Dear Mr Farrell

Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee

Forth Replacement Crossing Update 6

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

- Progress Update
- Stakeholder Engagement
- FRC Public Transport Strategy

Photographs illustrating progress can be found at Annex A,

**Progress Update**

Principal Contract

Overall, work on the project continues to progress on time and on budget. A major milestone was reached with the completion of the central tower foundations on Beamer Rock [Photograph One]. It also marks a significant operational moment for Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors (FCBC) whose Marine Foundations team formally handed over to the Tower team on Beamer Rock on Wednesday 27 March.

The foundations for the central tower involved blasting Beamer Rock to below water level and then constructing a “cofferdam” to create a water-free environment from which the tower itself will rise. Nearly three million litres (3,000 cubic metres) of water were removed from the cofferdam ready for work to begin on the superstructure itself. A tower crane has now been installed and commissioned and this will progressively climb higher as the tower construction progresses.

Work has continued on the south connecting roads [Photograph Two] with good progress being made on the earthworks adjacent to Dundas Home Farm and the structures for the new Queensferry Junction. In the north [Photograph Three] the three new railway bridges and tunnel extension for the
Rosyth freight branch line are near completion and the advance works to form the new Ferrytoll Junction are well under way.

M9 Junction 1a Contract

The new slip roads and Intelligent Transport System on the M9 at Junction 1a were opened on 1 February 2013 by the Minister for Transport and Veterans, several weeks ahead of contract schedule and are operating well.

Stakeholder Engagement

Open days were held on the 5 and 6 April and 26 and 27 April at the Contact and Education Centre with over 700 people attending. Initial feedback was positive and the project team are looking to arrange regular events throughout the rest of the project [Photographs Four and Five].

FRC Public Transport Strategy

A number of productive meetings have been held between the Local Authorities, SEStran and Transport Scotland to discuss Newbridge junction. These partners are now developing proposals to take forward feasibility design of public transport improvements at this location. The last meeting of the Public Transport Working Group was held on 13 May 2013 and regular meetings continue to take place.

A regular written update will continue to be provided to the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee, along with bi-annual Committee appearances by the project team. I look forward to the Committee’s forthcoming visit to the Contact and Education Centre.

Yours sincerely

David Climie CEng FICE
FRC Project Director
ANNEX A – PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph One – Centre Towe Crane

Photograph Two – South Connecting Roads