
- Centre Tower – Final concrete pour completed on 3 December (Tower at full height). 6 deck units erected. (Photograph 7)
- Pier N1 and Pier N2 completed.
- North Approach Viaduct – welding of deck panels is complete. Painting and installation of temporary works for the launch is in progress. Deck launch preparation is expected to be completed by mid-December and the launch to take place in January 2016. (Photograph 8)
- Average speed cameras for northbound traffic on the A90 from Echline to Admiralty became operational on 17 September with a 40 mph speed limit implemented for northbound traffic only at present. Southbound average speed cameras have been installed and will become operational in January 2016.
- Next phase of traffic management on A90 north of bridge is imminent and will divert the second northbound lane onto the new northbound alignment before reopening of the Forth Road Bridge. (Photograph 9)
- The Principal Contractor, FCBC, is currently providing marine logistical support to the Forth Road Bridge operating company, to assist in the emergency repairs and allow full re-opening as quickly as possible.

Stakeholder Engagement

Community relations continue to be excellent with the North Community Forum and South Community Forum meetings taking place in November. No community issues were raised during the latest meetings.

The project continues to attract a great deal of interest from a variety of stakeholders, including the general public, schools, colleges, universities, industry, international visitors and the media.

Since the last update, the project has undertaken a variety of stakeholder engagements, maximising use of the dedicated FRC Contact and Education Centre, engaging with communities in a proactive, open and transparent manner.

Since the last update, the hugely successful Schools Programme continues to prove popular and we celebrated the 10,000th school pupil visit to the project from Greenfaulds High, North Lanarkshire on 23 October with a presentation from the Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities. (Photograph 10)

The Project Exhibition, open each Saturday from March - October completed a very successful year and was extended to the end of November due to popular demand with over 4,500 people visiting this year and over 12,500 people visiting since April 2013. The Project Exhibition will also reopen on 30 January and will remain open on Saturdays until project completion.

The Presentation Series, held on the last Friday of each month from March – October for members of the public, attracted over 1100 people with over 200 people visiting on the last date of 30 October. Since January 2013, almost 19,000 people have now attended a presentation to find out more about the project.

The overall Outreach and Education Programme has now attracted over 42,000 individuals across all activities.

Annual Project Update briefings have now started to be advertised for 26 and 27 January 2016 for Elected Representatives, Media, Stakeholders and the Public.

The project's social media channels also remain popular. To date, over 101,000 people have viewed videos on the Queensferry Crossing YouTube channel, with 364 users subscribing. The official Queensferry Crossing twitter account @FRC_Queensferry has 1543 followers. The next Project Update will be published in January 2016, a copy of which will be provided to you when available.

FRC Public Transport Strategy

The FRC Public Transport Strategy Working Group continues to meet on a bi-annual basis, arrangements are currently underway for a meeting in January 2016.

Results of the A8/A89 Corridor Study, which has been undertaken to assess public transport provision on this corridor and through Newbridge Junction, will be presented at the upcoming meeting. Additionally, a draft report has been produced and is currently being finalised in the lead up to this meeting.

Yours sincerely

David Climie CEng FICE
FRC Project Director

Photograph 1 – Old B800 bridge demolition



Photograph 2 – South Approach Viaduct



Photograph 3 – Marine Yard, Rosyth



Photograph 4 – Deck Lifting



Photograph 5 – North Tower



Photograph 6 – South Tower



Photograph 7 – Centre Tower



Photograph 8 – North Approach Viaduct



Photograph 9 – North Side Roadworks



Photograph 10 – Keith Brown and 10,000th School Pupil visit

