A96 Dualling

East of Huntly to Aberdeen

‘Meet the Team’

November 2017

transport.gov.scot/a96dualling

Introduction

As Transport Scotland's Programme Sponsor for the A96 Inverness to Aberdeen Dualling Programme, I am delighted to introduce our design team for the A96 Dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen.

This scheme extends from East of Huntly to Aberdeen – a distance of approximately 42km (26 miles). It is part of an ambitious programme that will see the full length of the A96 between Inverness and Aberdeen upgraded to dual carriageway by 2030.

Preliminary Engineering and Strategic Environmental Assessment work has been carried out along the route east of Nairn to Aberdeen. The outcome of this preliminary work was presented at a series of public information exhibitions in May 2015.

In July of this year, we appointed AmeyArup to take forward route options development and assessment work on the section of the A96 East of Huntly to Aberdeen. In this leaflet, we introduce you to the AmeyArup team and highlight what you may see happening on the ground over the coming months and years. This includes route options design and assessment, environmental surveys and landowner meetings.

Keeping members of the public informed and giving you the opportunity to comment on our plans is an essential and integral part of the design process. Feedback received following the exhibitions held in 2015 will be taken into account as we move forward to the route options stage of assessment.

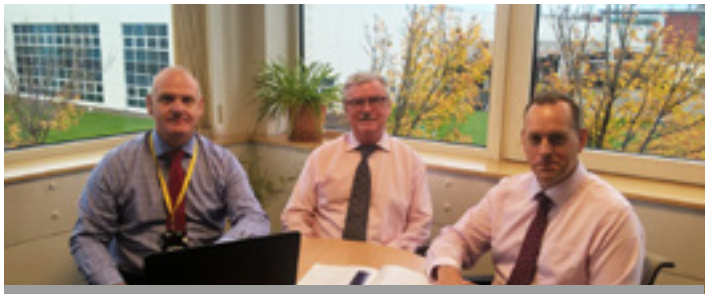
Throughout the scheme development process, we will continue to provide updates to the local community and hold public events to allow you to have your say.

These 'Meet the Team' events provide an opportunity for you to meet the Transport Scotland and AmeyArup teams working on the A96 East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme and find out more about the design and assessment process that will be followed.

A96 Blackhall Roundabout looking west

Alasdair Graham
A96 Dualling Programme Sponsor

Introducing the AmeyArup management team



Gordon Henderson, Alan Frew, Stephen Hall

Andy Heap and Gary Wilkie

AmeyArup has a large, multi-disciplinary team working to develop the scheme. This includes specialists in roads and traffic, geotechnical and structural engineers, and environmental and landscape specialists.

Since being appointed, AmeyArup has been mobilising their design and assessment team. The team is led by Contract Director Alan Frew; Contract Manager Stephen Hall; Deputy Contract Manager Gordon Henderson; and Roads and Infrastructure Managers Andy Heap and Gary Wilkie.

AmeyArup Contract Director, Alan Frew, commented: "AmeyArup is delighted to be assisting Transport Scotland in progressing the development of this key infrastructure project. We have assembled a highly experienced and skilled team of professionals, who are well-versed in the development of schemes of a similar scale and complexity, and who are also very sensitive to the impacts the scheme options may have on local communities and the environment.

"We will assist Transport Scotland in successfully delivering a scheme we can all be proud of."

Introducing the community engagement team

Transport Scotland is committed to placing public engagement and meaningful dialogue with directly affected communities and other stakeholders at the heart of the development and delivery of its projects.

The work Transport Scotland is progressing along the A96 includes a comprehensive rolling programme of engagement to ensure that communities, businesses and individuals potentially affected by the work are kept fully informed and that their vital feedback is taken into account.

Managing and coordinating this public engagement and ongoing dialogue on the A96 East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme will be the responsibility of the AmeyArup Stakeholder Coordinator Bonny Pailing.

Bonny is determined to ensure that Transport Scotland's principles for community engagement are at the heart of the scheme's development and followed throughout the lifetime of the scheme. Bonny commented:

"The consultation that has already taken place on the preliminary engineering and strategic environmental assessment work for the A96 Dualling provided important feedback. The feedback received will help us to develop route options that will feed into the scheme assessment process.

Bonny Pailing

Billy Gordon

"We will now assist Transport Scotland to continue their commitment to meaningful engagement on the route options and then on subsequent stages of design. Keeping the public, landowners and other stakeholders informed and ensuring that as many people as possible can comment and provide vital feedback at each stage of the process is really important to us. We look forward to starting our engagement with the local communities at the 'Meet the Team' events."

Bonny will be supported by a team with experience of engaging with communities and stakeholders in the local area.

Billy Gordon is the Landowner and Communities Manager and is based in the AmeyArup project office at Thainstone, Inverurie. He will undertake consultation with landowners and tenants throughout the design process, including agreeing access arrangements for surveys.

Introducing the environmental team

One of the critical elements in the development of a new road scheme is the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and landscape design. The AmeyArup environmental team is responsible for ensuring that the environmental impacts of the scheme are identified and properly assessed.

The environmental management team consists of Environmental and Landscaping Manager Nigel Hackett; assisted by EIA Coordinator Jennifer Craig and Senior Environmental Specialist Fraser Maxwell. Nigel, Jennifer and Fraser will oversee teams of specialists who will work to understand and assess a range of environmental topics, including:

- Air quality
- Cultural heritage
- Landscape and visual
- Nature conservation
- Geology, soils, contaminated land and groundwater
- Materials
- Noise and vibration

Fraser Maxwell, Jennifer Craig, Nigel Hackett

- People and communities (including agriculture)
- Road drainage and the water environment
- Policies and plans.

A96 River Don Crossing at Inverurie

Throughout the EIA process a common approach will be used for the assessment of each environmental topic. This will include:

- Establishing the baseline conditions through a combination of desk-top review, consultations and site surveys as appropriate
- Identifying potential environmental impacts which could result from development of the proposals (route options in DMRB Stage 2 Assessment and the preferred option in Stage 3 Assessment)
- Identification of mitigation measures to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any impacts which could (either by themselves, or in combination with other impacts) have an adverse effect.

i A key part of the environmental assessment process is to carry out ecological and environmental surveys throughout the corridor, taking into account seasonal restrictions, in order to identify key environmental constraints which will inform future assessments.

Assessment process

Transport Scotland carries out a well-established assessment process to determine the preferred route for a trunk road improvement project.

The three-stage assessment process, based on the standard of good practice set by the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), covers environmental, engineering, traffic and economic considerations. Throughout this process, Transport Scotland will continue to consult with a large number of stakeholders and interested parties.

The DMRB Stage 1 (Preliminary Engineering and Strategic Environmental Assessment) of the A96 Dualling from east of Nairn to Aberdeen has already been completed, with the outcome presented at a series of public exhibitions in May 2015.

DMRB Stage 2 Process for the A96 Dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen

- Develop route options taking account of feedback from May 2015 exhibitions
- Initial options assessment
- Early public consultation on options
- Develop options following public consultation
- Detailed options assessment
- Public consultation to present preferred option

A96 HGV Platooning East of Huntly

Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Process

DMRB Stage 1
Strategic Assessment
STAGE COMPLETE

DMRB Stage 2
Route option assessment
East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme

DMRB Stage 3
Development and assessment of preferred option

Statutory Process
Publication of draft Road Orders, Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Environmental Statement for comment Public Local Inquiry (if required)

Procurement
Tender process to appoint works contractor

DMRB Stage 2 Assessment

AmeyArup is taking forward the route options stage of assessment during which they will develop and assess route options for dualling the A96 from East of Huntly to Aberdeen.

This will include an engineering, traffic, economic and environmental assessment of the potential impacts of each option to inform a preferred option choice. During this stage of assessment the route options under consideration will also be presented to members of the public for their feedback, prior to the selection of a preferred option. It is expected that it will take approximately 24 months of assessment to identify the preferred option for the scheme.

We will use local feedback received following the series of exhibitions held in May 2015 to inform the development of route options. As part of the assessment process, we will consult with members of the local community, stakeholders, landowners and members of the public to seek their vital feedback on the route options.

The feedback received on the route options will be considered, along with the engineering, traffic, economic and environmental assessment of the potential impacts of each option. These factors will inform the choice of the preferred option. To inform the design development and environmental assessment of route options, AmeyArup will gather information over the coming months about the current state of the natural environment in the area. This will include non-intrusive walkover surveys which will help increase the team's understanding of existing conditions.

Assessment process (cont.)

DMRB Stage 3 Assessment

Following selection of the preferred option, the design will be further developed and assessed with an Environmental Statement prepared and the land required for the dualling identified.

To inform design development and environmental assessment, AmeyArup will gather and compile further information relating to the current condition of the natural environment in the area local to the scheme. At Stage 3, a number of surveys including ground investigations will be carried out, in order to inform the preliminary design of new earthworks and structures such as retaining walls and bridges. During these ground investigation surveys, boreholes and trial pits will be used to investigate both soils, and the underlying rock.

A96 cyclist on carriageway

Non-Motorised Users

Suitable provision for Non-Motorised Users (NMUs) including pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians is an important part of the A96 Dualling Programme and the East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme. In line with the overall NMU strategy for the A96 Dualling Programme, we will consider NMU needs along the trunk road corridor. This includes an examination of existing facilities and likely future demand, so that potential issues can be identified and associated measures can be taken into account as the scheme develops.

Provision for NMUs will be incorporated in consultation with local communities, members of the public and interest groups, with measures being included as part of design developed for DMRB Stage 3 Assessment.

Contact details

Should you wish to contact AmeyArup , details for the community engagement team are:

Stakeholder Coordinator: **Bonny Pailing**
Tel: **01467 672500**
Email: **bonny.pailing@arup.com**

Landowner & Communities Manager: **Billy Gordon**
Tel: **01467 672500**
Email: **billy.gordon@amey.co.uk**

By post: AmeyArup, Office 7, Thainstone Business Centre, Thainstone, Inverurie, AB51 5TB

Further information

For further information on the A96 Dualling Programme, please visit:

transport.gov.scot/a96dualling

By post: **A96 Dualling Team, Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF**

Email: **a96dualling@transport.gov.scot**

All of the information presented at today's 'Meet the Team' event is available on the A96 Dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme website:

www.transport.gov.scot/projects/a96-dualling-inverness-to-aberdeen/a96-east-of-huntly-to-aberdeen/

A96 East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme leaflet and exhibition panels can be made available in alternative formats on request by contacting the project team.

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