



Forth Replacement Crossing North Community Forum Minutes

Meeting Location: FRC Contact & Education Centre, South Queensferry

Meeting Date/Time: 24 August 2016 – 7 pm

Subject: North Community Forum

Participants:

Community Representatives

Wayne Morris (Inverkeithing Community Council)

Transport Scotland – Employers Delivery Team

Lawrence Shackman - FRC Project Manager

Alan Shirley - Head of Policy, Governance and Stakeholder Liaison

Raymond Kirk - Governance and Stakeholder Liaison Outreach and Education - Secretariat

Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors

Ewen Macdonell - FCBC Community Liaison Manager

Apologies

Bill King - Rosyth Community Council

Lin Collis - North Queensferry Community Council

Jim George - North Queensferry Community Council

Katrina Bruce - FCBC Community Liaison Officer

		Action
1	Welcome and introductions	
1.1	<p>Meeting Chaired by LS.</p> <p>LS welcomed all to the Community Forum.</p>	
2	Review of Minutes from the North Community Forum – 18 May 2016	
2.1	Minutes were approved for the Employer’s Delivery Team to post the final version onto Transport Scotland website.	Noted
2.2	<p>Outstanding Actions from the North Community Forum – 18 May 2016</p> <p>There were no actions from the previous Minutes</p>	Noted
3	Update from Employer’s Delivery Team	
3.1	<p>3.1 Revised Programmed Opening</p> <p>LS updated the Forum that on 8 June 2016 the Economy Secretary, Keith Brown announced that due to higher than anticipated adverse weather, the expected completion date for the Queensferry Crossing has been changed from December 2016 to May 2017 but this was still within the contractual completion date of June 2017.</p> <p>LS reported that until the end of May 2016, the contractors, FCBC had considered the target of opening in December 2016 as challenging but achievable - however the anticipated downtime due to adverse weather, specifically wind, had been 40% compared to the anticipated 25%.</p> <p>LS explained that deck lifting will now not finish until autumn 2016 and final stage activities such as road surfacing and wind-barriers will now have to be completed in the colder, wetter and more windy conditions usually experienced in autumn and winter.</p> <p>LS concluded by saying that despite the change in completion date, the successful completion of many milestones and management of controllable risks since construction started has contributed to releasing £245 million from the project budget back to the public purse.</p>	Noted

3.2	<p>Ministerial Technical Briefings</p> <p>LS reported that further to the announcement in June of the change in programme completion date, the FRC Project hosted 2 Technical Briefings for MSP's 10 June and 8 July.</p> <p>This provided a detailed analysis of the project and explained the reasons for the resulting delay. MSP's who attended all found the update useful.</p>	Noted
3.3	<p>Rural Economy and Connectivity (REC) Committee (formerly ICI) appearance:</p> <p>LS stated that further to the announcement of the change in programme on 8 June, David Climie and Economy Secretary Keith Brown MSP, appeared in front of the Rural Economy and Connectivity (REC) Committee on 29 June where questions were asked regarding the change in completion date and confirmation of the FRC budget.</p> <p>LS said that the Forth Replacement Crossing team will be giving regular progress updates to the REC Committee with the first appearance scheduled for 7 September 2016.</p> <p>LS continued by saying that future appearances will then be roughly quarterly rather than 6 monthly, two-monthly written updates will also be provided committee and this will form part of the regular communication to keep Parliament informed on the progress of the project.</p>	Noted
3.4	<p>Autumn Briefing Sessions</p> <p>LS reported that similar to the Annual Briefing Sessions held in January each year, the project are considering holding an autumn briefing on 12 and 13 October with presentations at 3pm and 7pm. Events will be advertised in due course.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note:</p> <p>The Annual Briefing Sessions will now take place in the new year. Regular FRC Project updates continue to be provided for the public at the monthly Presentation Series with the next events on 23 and 24 September, 27 and 28 October, 25 and 26 November 2016.</p>	Noted

3.5	<p>Approach Viaduct and North Deck</p> <p>LS reported that engineers have now joined the crossing's north deck and the north viaduct meaning the Queensferry Crossing is now connected to Fife.</p> <p>LS said that this represents the first of four closures between the "deck fans" which are now nearing completion around each of the bridge's three towers.</p> <p>LS concluded by saying that Economy Cabinet Secretary Keith Brown had visited the site on 12 August 2016 and was among the first to walk from the land on the Fife side on to the new Queensferry Crossing.</p>	Noted
3.6	<p>Queensferry Crossing – Consultation</p> <p>LS reported that the Consultation regarding the M90/A90 Trunk Road (Admiralty Interchange to Scotstoun) (Variable Speed limits and Actively Managed Hard Shoulders) Regulations 2016 which was launched on 31 March 2016, had now closed.</p> <p>LS said that Transport Scotland received 14 comments on the Regulations, all of which were responded too with a further 5 additional supplementary notes being provided. These will be summarised in a report to be taken forward by Parliament, with the Regulation process due to be completed later this year.</p>	Noted
3.7	<p>Community Forum Site Visit</p> <p>LS reported that AS had invited Community Forum members to attend the annual community forum site visits taking place on Saturday 17 September and Monday 19 September.</p> <p>Attendees are requested to be at the Contact and Education Centre at 09.30 for a 10:00 start. Forum members should provide confirmation of attendance by Friday 2 September.</p>	Noted

<p>3.8</p>	<p>Road Users Guide</p> <p>LS reported that AS had distributed a draft of the Road Users Guide on 8 August to forum members and asked for comments or thoughts by 26 August.</p> <p>LS said that although no comments have been received so far from North Forum members, a number of comments had been received from other stakeholders.</p> <p>LS stated that the guide will primarily be available in a digital format with a limited run of hard copies available. This will also be followed up with a press release and radio advertising notifying the public of the changes and Traffic Scotland will also undertake a radio campaign to inform the public of the changes in road layout.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>3.9</p>	<p>A90/M90 Spur Overnight Works</p> <p>LS informed the Forum that Transport Scotland have issued a press release to warn motorists to expect delays on Saturday 27 August as an overhead gantry is being installed on the A90 near South Queensferry.</p> <p>LS said that the gantry is the first of two installations as part of the significant road upgrade for the new Queensferry Crossing. This will be installed on the southbound carriageway at the point where the A90 to Edinburgh and the M90 Spur separate.</p> <p>LS gave further details that lane restrictions will be in place on the A90 in both directions from 20:00 hours, with full closure of the A90 southbound from 23:00 hours to 05:00 hours.</p> <p>LS continued by saying that the southbound carriageway on the M90 spur will completely close between 21:00 hours to 05:00 hours and that traffic approaching the Forth Road Bridge from the north will be re-directed via Kincardine Bridge and the outside lane on the M90 spur northbound will also close from 21:00 hours reopening at 05:00 hours and full details are on the Traffic Scotland Website, FRC Website and Twitter.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

<p>3.10</p>	<p>Forth Replacement Crossing - Opening Celebrations Committee</p> <p>AS updated the Forum on the progress of the planning for the opening ceremony noting that the project have recently brought on board 2 events specialists to look at a public access event and an official Opening Ceremony which will include input from residents from both North and South.</p> <p>AS continued by confirming that the committee met on 31 May and 12 July, with the next meeting scheduled for 13 September - meeting 2 monthly until the New Year and then monthly after that.</p> <p>AS said that the next meeting will involve the committee looking at current plans and sifting submitted suggestions to see what could be actioned.</p> <p>AS concluded by saying that the committee would welcome suggestions from Forum members or members of the public and these could be raised directly with the Forum representatives on the committee or through the FRC enquiries mailbox.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>3.11</p>	<p>Contact and Education Centre Update</p> <p>RK updated the Forum regarding activities at the Contact and Education Centre since the May forum.</p> <p>Education Programme – at the end of the 2015-16 academic year over 17,000 school pupils had visited the project with letters for the 2016/17 Education Programme being distributed to school on 17 August.</p> <p>Project Exhibition - the Project Exhibition on Saturdays continues to prove popular and in April was attended by 293 members of the public. Well over 14,100 visitors since opening to the public.</p> <p>FRC Presentation Series – has continued to prove successful with the next series taking place on 26 and 27 August. Since 2014 over 2,750 people attended this series.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

	<p>Outreach and Education Programme - presentations delivered as part of the wider programme have now been attended by nearly 23,000 people interested in hearing more about the Forth Replacement Crossing Project.</p> <p>The overall Outreach and Education Programme has now attracted over 58,000 individuals across all activities.</p> <p>Industry Days - further to the success of the Presentation and Site Visits for Industry in 2015, the Project organised a repeat of the events for 2016. Visits took place from April to August and were attended by over 350 people taking up the opportunity to visit the project.</p>	
3.12	<p>Social Media</p> <p>RK updated Forum members stating that over 206,400 people have watched project videos on the Queensferry Crossing YouTube channel, with subscribers up to 585.</p> <p>The Official Queensferry Crossing twitter account @FRC_Queensferry now has a total of 3,340 followers, an increase of more than 800 since the last update in February.</p> <p>Finally, Tweets were viewed 399,000 times by Twitter users from May to July 2016.</p>	Noted
4	Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors (Principal Contract)	
4.1	<p>EM provided a slide presentation to forum members including photos of work currently on-going. Including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting Roads South – northbound A90 is now complete and lines painted, the completion of the central barrier is outstanding and once complete this section will be opened for local traffic to join the A904. The southbound link is progressing well and gantries on this section have been erected. The northbound public transport link is progressing well. 	Noted

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• B800 – works on the B800 are on-going with a flyer to be distributed to residents to notify of closures to allow for resurfacing of the Ferrymuir roundabout in October. Access to the retail park will be maintained.• South Abutment – concrete works are on-going and the maintenance rooms fit-out is underway. The footpath /cycleway construction will begin once resources permit.• Main Crossing – the main crossing is progressing well with 9 deck sections left to lift between the South Approach and South Tower. 4 decks to be lifted between South Tower and Centre Tower with closure expected in October. 7 decks to be lifted between North Tower and Central Tower with closure expected in November. Once the last 2 decks are lifted at Central Tower this will be the longest free standing cantilever in the world.• Approach Viaduct North – works are progressing well with 3 deck pours left which will complete this section.• Connecting Roads North – the mainline works are progressing well with the 2 replacement bridges having been waterproofed and are awaiting surfacing. Traffic has now been diverted onto the new Southbound slip road for Ferrytoll gyratory. The new northbound public transport link will shortly be used to divert traffic off the A90 to allow for connections to the new sections to be undertaken.• King Malcolm Drive/Castlandhill Road Junction – works on-going with traffic management to be in place until the completion of the Ferrytoll gyratory.• Hope Street – reconfiguration of bus forecourt turning area on-going. Temporary bus turning circle has been installed at lower level car park. <p>Information is posted on the FRC section of the Transport Scotland website as part of the 'Weekly Traffic Management Update' updated at the end of each week: http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/information-road-users.</p>	
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	Email alerts relating to the works at Ferrytoll are being issued for those who sign up for them at www.frc-ferrytoll.info . The current phasing can also be viewed here.	
5	Community issues	
5.1	Ferrytoll Signage – WM asked if anything could be done about the signage for pedestrians around Ferrytoll as it was confusing and difficult to understand. EM confirmed that this is a fast-moving area and signage is constantly being monitored by the workforce.	Noted
5.2	Graffiti – WM asked what was happening with the retaining wall at Castlandhill Road. EM confirmed that a new anti-graffiti paint had been applied to the wall in an attempt to prevent further attacks.	Noted
5.3	Contact and Education Centre Lighting – RK informed the forum that Lin Collis had again raised the issue of the lighting strip around the Contact and Education Centre being on during the day. RK said that this had been raised with the building Facilities team and the electrician who was waiting for a replacement part.	Noted
6	Any Other Business	
6.1	Night Time Hammering – WM raised the issue of night-time hammering taking place at 03:00 am being reported to Inverkeithing Community Council and asking if these were project related. EM confirmed that this matter had been addressed and no hammering should have taken place and the workforce have been informed of this.	Noted
	<p>Proposed Change to Community Forum Format</p> <p>LS and AS suggested a change to the format of the Community Forums from the November 2016 meetings until project completion.</p> <p>The proposed change would be to merge the North and South Forums into a single Forum – to take place on the final Wednesday of November, then for each quarter.</p> <p>Apart from community issues, information delivered to each</p>	

	<p>Forum is almost identical. As such, merging the Forums would appear to be a sensible way forward, saving time and resources.</p> <p>It was suggested that the format for the November Forum would remain the same with an adjustment to the Community Issues element of the agenda. These would appear as separate North and South issues. Delegates from the North Forum would of course be able to depart the Forum once North Forum issues had concluded, these being tabled first.</p> <p>All present agreed to the proposed change. However, EDT to check with representatives from North Queensferry and Rosyth who were not in attendance and with South Forum members at next week's South Forum.</p>	
7	Next Community Forums	
7.1	<p>North Community Forum – Wednesday 23 November 2016</p> <p>South Community Forum – Wednesday 30 November 2016</p>	Noted