

Tram Monitoring Officer (TMO) Weekly Report Week Ending 8 March 09

The following areas have been progressed during w/e 8 March 2009.

Dispute Resolution

Work continues on the two “live” DRP issues relating to Princes Street with the conclusion of the internal process expected by 19 March.

A paper is being prepared for the **tie** / Tram Project Boards on Wednesday 11 March outlining the current and proposed approach and use of the Dispute Resolution Procedure to progress matters.

Strategic Options Analysis

A paper is being prepared for the **tie** / Tram Project Boards on Wednesday 11 March. This will be addressed in conjunction with the DRP paper noted above.

Principals Communication

D Mackay has continued to keep high level channels of communication open with the Siemens and Bilfinger Principals to facilitate engagement and resolution of the disputed issues on acceptable terms to **tie** / CEC.

A constructive proposal was developed and proposed by Siemens on Thursday 5 March, detailing a parallel “Framework Management Team” approach which did not compromise parties’ contractual entitlements but was a proposed way forward to break the current impasse.

tie and Siemens met informally in the absence of a Bilfinger response on Friday 6 March.

Bilfinger had not responded on this by the end of the week, and had, in fact proposed an alternative formal contract amendment to address the Princes Street issues. Such an approach is not acceptable to **tie** and in fact the mechanisms sought already exist within the existing contract terms.

However, on the evening of 9 March, they confirmed to D Mackay that their Project Director had been instructed to meet **tie** on 10 March to try and progress matters. This meeting will take place at 10.00 on Tuesday 10 March. Output from this will be covered on Wednesday’s Daily Report.

Independent “Peer Review”

The Peer Review team (supplemented by Marshall Poulton (TMO)) who have carried out previous OGC Gateway reviews on the project commenced an independent review of the key DRP and dispute related issues on Thursday 5 March, interviewing a number of the Project team. Confirmation is expected on Tuesday 10 March when report will be received.

Liaison with Key Stakeholder Groups

A range of meetings took place during the week to apprise key stakeholders of the current position and actions being progressed. These included:

- Traffic Management Peer Review to confirm release of west bound bus lane contingency
- Follow up with Cllr Wheeler following his meeting with BB
- Meeting with MSPs (A McInnes / M Smith)
- CEC Leadership meeting
- Meeting with CEC / Transport Scotland for Quarterly Review
- VIP visits to Tram Mock up
- Liaison with Lothian Buses directors
- Meeting Transport Minister 11 March and Finance Cabinet Secretary on 17 March.

Works on Princes Street

Site Investigation, survey and testing work, including trial holes and trenches has been undertaken along the full section provided by the Traffic Management diversions. This work is expected to be completed by 13 March 2009.

The Head of Transport confirmed that the contingency option for the west-bound bus lane could be released back to the contractor on Monday 2 March and BSC were duly advised.

Works on other Infraco sites across the Project.

Work continues on a range of other sites including kerb works at Leith, Access Road at Verity House (Haymarket), Edinburgh Park, Depot and to the Airport.

Reporting and Governance

Daily reports have been provided giving greater daily detail to the TMO from 3 March onwards. These continue.

tie have responded to the CEC Chief Executive's letter of 5 March which details a number of continued good governance arrangements and enhances specific areas including reporting.

Follow up correspondence on particular items will be concluded by 13 March with the TMO.

Steven Bell
10.03.09