

SUMMER 2018

A737 Dalry Bypass

Project newsletter



Cover photo

Minister for Transport and the Islands
Humza Yousaf visiting the Dalry
Bypass construction site

FARRANS ROADBRIDGE

Welcome



Farrans Roadbridge JV Project Manager Brian Snow

Welcome to the third issue of our regular newsletter. Work on the A737 Dalry Bypass project has continued to make good progress and we were pleased to be able to re-open Blair Road in May. We thank the local community for their patience during the closure period.

Work is now underway to construct the main steel sections of the viaduct structure, which will take the road across the River Garnock and the Glasgow to Ayr railway line.

In May, we welcomed Minister for Transport and the Islands Humza Yousaf on site for an update on the progress being made on this key project.

As contractor on the project, Farrans Roadbridge Joint Venture (JV) would like to take the opportunity to thank the community and road users for their continued support and co-operation during construction.

**Brian Snow, Project Manager,
Farrans Construction Roadbridge JV**



Earthworks west of Highfield

Progress update

EARTHWORKS

Following the winter period, earthwork operations recommenced in earnest during spring, and will continue throughout the summer. To date, we have excavated 190,000m³ of clay material from the site, with a further 180,000m³ of material within road embankments and landscaping bunds.

STRUCTURES

In October 2017, Blair Road was closed to the public to enable the construction of an overbridge to span the new A737 bypass. Despite the challenging weather conditions experienced over winter and early spring, works progressed well and the road reopened to the public in May.

Construction of the viaduct structure over the River Garnock and the Glasgow to Ayr railway line has progressed, with piling work completed. Five of the twelve bridge columns have also been constructed – these vary in height, with the tallest column standing 14m from ground level when completed. Large girders have been delivered to site and are being assembled in preparation to launch the first section of the viaduct across the River Garnock.

MINeworkings

Work to fill and grout empty pockets left by abandoned underground mineworkings has been completed successfully at Highfield and an area to the eastern section of the project.

Transport Minister visits site

Minister for Transport and the Islands Humza Yousaf was onsite in May to meet the team and to view the progress that has been made.

Travelling in a low-emission vehicle, Mr Yousaf took in the route of the new bypass, viewing the newly opened Blair Road overbridge, before inspecting the area where work is underway to construct the viaduct to cross the River Garnock and the Glasgow to Ayr railway line.

Mr Yousaf said: “I am delighted to see continued progress on the Dalry Bypass, with work clearly visible across the route. This is a key improvement to the road network in the South West Scotland, and it is encouraging to see the use of electric and low-emission vehicles here on site.”

This is the first time that electric and low-emission vehicles have been used on a major road construction contract in Scotland.

PROGRESS IN PICTURES



1. Viaduct structure launch platform being constructed in preparation for the delivery of the steel girders; **2.** Reinforcement cage for the column foundations being installed adjacent to the River Garnock; **3.** Embankment slope with the new Blair Road overbridge in the background; **4.** Topsoiling of the embankment slope at Highfield; **5.** Cattle underpass installed at the eastern end of the project

Looking ahead

Throughout the summer months, the team will be focusing on the following activities:

- Diversion of public utilities
- Start of construction of the new roundabout at Highfield
- Continuing the mainline earthworks at Hillend, Highfield and Birkentop
- Commencing construction of the road pavement base layers along sections of the bypass
- Continuing construction of the viaduct bridge in preparation for the first bridge launch in the coming months.

Staff attend Dalry Farm Show

Project Staff from Farrans Roadbridge JV attended the Dalry Farm Show in May.

Celebrating its 50th year hosted at Lynnholm, and dating as far back as 1855, the event brings local farms and communities together with traditional activities, with cattle and sheep livestock classes, horse section, dog show, and an industrial section with adult and children's classes. There was also a painting competition and highland dancing display. With over 1,000 visitors to the show, site team staff members Jennifer and Stephen were on hand to answer any queries that people had about the project.

Drop-ins for the community

We are committed to keeping the local community informed on construction progress and look to involve the community with the project wherever possible.

In April, we held two drop-in information sessions within Dalry town centre, at the library and Rosearden Hall. These sessions gave the public the opportunity to put their questions to project staff, view displays on the construction progress, and to view a virtual flythrough of the project which gave an idea of how the bypass will look when complete.

The sessions proved popular with the community and community leaders, including local MSP Kenneth Gibson and



Information board and virtual reality model set up for drop-in session

Councillor Joy Brahim.

The drop-in sessions follow on from several community meetings held with local residents including the Blair Residents and Tenants Association.





Staff spent time with schoolchildren at Dalry Primary School

Meeting Scotland's future engineers

STEM AMBASSADORS

We have continued our engagement with local schools, putting our trained Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Ambassadors to work to inspire the next generation of future engineers.

In March, project staff visited Dalry Primary School to meet with primary one pupils, and to provide the aspiring engineers an opportunity to safely watch a 16-tonne wheeled excavator operate, as well as trying on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Project staff also spoke to around 50 primary five pupils about the important role that engineering plays in society, and gave a presentation on civil engineering with specific insight into the Dalry Bypass – located just a

mile-and-a-half from the school. Pupils also participated in a practical challenge to build a small bridge out of paper using different methods of construction to balance weights. The task aims to develop understanding of how bridge-building techniques can influence structural strength.

Mrs Stevenson, teacher at the school, said: "This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to engage with the members from Farrans Roadbridge Joint Venture. It gave them the opportunity to find out what engineers were doing in their local community and how they could apply their STEM skills in the future."

In addition to our work with Dalry Primary School, we have also attended careers events at Elderbank Primary School and Largs Academy.

Safety Sam says: 'Play Safe – Stay Safe'

In April, Farrans Roadbridge JV visited two schools located closest to the project, St. Palladius and Dalry Primary School, to highlight the dangers of construction sites.



The 'Safety Sam' presentation is a fun and insightful way to emphasise the dangers and hazards of construction sites, with the title character relaying safety messages in an interactive and entertaining way. The children received various educational goodies, all with a reminder of the safety motto: "Play Safe – Stay Safe".



Safety Sam visits Dalry Primary School



In brief

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY GARDENS

We have donated topsoil to Beith Community Garden and Dalry Primary School's garden to assist with both of their gardening plans.

BLAIR GYMKHANA

In support of the popular equestrian event, Farrans Roadbridge JV have joined as an event sponsor. Held on the Blair Estate on 30 June, the Blair Gymkhana includes show jumping, cross country and fancy-dress classes for all the family. We're proud to contribute to raising funds for the event's three main charities; Riding for the Disabled, Erskine (caring for ex-service men and women) and the Ayrshire Hospice.

FURTHER PROJECT INFORMATION

If you have any matters you wish to raise concerning the project, please contact: Angela Newlands, Community Liaison Officer by email on dalrybypass@farrans.com or telephone **02890 394089**.

For more information on the project please visit:

transport.gov.scot/projects/a737-dalry-bypass

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School children taking part in the Safety Sam event at St Palladius Primary School