

project update

Issue 9

Aberdeen
roads limited

Message from Aberdeen Roads Limited



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Thank you once again for taking the time to read our latest Project Update. Works have resumed at full pace since the start of the year, with more of the AWPR/B-T project moving towards completion. The latest project photographs have been included in this issue, which we hope you will find interesting and be able to clearly see the significant progress that the project has made since commencement.

Maintaining the safety of the local community and road workers alike is of utmost importance to all of us. Traffic management is a key element during major road construction projects and is crucial in maintaining a high standard of safety. The traffic management figures associated with the project have been quite staggering, with over 4,000 traffic signs being used and 3,000 traffic management installations being placed to help keep the north east moving. To ensure the safety of all, we request that road users continue to respect the traffic management in place and observe all signage.

We are starting to increase the manpower associated with the Operation and Maintenance element of the project, to ensure that the team is ready to start covering more of the project as it nears completion. This has been the harshest winter yet, with operatives being out 24/7 on the existing A90 between Murcar and Ellon, to the north of Aberdeen, and at Craibstone, ensuring our network is safe for the road users.

As always, we thank you for your continued patience throughout the duration of these works.



CLEAR HEADWAY

The advancement being made across the entire AWPR/B-T project can be clearly seen as the works continue towards completion. The latest photographs from around the site show how far key sections of the new road have advanced.

Many of the structures are either complete or are close to being finished as the photograph above of the new River Dee Crossing shows. Most of the Continually Reinforced Concrete Paving (CRCP) has been laid on the main line with final surfacing and road marking works being carried out.

Road users are seeing the benefits of this with vehicles now using part of the new route between Tipperty and Foveran and the new alignment of the A947 Aberdeen to Banff Road at Goval.

The project team is working hard to complete the remaining works so that the road can be brought into full operation. Traffic management will remain in place in some locations and will be phased to keep disruption to a minimum.

There are more photographs inside this issue of the Project Update that show key locations on site between 2015 and the present day.

this issue features...

**Project Photographs
Operation & Maintenance Plans
Traffic Management Infographic
Training Opportunities**



**TRANSPORT
SCOTLAND**
CÒMHDHAIL ALBA

An agency of Buidheann le

 **The Scottish Government**
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie to Tipperty

2015



2018



Charleston Junction: The former A956 bridge has been replaced with a new structure taking the AWPR over the A90.



Dee Crossing: A new bridge carrying the AWPR now sits alongside the existing B979 bridge.



Stonehaven: The new B979 Netherley Road Overbridge is complete and a new roundabout for the Fastlink is almost finished.

2015



2018



Balmedie Underpass: The new underpass can be clearly seen with the new roundabouts and access roads approaching completion.



Blackdog Junction: The new Blackdog Junction over the A90 Aberdeen-Fraserburgh Road with the AWPR heading south towards Goyal.



Tippetty Junction: The new Balmedie to Tippetty section along with slip roads and the realigned B9000 can now be clearly seen.

2015



2018



Milltimber: The AWPR can now be seen below the new A93 and Milltimber Brae Overbridges.



Craibstone: The AWPR is now over the A96 Aberdeen-Inverness Road and the new Craibstone Roundabout is operational.



Goval: The realigned A947 Aberdeen-Banff Road now goes over the AWPR.

Training offers opportunities for all



A major project on the scale of the AWPR/B-T offers a wealth of training opportunities, both for experienced operatives and new entrants to construction and civil engineering.

More than 4,300 training days have been delivered so far during the project on a wide range of subjects to introduce new skills or update operatives on legislative changes.

The aim is to ensure skills are up to date which enables staff to work at their optimum ability with increased performance and productivity. It also helps provide a safer and healthier workplace which gives more job satisfaction for operatives and improves staff retention.

Specialist topics provided through the training include confined spaces operations; first aid at work; harness awareness, roller training, telehandler training and working at height.

In addition, the project also offers places for apprentices, graduates, job starts, work experience and taster opportunities. This provides a chance for new entrants to the industry, either from school, college or university and those looking to change career or have been long term unemployed.

During this project, a total of 205 apprentices have worked on site along with 63 graduate entrants, 224 Job Starts and 206 on work placement experience either through the WorkingRite training programme or an educational placement.

The success of such training opportunities has recently been highlighted by the experience of trainee site engineer Thomas Smith, 19, (pictured above) who has reached the Scottish final of the Construction Industry Training Board Apprentice of the Year.

He did an internship while a pupil at Northfield Academy in Aberdeen which led to an apprenticeship two and half years ago and has worked on the project since then, combining his work with block release attendance at college for an Higher National Certificate in Civil Engineering.

Keeping traffic moving during the AWPR works



3,000
traffic management
installations



250,000
man hours



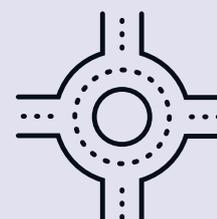
4,000
traffic signs



825
stakeholder consultations



1,150
traffic orders



2,000
traffic management
drawings

One of the key elements of a major road construction project is the temporary traffic management which on the AWPR/B-T is planned, approved and installed to allow works to safely proceed while keeping the north east open for business and road users moving. This includes temporary diversions, temporary traffic lights and road closures. The figures above give an indication of the scale involved.

Operation and maintenance team running well



The O&M team celebrates over 1,000 days without a reportable accident

As construction of the new AWPR/B-T nears completion, the focus will shift towards the preparation and readiness for the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of the new scheme.

In December 2014 Aberdeen Roads Limited (ARL) appointed Balfour Beatty Regional Civil Engineering Limited (BBRCE) as the O&M Contractor for the duration of the project.

Since March 2015, BBRCE has been carrying out basic routine maintenance, winter service, network management and incident response on a section of the existing A90, between Murcar Roundabout and Ellon South Roundabout (the Restricted Services Network). In addition, BBRCE assumed O&M responsibility for the new Craibstone Roundabout on the A96 in September 2016.

This is now the fourth winter season looking after the Restricted Services Network and, to date, it has been the harshest winter since commencement. The O&M operatives have been out at all hours of the day and night carrying out precautionary salt treatments, patrolling and ploughing with a view to keeping roads safe and open to the traveling public. For this 12 mile section of the trunk road, BBRCE will use in the region of 500 to 600 tonnes of salt and carry out approximately 200 precautionary salt treatments and 130 loaded gritter patrols between the hours of 2am and 10am. Whilst they carry out these services with the challenging weather, we would ask road users to allow extra time on their journeys and drive to the conditions.

In anticipation of the new road opening, BBRCE is increasing manpower of the O&M team, ensuring everyone receives the relevant training and is fully aware of the high quality work expected from them. In tandem with this, they are progressing with the planning and construction of the new Operation and Maintenance Depot.

BBRCE has also been working closely with all critical stakeholders, including ARL, Transport Scotland, Police Scotland, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils, to develop clear communication lines, incident diversion routes and winter service routes, all with an aim to be ready for the opening of the new road and the changes to the network across the region.

Works coming soon

The focus of the upcoming works is to continue efforts towards completion across the project, particularly with road surfacing and the final remaining structures.

In the South Section, the Fastlink Roundabout at Stonehaven, which links the A90, the B979 and the Fastlink segment of the AWPR will be continued onto its final alignment and completed. In addition, widening of the B979 from the Fastlink Roundabout to the new bridge carrying the A90 over it will be advanced to completion.

Surfacing works at the Cleanhill Roundabout, which links the Fastlink and South Section, will be completed along with the adjoining Blakiewell Burn Underbridge. Finishing works will be undertaken at the Charleston Junction on the A90.

Surfacing works will be continued towards completion on the River Dee Crossing. Deck segment works on the River Don Crossing will be finished and followed by waterproofing, kerbing and surfacing works.

Works will continue at the Blackdog Junction including the temporary diversion of traffic on both carriageways of the A90 on to the new slip roads to allow completion of a new culvert and drainage works across the existing road.

Finishing works on the Balmedie Underpass will also be completed with the A90 carriageway switched onto its final permanent alignment. Works will also be continued towards completion at the Tipperty Junction including the opening of the new alignment of the B9000 which includes a new roundabout which gives access to and from the new A90.

Contact Us

Should you wish to know more about the project please visit our project website at www.transport.gov.scot/awpr-bt, where you can sign up for the Ezine, Route Ahead, as well as project-related alerts. Alternatively, call us on 0800 058 8350 or email enquiries@aberdeenroads.com.