Q1. Transport Scotland has carried out a programme of consultation and engagement with stakeholders on the proposals contained in the Bill. Do you have any comments on the adequacy of this activity?

We are satisfied that the engagement with the stakeholders has been adequate.

Q2. The Bill envisages that a single bridge operating company be appointed to manage and maintain the Forth Road Bridge and the replacement crossing. Do you have any comments on this overall intention and should other alternatives for the management and maintenance of the Forth crossings be considered?

We are satisfied with this way forward gives best value for money and able to be more versatile in maintenance procedures and operationally easier to co-ordinate the operations of the 2 bridges under the one management body.

Q3. The Bill would trunk the road over the Forth Road Bridge and the Schedule to the Bill specifies the precise description of the road that is to become a trunk road. Do you have any comments about this proposal and the description included in the Schedule?

It makes sense that this key link in the strategic network is part of the main trunk road network and becomes the responsibility under the one authority.

Q4. The Bill would dissolve the Forth Estuary Transport Authority and transfer its property, rights and liabilities to the Scottish Government. Do you have any comments about these proposals?

Agree in principal.

Q5. The Bill provides for employees of the Forth Estuary Transport Authority to be transferred to the bridge operating company appointed by the Scottish Government. Do you have any comments about the impact that this proposal could have on FETA employees?

Existing staff have vast experience and knowledge of the running and maintenance of the existing bridge and this must not be lost. However due consideration must be taken of their terms and conditions and they must be protected by the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations.
Q6. Do you have any comments on the estimated costs associated with the Bill, which are included in the Financial Memorandum? (The Finance Committee will consider the Financial Memorandum in detail and will report to the lead Committee, so any responses to this question will be copied to the Finance Committee.)

Not in a position to answer this question.

Dr Bob McLellan
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Fife Council
1 February 2013