

A90 Burnshot Bridge

Progress Update No 7

5 December 2017

Introduction

This note provides an update to Progress Update No 6 (attached for ease of reference).

Bridge Demolition



Beattie Demolition excavators demolishing the cantilever spans

The bridge was safely and successfully demolished over the weekend 24-26th November. The work began as planned at 20:00 on Friday. The Southbound carriageway was cleared and opened at 05:30 on Monday as scheduled, with the Northbound carriageway opening 2 hours later, at 07:30. This short delay on the Northbound carriageway did not have any adverse effects on traffic.

The condition of the central span was as poor as expected, and the ease by which this portion of the bridge was demolished confirmed the Council's decision to close and demolish the structure before the onset of winter.

Constant monitoring of traffic was undertaken over the weekend, with regular reports to Traffic Scotland. Feedback from Lothian Buses noted that the delays experienced on Saturday were not much more than would be expected for a normal rugby day, and praised the efforts in providing advanced notification to motorists.

Concrete from the bridge will be crushed locally over the coming weeks. Some of this will be used locally in Kirkliston, with the remainder being processed into fill material for other construction projects. Steel reinforcement and aluminium parapets will also be recycled.

The Contractor will shortly be demobilising from site. Final figures are still to be determined, but early indications are that the demolition project has come in under-budget.

Temporary service bridge

A steel service bridge now crosses the A90, supporting a Scottish Power cable, and Vodafone and Virgin Media fibre optics ducts. This service bridge will be closed off as it is not currently suitable for use by members of the public; locked gates will only permit access to maintenance personnel.

The service bridge was specified, designed and built solely for the diversion of public utilities, and prior to construction it was not clear if it would be possible to maintain a clear walkway along the structure. Additionally, the additional approvals and lead-in times associated with a dedicated footbridge would not have been feasible to

facilitate demolition of Burnshot Bridge prior to the onset of winter. The Council will explore the possibility of permitting pedestrians access to this structure in the new year, however this is not guaranteed.

Footpath / cycleway

Construction of the new footpath/cycleway commenced on 20th November and this work has been awarded to Leiths Group under a transport infrastructure framework agreement with The City of Edinburgh Council. A subsidiary company, M&M Surfacing is undertaking most of the work on site. The path will replace the temporary Varioguard barrier and construction will be completed early in the new year.

An earlier report in Briefing 4 noted that the path will provide a continuous link between Burnshot Road and Edinburgh via the A90. Due to land ownership issues at the entrance to Craigiehall Camp, unfortunately this will not be possible currently, and so it will still be necessary to cross under the A90 using the underpass, to access the cyclepath which leads Southbound to Edinburgh.

During the construction, some early concerns were raised by cyclists regarding the proximity of construction plant to the current cycle route. Improvements have now been made and we appreciate the patience of pedestrians and cyclists during these short-term construction works.

New Bridge

As previously noted, funding for the design of a new bridge has been allocated. The Council, together with technical advisors from AECOM, will develop an outline design and tender documentation. This will be awarded to Balfour Beatty under the existing SCAPE Project Order, and Balfour Beatty will undertake a competitive tender process to appoint a detailed designer.

Various consultations will be undertaken with internal and external stakeholders. This process will begin before Christmas and will help inform the design process.

A decision on funding for the construction of the new bridge will be made in February, when capital budgets are set for the 2018/19 financial year.