

Welcome to the January 2011 issue of the Forth Replacement Crossing newsletter. In this issue you will find information on parliamentary approval and Royal Assent for the Forth Crossing Bill (Page 1), the upcoming final stages of the project's procurement process (Page 2), latest news on proposals for an FRC Contact and Education Centre (Page 2) and a prestigious award for the project's environmental credentials (Page 3).

Forth Replacement Crossing approved

The Forth Crossing Bill has received Scottish Parliamentary approval and Royal Assent, giving Scottish Ministers the necessary legal authority to build the Forth Replacement Crossing (FRC) scheme.

The Bill, introduced by Finance Secretary John Swinney in November 2009, was praised by MSPs during its Stage 3 debate on 15 December for bringing forward proposals for a world-class, 21st Century crossing that replaces the Forth Road Bridge as the main route for traffic across the Forth.

Due to ongoing concerns regarding the deterioration of the main suspension cables and other ongoing maintenance issues, the existing Forth Road Bridge cannot continue as the main crossing for cross-Forth traffic and may have to close to some vehicles by 2017, although under the current proposals it would be retained as a dedicated public transport corridor for buses, cycles and taxis. By protecting this strategically vital transport link, the FRC will secure over 3,000 jobs and economic

revenue of £1.3 billion. It will also deliver significant additional economic benefits through the creation of hundreds of jobs and sub-contracting opportunities for local firms, estimated by the British Chambers of Commerce to be worth around £6 billion to Scotland's economy.

Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth John Swinney said: "Royal Assent for the Forth Crossing Bill marks a historic step forward for this absolutely essential project. The project is on time and within budget and this is a testament to the hard work of all concerned with progressing parallel Parliamentary and procurement processes. The Scottish Government has committed to ensuring the FRC is completed by 2016 and we are on track to award the main contract for the project by April 2011."

Following the final approval of the Forth Crossing Bill, an updated Code of Construction Practice for the FRC scheme has been placed on the project website at www.forthreplacementcrossing.info



Artists impression of the proposed Forth Replacement Crossing scheme.

Procurement of principal contract for FRC nears completion

In addition to its significant legislative progress, the Forth Replacement Crossing (FRC) project has also reached a major milestone in its procurement process following the issue of the final invitation to tender for the contract to build the new bridge and connecting roads.

The invitation to submit final tenders for the principal FRC contract was issued on 17 December, marking the end of a year-long competitive dialogue process between Transport Scotland and the two consortia bidding for the principal FRC contract: Forthspan and Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors (FCBC).

Both consortia are now preparing their final tenders before submitting them at the end of January. The contract is expected to be worth between £0.9 billion and £1.2 billion (excluding VAT and at 2011 prices) and is due to be awarded in April this year.

Transport Minister Keith Brown said: “The FRC project has made impressive progress since it was first announced in 2007. It has gone through planning, design development, consultation and parliamentary scrutiny in under four years and is on course to complete procurement and begin construction in 2011. This is an exceptional achievement and establishes a strong foundation for delivering the FRC scheme on schedule and within budget in 2016.”



Artists impression of the proposed Forth Replacement Crossing scheme.

FRC contact and education centre confirmed

It has been confirmed that plans will be submitted later this year for a Forth Replacement Crossing (FRC) Contact and Education Centre adjacent to the Forth Estuary Transport Authority’s (FETA) head offices.

At a board meeting on 17 December, FETA approved the use of part of their car park to be used for the centre, which will act as a facility for information and consultation during the construction process in line with the requirements of the project’s Code of Construction Practice (CoCP). Options to establish the future use of the facility as a new national Traffic Control Centre for Traffic Scotland are also under investigation.

Plans are currently being developed for submission to City of Edinburgh Council for approval in March this year.

FRC Project Manager Lawrence Shackman said: “Public consultation has been central to the FRC project’s development to date and we are committed to providing a Contact and Education Centre that offers the public a dedicated facility for information, education and consultation purposes during construction.

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FRC Project Manager, Lawrence Shackman

“In the interests of efficiency and delivering best value for the public purse, we are also exploring whether this facility could deliver additional benefit by accommodating Traffic Scotland’s existing requirements for a dedicated National Control Centre.

“These proposals are still at an early stage of development. However, land adjacent to FETA’s offices at South Queensferry has been identified as the preferred site for this facility and Transport Scotland officials will be working with FETA to bring forward more detailed proposals in 2011.”

Project achieves Sustainability Award

The Forth Replacement Crossing (FRC) project has received a major industry award for the environmental quality of its proposed work.

The Civil Engineering Environmental Quality Assessment and Award Scheme (CEEQUAL) gave the FRC an ‘excellent’ rating for its Interim Assessment with a score of 92.7%.

CEEQUAL is the assessment and awards scheme for improving sustainability in civil engineering and public realm projects and demonstrate the commitment of the civil engineering industry to environmental quality and social performance.

The Scheme rigorously assesses performance across 12 areas of environmental and social concern looking for aspects where clients, designers and constructors go beyond the minimum to achieve high environmental and social standards.

FRC Roads Team Manager Steven Brown said: “This is a truly substantial achievement and demonstrates our commitment to going the extra distance in mitigating the environmental and social impact of the FRC project.

“We are also committed to ensure a high standard of sustainability is maintained through the construction of the project to its eventual opening in 2016.”

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FRC Roads Team Manager, Steven Brown



Artists impression of the proposed Forth Replacement Crossing scheme.

Forth Replacement Crossing (FRC) project overview

This is a major infrastructure project for Scotland, designed to safeguard a vital connection in the country's transport network. Despite significant investment and maintenance over its lifetime, the Forth Road Bridge is showing signs of deterioration and is not suitable as the long-term main crossing of the Firth of Forth. The FRC is designed to safeguard this vital cross-Forth connection in Scotland's transport network.

By protecting this strategically vital transport link, the FRC will secure over 3,000 jobs and economic revenue of £1.3 billion. It will also deliver significant additional economic benefits through the creation of hundreds of jobs and sub-contracting opportunities for local firms, estimated by the British Chambers of Commerce to be worth around £6 billion to Scotland's economy.

In November 2009 Scottish Ministers introduced the Forth Crossing Bill to the Scottish Parliament. This Bill was approved by Parliament in December 2010 and received Royal Assent in January 2011.

The final invitation to tender for the principal FRC contract was issued on 17 December, marking the end of a year-long competitive dialogue process between Transport Scotland and the two consortia bidding for the principal FRC contract: Forthspan and Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors (FCBC).

Both consortia are now preparing their final tenders before submitting them at the end of January. The contract is expected to be worth between £0.9 billion and £1.2 billion (excluding

VAT and at 2011 prices) and is due to be awarded in April this year. Competitive dialogue is continuing on the other two major contracts that make up the FRC project: the upgrading of M9 Junction 1a (£46 to £65 million) and Fife ITS (£14 to £22 million). Both contracts are on track to be awarded this summer.

An Owner Controlled Insurance Programme is also being procured by Transport Scotland. This will ensure that the necessary project insurances are in place immediately in advance of the award of the Principal Contract.

Background:

The project first began when the Forth Replacement Crossing Study was undertaken during 2006 and 2007 to identify the most favourable option for a replacement crossing. Five potential crossing corridors were identified and appraised for suitability according to a range of factors.

Following this study, the Scottish Government determined that the replacement crossing would be a cable-stayed bridge to the west of the existing Forth Road Bridge.

During 2008 Transport Scotland carried out further work to develop the crossing strategy and concluded that the existing Forth Road Bridge could be retained as a dedicated public transport corridor; with the replacement crossing carrying all other traffic.

These newsletters provide regular updates on project progress. More information is available at www.forthreplacementcrossing.info



Artists impression of the proposed Forth Replacement Crossing scheme.

Contacting the Forth Replacement Crossing Team

For more information about the Forth Replacement Crossing please contact the Transport Scotland team on:

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You can also sign up to our regular e-newsletter on the website to receive updates on the project by email.

