

## Good Neighbour Fund £1K Christmas Bonus Given with Love

The M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvement Project's Good Neighbour Fund awarded its £1,000 Christmas Bonus to the Love and Light Recovery Organisation in Airdrie.

Thanks to the grant, the group will be able to continue to offer support to families affected by alcoholism through its residential retreats, weekly cafes and events. It currently supports 400 members, including 150 children, and aims to bring like-minded families together to overcome the stigma and social isolation associated with alcoholism.

Organiser Jane Chambers said: "We're hoping the cash can be used to educate our families through the children, using caricature lanyards and a learning library of books and literature."

Scottish Roads Partnership (SRP) and its main contractors, Ferrovial Lagan Joint Venture and Amey, set up the Good Neighbour Fund to offer grants of up to £500 to community groups living in the vicinity of the works.

SRP made a further £500 award at Christmas to the Joe Wilson Table Tennis Club based in Motherwell.

Applications for the Good Neighbour Fund are available at: [info@scotroadpartnership.co.uk](mailto:info@scotroadpartnership.co.uk). Applicants must meet one of the following criteria: provide education and skills development; support a community initiative, group or charitable organisation; or benefit the local environment. Each application will be assessed by the Good Neighbour Fund panel.



Love and Light Recovery awarded £1,000

## Hamilton Advertiser Toy Appeal

Staff working on the M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements Project supported the annual Christmas Toy Appeal for a third year.

Everyone dug deep for such a good cause, donating toys and gift vouchers just in time for a last minute delivery to the Salvation Army church in Hamilton.

Pamela Ward, of the project's Community Liaison Team, said: "We were delighted to support this appeal again. The project is continuing its commitment to invest in local community initiatives, particularly in areas affected by the upgrade. It's extremely important that every child gets to experience a little of the magic of Christmas."



Salvation Army Major Alex McNee takes delivery of toys

## Airdrie & Hamilton Foodbanks

Christmas and the festive period can be an especially tough time for some families and this year the project team wanted to help by supporting local foodbanks.

The Community Liaison Team was inundated with donations of food stuffs after it sent out a last minute appeal to staff working on the project.

The project delivered parcels of vital supplies to Airdrie Foodbank and Hamilton Foodbank just in time for Christmas. Airdrie Foodbank volunteer Philomena Toner said: "We are delighted with this donation and so grateful as it will help so many families in the area. We really weren't expecting this. It is a lovely surprise."



Liaison Officer Pam Ward (centre) with Airdrie Foodbank helpers

## UK's Top Civil Engineer Visits Project

The UK's top civil engineer Professor Tim Broyd, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), visited the new Raith Junction to see how engineers are harnessing new digital technology to deliver the M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements Project.

It is one of the first major road projects in Scotland to pioneer the use of BIM, a cutting-edge 3D technology which is set to revolutionise the construction industry.

Building Information Modelling (BIM) uses digital technology more commonly seen in the gaming industry to help design, build, maintain and manage construction projects more effectively throughout their lifecycle.

Intelligent 3D models of new infrastructure, which include everything from the underground location of utility services to the type of street lighting installed, are available at the touch of a button.

Scottish Roads Partnership (SRP), the consortium delivering the £500m motorway upgrade on behalf of Transport Scotland and its main contractor, Ferrovial Lagan Joint Venture, has implemented BIM on one of the most complex and challenging parts of the project – the construction of the new Raith Junction.

Raul Pascual, Project Manager for Ferrovial Lagan Joint Venture, described BIM as the biggest technological advance in the construction industry in more than 100 years. Raul said: "Until now, the construction industry has been building bridges and roads in almost the same

way as it was done a century ago when concrete and steel construction was developed.

"BIM is already changing the way we work, allowing greater co-ordination and collaboration at the very earliest stage of a project

"Now construction engineers can watch and interact as the designer is designing a new road layout, while the maintenance contractor can use BIM to pinpoint a streetlight, know when it was installed and when the bulb needs to be changed – the possibilities are endless."



ICE UK President Prof. Broyd meets the construction team and Transport Scotland representatives at Raith underpass

Professor Broyd praised the engineers for embracing BIM.

He said: "A digital mindset will take our industry to the next level.

"Here at Raith Junction it is improving communication and co-ordination between design and construction teams and resulting in better, more resilient infrastructure while saving time and money.

"Better communication with road users and local communities is another key benefit."

Graeme Reid, Project Sponsor for Transport Scotland, said: "Transport Scotland is committed to supporting the construction industry to deliver greater efficiencies through the design, construction and operational stages of a project through the use of BIM."

View the BIM video here: <https://youtu.be/Hq9qw-YSFz4>

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## Stay informed:

**Websites**  
[www.transport.gov.scot/m8m73m74](http://www.transport.gov.scot/m8m73m74)  
[www.trafficscotland.org](http://www.trafficscotland.org)

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Scottish Roads Partnership



# Project update

Issue 9



## Raith Underpass Opens to Traffic



Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work announces major milestone at Raith Junction.

Full story on Page 3. Cabinet Secretary Keith Brown (left) pictured with Transport Scotland Project Sponsor Graeme Reid (right)



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Scottish Roads Partnership

## M8 ‘Missing Link’ Nears Completion

The M8 ‘missing link’ will finally be completed as work got under way to connect the newly built and existing M8 motorway at Baillieston Interchange.

To complete these critical works a 10-week diversion for both east and westbound traffic is needed via the newly aligned A8 and the new Bargeddie roundabout on approach to Baillieston Interchange from 17 February 2017.

This is a vital step towards the completion of the £500m M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements Project, being delivered by Scottish Roads Partnership, and its main contractor, Ferrovial Lagan Joint Venture, on behalf of Transport Scotland.

Transport Scotland is warning motorists to expect significant delays on the A8/M8 corridor, M73 and surrounding local roads, including the A89 Coatbridge Road, A8 Glasgow/Edinburgh Road, Swinton and Bargeddie areas.

These major works involve removing 13,000m<sup>3</sup> of existing carriageway and 40,000m<sup>3</sup> of earth on the existing road to connect to the new M8, which is approximately 5m lower.

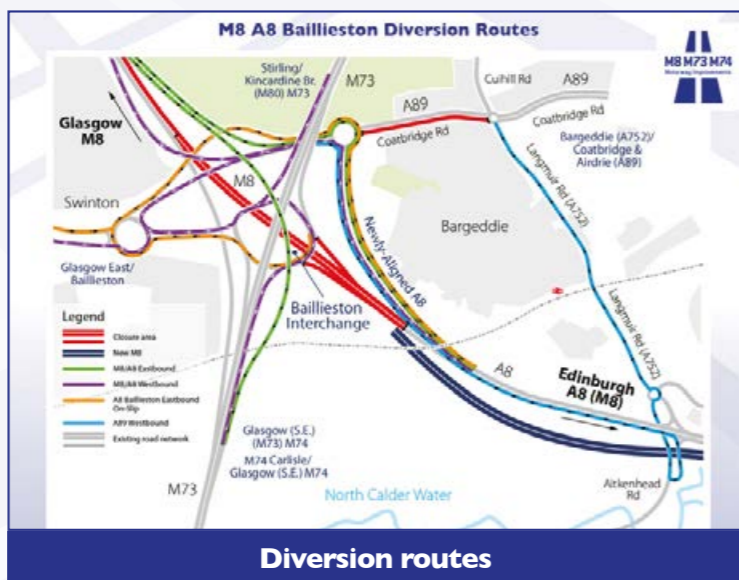
Following the excavation, 1,500m of drainage and 12,000 tonnes of blacktop will then be laid to allow the new M8 between Baillieston Interchange and Eurocentral to open to traffic for the first time.

Brais Suarez, construction manager for this section of works, explained the challenges ahead.

He said: “The main challenge we are facing is that all activities in this area will be taking place in a very short time frame. This includes earthworks, drainage, lighting, pavements, etc.



Baillieston Interchange



Diversion routes

“Once these works are finished we can finally talk about a complete M8 for the first time and we are really looking forward to that.”

During the 10-week diversion, two lanes of traffic will be maintained during peak times and signed diversion routes will be in place on all approaches to Baillieston Interchange, including the A8, M8, M73 and the surrounding roads.

Graeme Reid, Transport Scotland Project Sponsor, said: “This is the most significant traffic management we have implemented as part of the works and we are anticipating significant delays on all approaches to Baillieston Interchange and the surrounding roads.

“These works are a necessary part of completing this project and we are working with the contractor and key stakeholders, including Police Scotland and the local authorities, to minimise disruption and to complete the connection of the carriageways at the earliest opportunity.”

In a bid to reduce local traffic congestion, North Lanarkshire council has promoted a temporary road closure on a short section of the A89 Coatbridge Road (westbound), between Langmuir Road and the new Bargeddie Roundabout for the duration of the diversion.

In addition, a temporary roundabout will be in place on the A752 Aitkenhead Road on approach to the A8 Bargeddie Junction, westbound on and off-slip roads.

For the latest information please visit the Transport Scotland website: [www.transport.gov.scot/m8diversion](http://www.transport.gov.scot/m8diversion)

For Live Traffic updates, please visit the Traffic Scotland website at: [www.trafficscotland.org](http://www.trafficscotland.org)

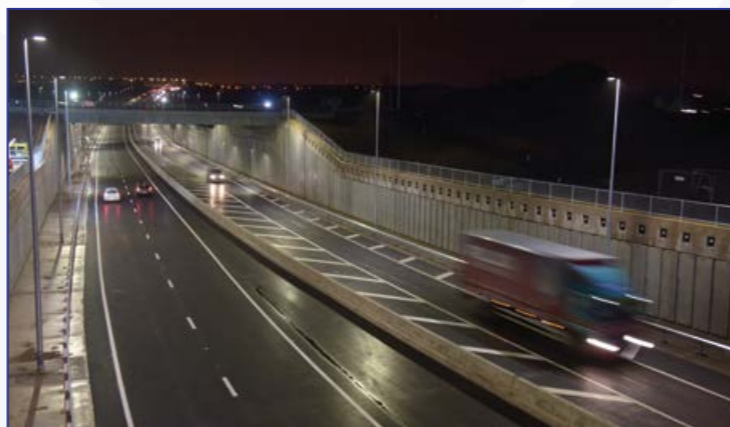
## Iconic Raith Underpass Opens to Traffic

The new Raith Underpass has opened to traffic marking a major milestone on the £500m M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements Project.

Raith Interchange in South Lanarkshire – one of the busiest in Scotland – has undergone its biggest transformation since it opened 50 years ago.

Almost three years to the day since Scottish Roads Partnership, and its contractors, Ferrovial Lagan Joint Venture and Amey, began construction on the upgrade to the central Scotland motorway network, one of the most significant and challenging sections of the project has finally been completed.

The first traffic through the underpass – framed by the now iconic cycleway and footbridge over the roundabout – was on 16th February.



First traffic through the underpass

Formally known as Bothwellhaugh Interchange, the underpass saw the creation of the 560m long, 35m wide section of road below the existing roundabout and the M74 – the main arterial route between Scotland and England.

It provides a free-flow link for traffic between the Bellshill Bypass and the East Kilbride Expressway. This will help alleviate congestion on the roundabout, saving drivers up to 15 minutes on their journeys.

The construction of the underpass has been a feat of engineering, consisting of more than 1600 concrete and steel piles, including nine 90-tonne, 42m concrete bridge beams - believed to be the largest of their type in the UK - for the three new bridges which span the carriageway.

The piling started in March 2015 and around 150,000m<sup>3</sup> of earth had to be excavated. More than 40,000m<sup>3</sup> of concrete was used to create the underpass and new bridges. Around 57,000 tonnes of blacktop (road surfacing) will eventually be laid at Raith to create new approach roads, slip roads and the underpass.

In addition, 40 pumping stations operating 24/7 were essential to the construction process to drain water coming from the nearby River Clyde, as the site sits below the water table.

Julio Sancho, construction manager for Raith, explained the challenges involved in reaching the finishing line and praised his team’s commitment.

He said: “I feel very proud of the job and the work that the team has achieved here.

“The challenges we have faced have involved dealing with the water levels and the co-ordination of all the trades in such a busy area.

“We have also had to install 522 concrete panels in the underpass, and each one has had to be produced to unique specifications. It was quite a job.”

As well as three new bridges which carry the M74 motorway and local traffic, two new footbridges have been installed to the north and south side of the roundabout to create a safe cycle path and walkway over the busy junction between Bothwell and Strathclyde Country Park.

As part of 16km of new cycle paths and pedestrian walkways across the entire project, the routes will provide improved accessibility and safety by segregating pedestrians and cyclists from motorists, as well as linking communities to places of work and recreation.

Graeme Reid, Project Sponsor for the M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements Project, said: “The creation of the underpass and the surrounding local roads network has been the most complex and challenging part of the project. Not only has SRP had to keep the traffic moving through the junction whilst carrying out this major feat of engineering, it has had to overcome the biggest challenge – the junction’s close proximity to the River Clyde.”

Once works at Raith are complete, it is hoped the upgrade will bring significant benefits, removing heavily congested traffic from the roundabout and local roads and moving local roads further away from residential properties, as well as providing an improved outlook with new landscaping.



Cabinet Secretary Keith Brown with Project Sponsor Graeme Reid

## STEM Ambassadors Sign Up to Encourage Future Talent

The M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements Project signed up 10 new STEM ambassadors in 2016 to help encourage young people into careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

The STEMNET initiative encourages companies and organisations to sign up ambassadors who will get involved in activities which can have an impact on young people’s learning and enjoyment of the STEM subjects.

The STEM ambassadors are all female, backing the drive to get more young girls to take up STEM subjects at school and open up their career opportunities.

In the past six months they have been out visiting schools in the vicinity of the project and sharing their experiences in the industry. STEM ambassador Ellie Carr said: “It’s about raising the awareness of the STEM subjects, particularly in the construction industry. There’s a whole lot more going on than hard hats and building things. It’s extremely rewarding being a STEM ambassador.”

### St Andrews High Careers Event

Project Environmental Advisor Ellie Carr (left) and Landscape and Environmental Manager Carol Walker (right) visited St Andrews High School in Coatbridge for its Careers and Information Event In November last year. More than 500 S4-S6 pupils and their parents attended the event.

Organiser Nicola Carruthers said pupils and staff had found the visit very positive and thanked the STEM ambassadors for their time and the valuable information they were able to pass on to the pupils.

She said: “Everyone was truly excellent.

“Having spoken with our pupils and staff today, they are very positive.”



### Cardinal Newman High Careers Fayre

Three of the project’s STEM ambassadors attended the Careers Fayre at Cardinal Newman High School in January.

Landscape and Environmental Manager Carol Walker, (left) Structures and Geotechnical Manager Mar Delgado (right) and Quality Inspector Andrea Garcia Parrado (centre) went along to the event for youngsters from S3 - S6.

Carol said: “The younger ones in particular were very engaged and interested to know about the project as it’s on their doorstep and they pass it every day. But they didn’t realise the range of jobs on offer on a project like this, like environmental, design and even project management.

“We were able to advise the children on different routes they could take into employment on projects like ours, like apprenticeships or colleges, not just universities. I found it very rewarding.”

### Project Supports World of Work Week

Youngsters at St John the Baptist Primary School in Uddingston learned about environmental management on the project.

Environmental Manager David Jones and Consultant Ecologist Becca Osbourn visited the school as part of World of Work Week, which aims to raise children’s aspirations about work opportunities available to them and to develop innovative and creative skills. David and Becca, pictured right delivering a series of colourful presentations to some of the kids at the school, highlighted how the environment is being transformed and wildlife is being protected during the works.

The pupils also learned about recycling on the construction site. Teacher Noleen Summer said: “The impact that their presentations had on our pupils was evident in the conversations we observed after each session. David and Becca’s Sessions really inspired the pupils.”

