



Tyne and Wear Integrated Transport Authority

26 November 2009

New Tyne Crossing - Update

Report of NTC Project Director

For Information

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of progress made on the construction since the last update report to the Authority on 23rd July 2009.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Authority is recommended to note progress made.

3. Background

- 3.1 Construction of the New Tyne Crossing (NTC) began on 22 April 2008. Key dates as set out in the Project Agreement signed on 23 November 2007 and those subsequently revised during the construction phase are as follows:-

PTU1	15 December 2010 (opening of new tunnel) Revised to 4 February 2011 on 2 April 2009 – see para 4.1
PTU2	3 December 2011 (opening of refurbished existing tunnel)
Completion	3 December 2011

4. Progress – Since July 2009

Progress photographs will be available at the meeting.

4.1 Programme

The construction programme issued on 2 April 2009 following the special Project Board Meeting on 10 March 2009 has now been revised to account for significant re-planning and programming of the works. This programme, which was issued on 13 October 2009, does not affect the key dates and progress is now measured against it. Overall the project is on programme to meet the key dates set out in para 3.1.

4.2 North Approach Works

Works to the diaphragm walls, crossover (where the new tunnel will pass over the existing tunnel) and transition structure (where the immersed tubes will connect with

the approach tunnel) are complete, slightly ahead of programme. Work on the construction of the bottom slabs and roof slabs is nearing completion and some back-filling to original ground level is in place. Overall the works in this section are currently ahead of programme.

4.3 Immersed Tube Works – Walker (formerly A&P) Dock 4

Production of the immersed tube sections for floatation, transport to site and immersion is now complete. Work is now progressing on preparing the dock for flooding to start on the 7th December 2009. The floatation of the 4 units will take place in January/February 2010 – the actual times and dates will depend on tide conditions.

4.4 Dredging

Discussions were satisfactorily concluded with the Environment Agency and the appropriate consents obtained. The cutter/suction dredger – the Vesalius – arrived in the Tyne on 3 November 2009 and dredging started on the 9 November 2009. The pipelines were successfully installed across land to transport the dredged material to Tyne Dock which will be in-filled with approx 400,000 cu m of material from the New Tyne Crossing works. Dredging is expected to take 6 weeks. In addition to the cutter/suction dredger there is now on site a smaller grab bucket dredger that is required to work near marine structures and the banks of the Tyne

4.5 South Approach Works

Work on the transition structure is nearing completion. The diaphragm walls and the excavations for the cut and cover sections of the tunnel are complete. The main props to the excavations are all in place and the installation of the tunnel base slabs are at an advanced stage of construction. The excavation of the first section of sprayed concrete lining tunnel has commenced. This 24 hour a day operation is progressing safely and is well monitored with no complaints from adjacent land-owners/occupiers to date.

The new Howard Street Bridge structure is nearing completion. These works are slightly behind programme but are not on the critical path.

The works are on time as measured against the October 2009 programme revision.

4.6 South Junction Works

Construction of the new slip road over bridge is advanced and nearing completion of the main structural works. The superstructure for the new Howard Street bridge is complete. Widening works to the A185 between the A19/Tyne Tunnel roundabout and the Howard St/Priory Road roundabout is on-going. The construction work is on programme. Construction of the permanent retaining wall structure at Epinay Walk is complete. Overall construction work for the junction is on programme.

5. Master-planning

- 5.1** The public engagement process took place over the period August - September 2009. Plans were exhibited at a series of consultation events and produced over 300 comments. These are being used to prepare the final master-plan drawings to be

submitted to the relevant Planning Committees for approval. It is currently expected that the plans will be submitted late November 2009.

6. Land

- 6.1 Arrangements relating to Handback of land will commence once the landscape masterplanning exercise has concluded and the details of the finishes/landscaping/street furniture etc are known.

7. Communication

- 7.1 The communication strategy is being applied successfully – majority of stakeholders are kept informed of progress and issues on a regular basis. The strategic and local partnering fora continue to meet regularly.
- 7.2 A Newsletter is to be issued later this month. The web-sites (NTC & TT2) are updated almost daily. Drop-in-sessions continue to be held weekly on both sides of the river and Ward Councillors are given regular 'activity' schedules so that they are briefed on forthcoming events/developments. The Helpline is maintained and staffed 24/7. The 3D virtual reality model has been developed by BYTP (UK) and will be enhanced with the details from the master-planning exercise once concluded.
- 7.3 The construction activity and progress continues to stimulate considerable demand for visits from a wide variety of organisations. TWITA/BYTP (UK)/TT2 share the load on this issue to accommodate requests as much as possible.

8. Further Comments by the

- 8.1 Clerk - none
- 8.2 Treasurer - none
- 8.3 Legal Adviser - none

9. Background Papers

- 9.1 River Tyne (Tunnels) Order 2005.
- 9.2 Report of the Inspector in to the Proposals for the New Tyne Crossing dated 2003.
- 9.3 Decision letter of the Secretary of State dated 21 July 2005.
- 9.4 New Tyne Crossing file held by the NTC Project Director

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