

Update



FORTHREPLACEMENTCROSSING www.forthreplacementcrossing.info

The Forth Replacement Crossing is a major infrastructure project for Scotland. In December 2007 the Scottish Government confirmed its intention to build a multi-modal, cable stay bridge to the west of the existing Forth Road Bridge, which, despite significant investment and maintenance over its lifetime, is now showing signs of deterioration. The replacement bridge will maintain this vital link in the transport network, safeguarding the future of cross-Forth travel and the Scottish economy.

PROJECT PROGRESS

A number of key milestones have been achieved on the project since December's announcement.

- **January 2008 – Consultants Appointed**

Transport Scotland has appointed Jacobs Arup – a joint venture of experienced, international consultants to develop the crossing. Jacobs Arup and their partners bring their experience from some of the world's most renowned infrastructure projects including Stonecutters Bridge in Hong Kong, the Øresund crossing in Scandinavia, the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and, closer to home, the new Upper Forth Crossing.

- **February 2008 – Land Searches**

A team of consultants were in the area in February, liaising with landowners in the vicinity of the crossing and the environmental study area to check land ownership boundaries and explain the forthcoming works.

- **February 2008 – Environmental Surveys**

Environmental surveys are a major part of the project and the findings will be considered when the crossing and road connections are designed. Surveys began in February and up to 20 different surveys will take place over the coming year including ecological surveys, landscape and visual impact assessments, water surveys, noise and air quality monitoring and many more. An information leaflet – Environmental Surveys and Ground Investigations: Information for Landowners – outlining the full extent of surveys can be viewed on the project website.

- **March 2008 – Traffic Surveys**

Survey teams and counters have been monitoring traffic levels since March 2008 to provide up-to-date information following the removal of tolls and confirm the current traffic levels on the surrounding road network.

- **March 2008 – Ground Investigations & Aerial Surveys**

Aerial surveys provide accurate details of ground levels and contours of the land, while ground investigations indicate the ground conditions. These works began in March and are taking place at a variety of locations on the north and south sides of the Forth. Consultation took place with affected landowners prior to the start of these works, which are scheduled to last for approximately four months. Further information is contained in the leaflet Environmental Surveys and Ground Investigations: Information for Landowners on the project website.



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NEXT STEPS

Transport Scotland and the project consultants are currently working on the next phases of the project, which include:

- Developing road connections, based on the indicative alignments shown in summer 2007
- Developing the bridge design
- Developing procurement, financing and legislative options to take forward the crossing
- Consulting with key stakeholders including landowners, local community groups and statutory bodies such as Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Architecture & Design Scotland

KEY DATES

Below is an indicative timeline for the project

Mid 2008	Complete feasibility studies
Early 2009	Complete design
Mid 2009	Submit for authorisation
End 2009 – 2010	Authorisation process
2010 – 2011	Tendering
2011 – 2016	Construction

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What kind of traffic will the bridge cater for?

A. The guiding principle is that no more than two lanes will be provided in each direction for general traffic. Capacity for bus priority lanes and high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes will also be provided, as will access for pedestrians and cyclists.

Q. What does multi-modal mean and what will that be?

A. Multi-modal means alternative forms of transport other than the private car. The Forth Replacement Crossing will be built with sufficient strength and width to carry bus and HOV lanes from the outset and allow for the introduction of multi-modal public transport in the future.

Q. How will the bridge be protected from the effects of wind?

A. Bridge technology has moved on significantly since the Forth Road Bridge and the new bridge will include modern wind shielding. Similar technology has been used on the second Severn crossing that connects England and Wales, which has never been forced to close due to weather in the 12 years since it opened.

CONTACTS

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.