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

Dear Mr Farrell

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT COMMITTEE:  
FORTH REPLACEMENT CROSSING UPDATE 2

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 second of these updates and will cover the following topics:

- Progress Update
- Stakeholder Engagement
- FRC Public Transport Strategy

PROGRESS UPDATE

Principal Contract

In January Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors (FCBC) and Transport Scotland’s Employer’s Delivery Team (EDT) moved into new permanent site offices at Ferrytoll, near Rosyth (Photograph 1). The offices will house over 250 staff from the EDT and FCBC. The satellite compound located in Echline Field is near completion, it is anticipated that it will be operational in March 2012. Construction of the bridge south approach viaduct and southern approach roads will be managed from this location.

Works currently being undertaken include site clearance, access roads, accommodation works, landscaping and environmental works (Photograph 2). The installation of monitoring equipment for traffic, air quality (dust) and noise and vibration is complete, and monitoring results are published on the FRC website. In preparation for construction of the central tower, blasting took place in early February on Beamer Rock, excavation and drilling works are now being undertaken (Photograph 3).

From the end of March short night time closures of A90 at Ferrytoll Junction will be undertaken. These closures are essential to ensure the safety of road users and will be over a period of 6 months for approximately 30 minutes for each blast. These works are programmed to be outside peak hours at 10pm.

As of 15 February 2012, 123 subcontract opportunities out of 166 have been awarded to Scottish firms with a total value of over £23 million. In addition, 1,151 supply orders have been awarded on the Principal Contract of which 980 have been awarded to Scottish companies. This
represents 85% of the total number of supply orders. This is expected to increase as the construction progresses through the rest of the build period.

Fife Intelligent Transport System (ITS) Contract

Progress has continued on Fife ITS with earthworks, grouting, piling, ducting and pavement works (Photograph 4 and 5). The delivery of gantries is expected to commence in March for commissioning and testing.

In April and May major traffic management will be implemented on the M90. The works involve reconstructing the south bound carriageway between the A92/M90 merge and Admiralty to extend its current life and support a bus lane.

For approximately four weeks, one lane of southbound traffic will be running in contra-flow, with two lanes provided for northbound and southbound traffic. This will be implemented between Junction 1 Admiralty and Junction 3 Halbeath and could cause significant delays. Additionally, over three weekends in April / May there will be surfacing works taking place on the M90 southbound carriageway, reducing southbound traffic to one lane running in contra-flow. Short term closures of slip roads to and from the M90 will be required at different stages.

Extensive public information initiations have been and are being undertaken in relation to these developments.

Traffic management is essential for the delivery of the FRC project whilst minimising its construction impact on journey times and public safety. Transport Scotland aims to inform the travelling public of the detail of these planned traffic management measures well in advance of their implementation, implement clear signage to give road users prior warnign of the works and diversion routes and provide information on alternative modes of travel that could help minimise disruption, where possible.

M9 Junction 1a Contract

Extensive earthworks and vegetation clearance have been completed so that work can start on creating the new road links and widening of the M9 (Photographs 6 and 7). The temporary diversion to the Swine Burn is complete and earthworks operations have commenced in this area. Works have commenced in widening bridges over the local roads and it is expected that these works will be completed by early autumn. The first gantry was delivered to site on 31 January 2012 and work on installing ITS gantries over the M9 Spur is underway.

The M9 Spur is currently programmed to be closed in both directions to all traffic between M9 J1a Kirkliston and A90 Scotstoun Interchange on Saturday 3 March 2012 for three consecutive Saturday nights from 9pm until Sunday morning at 10am. This is to allow for the installation of 3 new overhead gantries. During these periods, signed diversion routes will be in place which will increase journey times for road users.

Works are progressing well on the M9 Junction 1a Contract, and are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2012.

Contact and Education Centre

Construction is progressing well and remains on schedule to be completed in autumn 2012 (Photograph 8).
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Contractor’s Community Liaison Officers continue to engage with communities and businesses over localised issues such as traffic management and construction progress.

The FRC project team are holding an MSP briefing session on 15 March 2012, this will be followed by briefing sessions for key stakeholders on 16 March 2012. These events will focus on the construction activities for the year ahead and the upcoming traffic management measures.

The Community Forums are now well established, the most recent forums took place at the end of January 2012. The agendas and minutes are published on the project website. The next forums are scheduled for April / May.

FRC PUBLIC TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Work is ongoing on preparing the refreshed Forth Replacement Crossing Public Transport Strategy. A number of meetings have been held between the Regional Transport Partnership, the relevant Local Authorities, the Confederation of Passenger Transport, the main Bus Operators, and Transport Scotland, and this work will be completed in spring 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 Choose Project. These works are being designed and supervised by the Fife Council.

The previous update to Committee indicated that the land acquisition issues remained unresolved, which resulted in the need for a Public Local Inquiry to be held as part of the compulsory purchase order procedures. This Inquiry was held in Dunfermline on 8 and 12 December 2011. The Reporter found in favour of the Fife Council and the various orders were then confirmed in late January 2011. Accordingly, all land has been secured for the project.

As a result the tender documents will be issued in early March 2012. This leaves adequate time to complete the procurement and construction process by the summer of 2013, when increased disruption around the Ferrytoll area is expected.

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 14 March 2012.

Yours sincerely

David Climie CEng FICE
FRC Project Director
Forth Replacement Crossing, Progress Update

Photograph 1
Principal Contract, Site Offices, Rosyth

Photograph 2
Principal Contract, site clearance at St Margaret's Hope
Photograph 3
Principal Contract, blasting at Beamer Rock

Photograph 4
Fife ITS Contract, earthworks
Photograph 5
Fife ITS Contract, visual screen at Park Lea, Rosyth

Photograph 6
M9 Junction 1a Contract Preparation for widening of M9 spur looking South West
Photograph 7
M9 Junction 1a Contract Preparations for widening of M9 spur looking South East

Photograph 8
Contact and Education Centre