

Major Transport Infrastructure Projects

Forth Replacement Crossing

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Steve Farrell

Clerk to the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee
The Scottish Parliament

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Issued by email

Dear Mr Farrell

Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee

Forth Replacement Crossing Update 9

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

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

Photographs illustrating progress can be found at Annex A.

Progress Update

Since the last Committee update provided in December, work has continued to progress as planned and within the reduced budget range of £1.4 billion to £1.45 billion. Progress on the Queensferry Crossing and its connecting roads is becoming increasingly visible to the public as the towers rise out of the water, the south approach viaducts are assembled and progressively launched out from the south abutment across the V-shaped piers and the new junctions at Queensferry and Ferrytoll take shape.

Significant milestone events are –

- The north abutment for the new B800 bridge has been completed (Photograph 1)
- Concreting of the new Queensferry junction bridge decks in preparation for diverting the A904 over these bridges by the summer (Photograph 2)
- Successfully launching the Northbound carriageway of the south approach viaduct steelwork towards pier S8 in mid-December 2013 followed by similar launching of the Southbound carriageway in mid-January 2014. (Photograph 3 pre-launch and Photograph 4 post-launch).

- Completion of approach viaduct piers S8 and S7 ready to support future launches of the south approach viaduct steelwork. (Photograph 5)
- Construction of the next two approach viaduct piers S6 and S5 has commenced.
- Two concrete pours on the South Tower have been completed and the tower crane is being installed.
- The seventh concrete pour at the Centre Tower is about to take place (Photograph 6)
- Three concrete pours at the North Tower have been completed. (Photograph 7)
- On the North side, construction of the North abutment and assembly area for the North approach viaduct steelwork has made good progress. (Photograph 8)

Stakeholder Engagement

We continue to liaise with and keep stakeholders fully engaged with progress across the project.

Seven briefing sessions, directed at elected members, stakeholders, media and the public were held over two days on 11 and 12 February at the Contact and Education Centre. These sessions followed those that were held in January 2013 and included a general update on the project, as well as specific updates on current and forthcoming works relating to the Queensferry Crossing and the South Queensferry and Ferrytoll Junctions.

On 19 and 26 February, meetings of the North and South Community Forums were held at the Contact and Education Centre.

In addition, the latest Quarterly Project update newsletter was published in February and is now available on the Transport Scotland website:

<http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/files/documents/projects/forth-replacement/LOW-RES-FCBC-Update-February-14-SINGLE.PDF>

Subcontract and Supply Orders

As of 31 December 2013, 250 out of 415 subcontract opportunities (60%) have been awarded to Scottish firms with a total value of approximately £85 million. In addition 14,174 supply orders (92%) on the Principal Contract worth approximately £72 million have been awarded to Scottish firms.

Scottish Firms have been awarded subcontracts or supply orders on the FRC project with a total value of about £157 million out of a total of about £393 million (40%).

FRC PublicTransport Strategy

The next meeting of the Public Transport Working Group is scheduled for 14 May 2014. The City of Edinburgh Council is in the process of procuring the study into public transport improvements in the Newbridge area. The M90/M9 Bus Lanes and associated gantries are reported to be effective in reducing journey times and providing benefits to buses during queuing incidents.

A regular written update will continue to be provided to the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee, the next Committee appearance by the project team is scheduled to take place on 5 March 2014.

Yours sincerely

David Climie CEng FICE
FRC Project Director

Annex A – PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1 – North Abutment for the new B800 bridge



Photo 2 – Concreting of the new Queensferry junction bridge decks



Photo 3 –Pre launch of both carriageways of the South approach viaduct steelwork towards pier 8.



Photo 4 – Post launches of both carriageways of the South approach viaduct steelwork



Photo 5 – Completion of approach viaduct piers S8 and S7



Photo 6 –Centre Tower

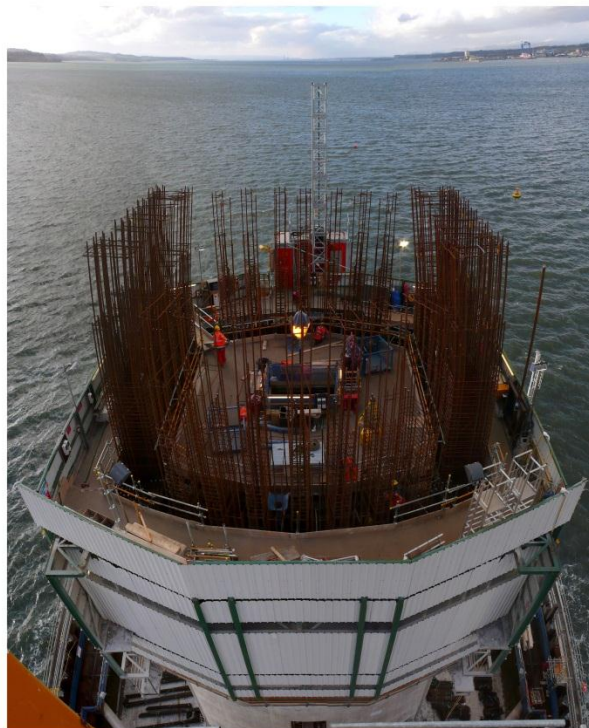


Photo 7 – North Tower



Photo 8 – North abutment and assembly area for the North approach viaduct steelwork

