Forth Bridges Special Projects Trunk Road and Bus Operations

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Your ref:

Our ref:

Date: 12 December 2012

Ms Marisa Di Filippo-Ferrier North Queensferry Community Council North Queensferry Community Centre Brock Street North Queensferry KY11 1JD

Dear Ms Di Filippo-Ferrier

Forth Road Bridge Bill

was introduced to the Scottish Parliament on 11 December. Further to previous correspondence, I am writing to inform you that the Forth Road Bridge Bill

through to the M9 Junction 1a in the south. new Forth Crossing and the connecting roads from the M90 Junction 3 Halbeath in the north company to carry out the management and maintenance of the Forth Road Bridge (FRB), the The Bill paves the way for the Scottish Government to contract a single bridge operating

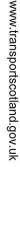
is the statutory body presently tasked with managing and maintaining the FRB. Government must take those functions from the Forth Estuary Transport Authority (FETA) which In order to contract out the functions of managing and maintaining the FRB, the Scottish Accordingly, the

- Government's management), makes the road over the FRB a trunk road (which means it comes under the Scottish
- transfers all of FETA's property and liabilities to the Scottish Government,
- dissolves FETA, and
- and ensures that the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations transfers all of FETA's employees into the employment of the bridge operating company 2006 apply to the transfer.

bridge operating company contract commences. This is anticipated to The dissolution of FETA and the transfer of employees will take place at the same time as the take place in summer

www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/576.aspx The Bill and its Accompanying Documents are published on the Scottish Parliament's website at





Investment (ICI) Committee. The ICI Committee's timetable for its scrutiny will also be published on the Parliament website in due course. The Scottish Parliament's scrutiny of the Bill will be led by the Infrastructure and Capital

for participating and for providing valuable views on the Bill and the procurement of a bridge operating company. Annex A to this letter addresses seeks to address the issues raised at Transport Scotland's Forth Bridges Special Project Team held Stakeholder Reference Group meetings north and south of the river in early October. The Team are grateful to the attendees these meetings.

If you have any further questions in relation to the content of the Bill then please do not hesitate in contacting Transport Scotland at forthbridges@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Best Regards

David

David Thomson

Transport Scotland



Annex A

How do we participate in the Bill process?

Infrastructure and Capital Investment (ICI) Committee. Details of the Committee's approach to the scrutiny of the Bill and its timetable for doing so will be published on the The Scottish Parliament's scrutiny of the Forth Road Bridge Bill will be led by the ructure and Capital Investment (ICI) Committee. Details of the Committee's

Will tolls be reintroduced to the Forth?

will be fully financed by the Scottish Government. No, this Scottish Government is against road user charging. The new Forth Crossing

bridge operating company maintain these relationships? FETA has a positive relationship with local community groups. How will the

operating company will play central roles in ensuring that the local community are kept Forth Crossing. informed of issues relating to the management and maintenance of the FRB and the new Following the dissolution of FETA, the Forth Bridges Forum and the appointed bridge

connected with this activity. and to produce a management plan that contains details of the processes and procedures company will be required to demonstrate how it plans to engage with the local communities will be developed in consultation with FETA and other stakeholders. Transport Scotland will specify within the tender documents the minimum requirements on the bridge operating company in relation to community engagement. These requirements The bridge operating

plans to the Forum. operating company will be asked to report its community engagement activity and future local communities on issues that affect, impact or may be of interest to them. of the functions of the Forth Bridges Forum is to ensure effective engagement with The bridge

operating company's community engagement? What is the role of the Performance Audit Group (PAG) in relation to the bridge

take appropriate action. PAG's auditing may involve speaking directly to local community representatives. If the bridge operating company fails to fulfil any of their obligations then Transport Scotland will a number of key performance indicators and to report this back to Transport Scotland. PAG's role will be to audit the performance of the bridge operating company against

duration provides value for money but also includes sufficient flexibility in order that the content with the performance of the operating company. contract can be retendered at appropriate stages, particularly if Transport Scotland is not decision will be taken on this over the coming months. It is important that the contract Following recent issues over rail franchise, what will be the contract duration?

Transport Scotland is carefully considering the contract duration options and a

Are there examples of other bridges being managed together in one contract?

along side the existing suspension bridge. Both bridges are managed and maintained by one bridge operating company. Transport Scotland met with the operators to learn lessons from their experience A6 There is a similar situation at the River Severn where a new road crossing was built



Bridge during high winds? What will happen with cyclists, buses and pedestrians crossing the Forth Road

endeavour to transport cyclists, pedestrians and bus passengers across the bridge these incidents. Like FETA, the bridge operating company will have a high winds strategy to deal with If restrictions are in place, then the bridge operating company will

company refuses to deal with a situation not on their road? Q8 Will the BOC be required to interface with local roads authorities over winter resilience among other things? Will there be any situation where the operating

efficient road networks. local roads authorities, particularly during periods of inclement weather, to deliver safe and clearly defined. It is important that Transport Scotland's operating companies work with the The boundaries between the new trunk road unit and the local authority roads will be

Q9 How will traffic management around the new South Queensferry Junction be addressed once the new Forth Crossing is opened to traffic?

implementing and communicating appropriate traffic management measures The appointed bridge operating company will be responsible ġ devising,

construction? Q10 How can the Community Councils be sure that the Forth Bridges Forum will listen to their views? Will the Community Councils be offered membership post FRC

to ensure that effective mechanisms are developed before the new bridge opens and the such as this will be presented to Community Groups matters surrounding the management and maintenance of the Forth bridges, are taken into bridge operating company is appointed. account. This could involve setting up a sub-group of the Forth Bridges Forum. Options A10 Transport Scotland and its Forth Bridges Forum partners are considering possible mechanisms for ensuring that the views of Community Councils and local residents, on and residents over the coming months

The Contact and Education Centre (CEC) was labelled a Visitor Centre during

several topics including the construction of the new Forth Crossing and information on the the Forth Crossing Bill. What happened to change this?

A11 The building adjacent to the FETA office in South Queensferry was always designed January. FRB and Forth Bridge. Forth Crossing. When the CEC opens in January 2013, it will include an exhibition covering to be a temporary contact and education centre for use during the construction of the new Educational visits for all age groups will also be available from

Control Centre. The building will have a dual-use as the permanent home for the National Traffic Scotland

Q12 Are there plans to develop a permanent Forth Bridges Visitor Centre?

A12 In 2013, the Forth Bridges Forum will be taking forward an assessment of the options for a permanent Forth Bridges Visitor Centre and/or visitor attraction. The views of the public will be sought on a shortlist of feasible options.



