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Edward Mountain MSP

Convener

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Scottish Parliament

By email: netzero.committee@parliament.scot

30 May 2025

Dear Mr Mountain,

A9 Dualling Programme: Update for Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

I am pleased to enclose the second written update on the A9 Dualling programme, following the first I sent to you on 24 November 2024. This update looks back over the period 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025 and looks forward over the period 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2025.

I can also confirm that the Cabinet Secretary for Transport has written to all MSPs recently to invite them to a briefing on the programme for stakeholders, to be held in Perth on Wednesday 4 June 2025. The next dedicated MSP briefing will then be held in Holyrood again towards the end of the year.

I trust that the update is of assistance to the committee and await confirmation of whether you wish to invite officials to a committee meeting to address any questions that you may wish to raise regarding the A9 Dualling programme.

Yours sincerely,

Lawrence Shackman



A9 Dualling Programme

Update for Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee – Issue #2

Look Back: 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025

Look Forward: 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025

Issued 30 May 2025

Introduction

This update on the A9 Dualling programme consists of:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Section 1: | Key highlights |
| Section 2: | Overview of delivery plan progress |
| Section 3: | Details of progress on individual projects in the period between 1 October 2024 and 31 March 2025 |
| Section 4: | Details of planned activities on individual projects for the period between 1 April 2025 and 30 September 2025 |
| Annex A: | Summary of activities undertaken/planned in relation to road safety |

Section 1: Key Highlights

Steady progress has been made across the A9 Dualling programme since the last update we provided to the Scottish Parliament's Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee in November 2024.

Key highlights include:

Commencing preparatory works for the Tomatin to Moy project;

Orders made for three projects: Killiecrankie to Glen Garry, Crubenmore to Kincaig and Dalraddy to Slochd; and

Submission of the planning application for the Aviemore to Carrbridge Non-Motorised User (ACNMU) Route.



Site clearance ahead of Tomatin to Moy Main Works

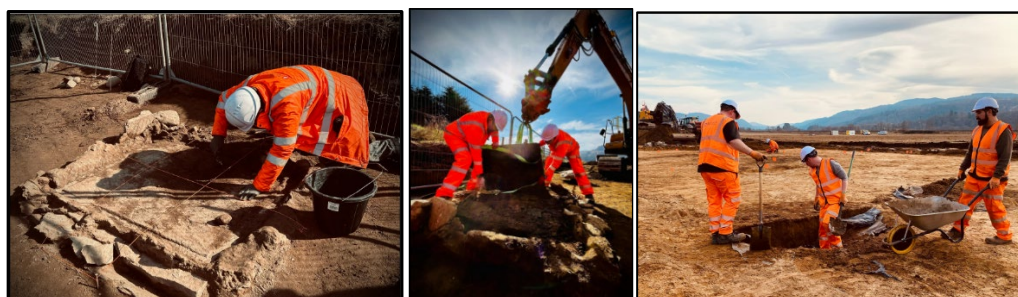
Work has also progressed on:

Procurement of the main construction works contract for the Tay Crossing to Ballinluig project and associated advance works;

Preparation for procurement of the Pitlochry to Killiecrankie main construction works contract and for procurement of associated advance works;

Development and assessment of the preferred route option for the Pass of Birnam to Tay Crossing project; and

Activities to inform further decision-making by Scottish Ministers later in 2025 on the use of Mutual Investment Model (MIM) contracts for completion of the A9 Dualling programme. This has included market consultation with contractors, equity investors and funders.



Tay Crossing to Ballinluig Project archaeological investigations

To keep stakeholders informed of progress, our programme of engagement has continued including a briefing of MSP's in Parliament in December 2024 and issue of Autumn 2024 and Winter 2024/25 newsletters to website subscribers. The website – [A9 Dualling Programme](#) – continues to be updated on progress, including information for local communities and road users on planned traffic management.

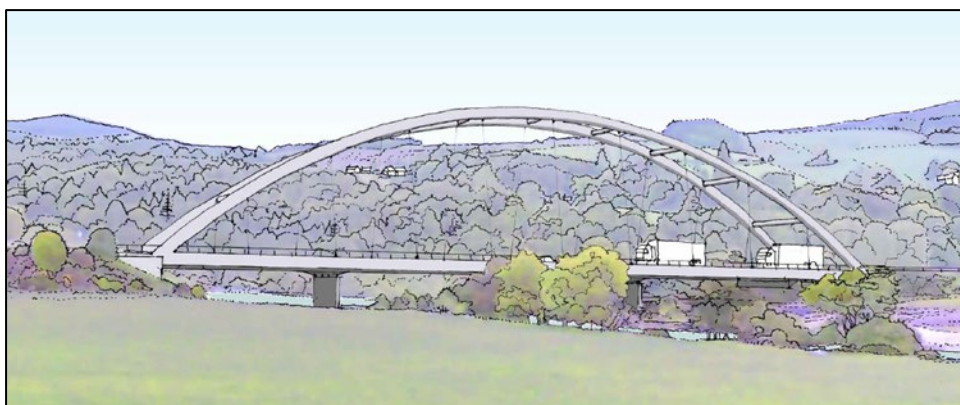
In the six months ahead, to 30 September 2025, key highlights are expected to include:

- Progress of major construction works for the Tomatin to Moy project, which commenced in April 2025;

- Progress of statutory processes for the Pass of Birnam to Tay Crossing project, following publication of draft Orders in Spring 2025;

- Award of the main works contract for the Tay Crossing to Ballinluig project in Summer 2025; and

- Commencement of procurement of the main works contract for the Pitlochry to Killiecrankie project in Summer 2025.



Artist's Impression of River Tummel Underbridge (Pitlochry to Killiecrankie Project). Please note final design may vary.

Throughout this period work will also continue on:

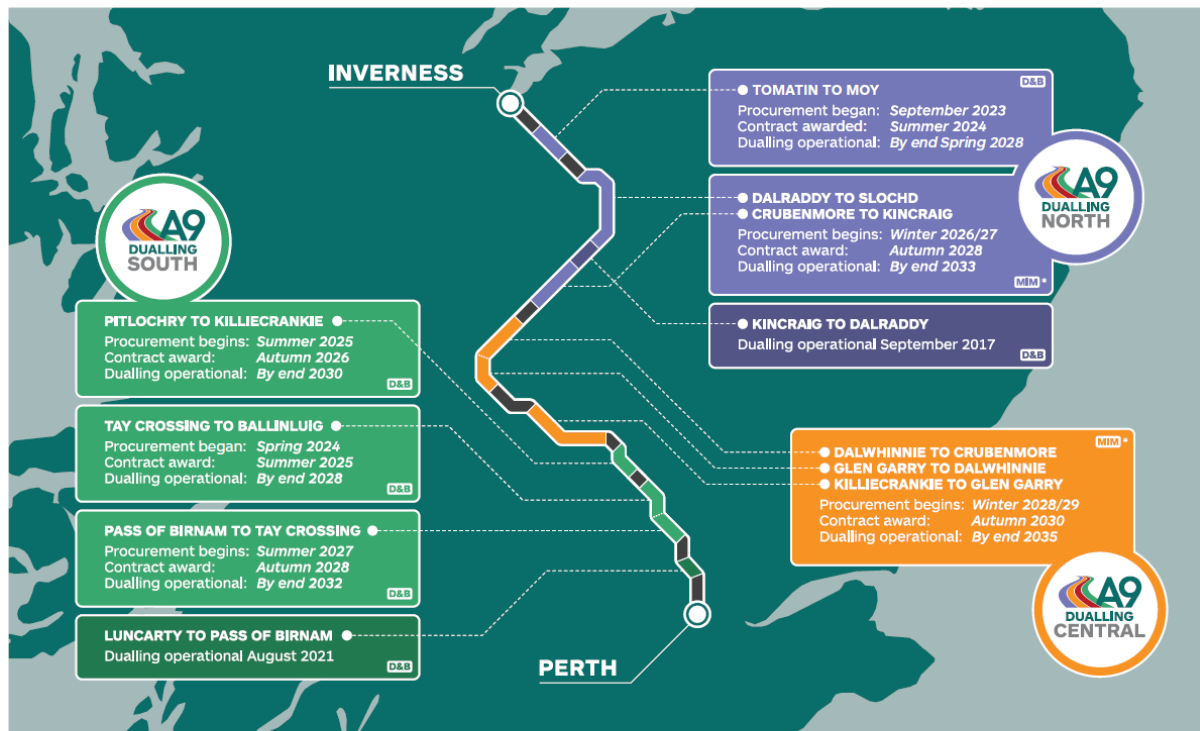
- Activities to inform further decision making by Scottish Ministers later in 2025 on the use of MIM contracts for completion of the A9 Dualling programme;

- Progressing preparations for, procurement and implementation of further advance works across the programme to de-risk main works construction works contracts;

- Progressing remaining land acquisition processes as required to support the A9 Dualling programme; and

- Continuing a range of stakeholder engagement activities including briefings, the establishment of stakeholder forums in key areas of programme delivery and the ongoing issue of quarterly newsletters to website subscribers.

Section 2: Overview of Delivery Plan Progress



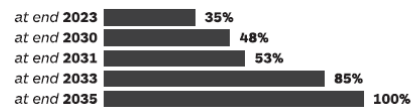
Sections to be dualled: ■ ■ ■ Existing dualled: ■ ■ ■

MIM Mutual Investment Model Contract **D&B** Design & Build Contract

Dates are subject to completion of remaining statutory processes, and any impacts on construction from events such as adverse weather.

*Use of MIM contracts is subject to further decision making in late 2025, based on an updated assessment of expected market conditions.

% of A9 corridor between Perth and Inverness which is dual carriageway



Sections	Projects	Procurement Begins (Contract Notice Issued)	Contract Award	Dualling Operational
	Tomatin to Moy <small>D&B</small>	Delivered	Delivered	By end Spring 2028
	Dalraddy to Slochd <small>MIM*</small>	Winter 2026/27	Autumn 2028	By end 2033
	Crubenmore to Kincraig <small>MIM*</small>			
	Kincraig to Dalraddy <small>D&B</small>	Dualling operational September 2017		
	Dalwhinnie to Crubenmore <small>MIM*</small>	Winter 2028/29	Autumn 2030	By end 2035
	Glen Garry to Dalwhinnie <small>MIM*</small>			
	Killiecrankie to Glen Garry <small>MIM*</small>			
	Pitlochry to Killiecrankie <small>D&B</small>	Summer 2025	Autumn 2026	By end 2030
	Tay Crossing to Ballinluig <small>D&B</small>	Delivered	Summer 2025	By end 2028
	Pass of Birnam to Tay Crossing <small>D&B</small>	Summer 2027	Autumn 2028	By end 2032
	Luncarty to Pass of Birnam <small>D&B</small>	Dualling operational August 2021		



INVERNESS

PERTH

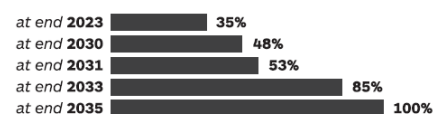
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% of A9 corridor between Perth and Inverness which is dual carriageway



Section 3: Progress between October 2024 and March 2025

(Projects are listed from south to north)

A9 Dualling: Luncarty to Pass of Birnam project

9.5km of new dual carriageway.

Dualling operational 2021 and main construction works contract now in maintenance period, which will conclude towards the end of 2026.

Maintenance period activities undertaken include routine landscape maintenance, pavement surveys and defect rectification works.

A9 Dualling: Pass of Birnam to Tay Crossing project

8.4km of new dual carriageway.

Project at design and development stage.

Engineering and environmental design development and assessment of the preferred route option has continued.

A9 Dualling: Tay Crossing to Ballinluig project

8.2km of new dual carriageway.

Project at procurement of main construction works contract stage.

Award of archaeological advance works contract worth almost £2 million to Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd. Trenching works progressed at several locations including the Kindallachan Cairn monument.

Ground investigation works completed on site at the end of February 2025.

Work by Network Rail's contractor commenced for construction of four under track drainage crossings of the railway required by the project.

A9 Dualling: Pitlochry to Killiecrankie project

6.4km of new dual carriageway.

Project at preparation for procurement of main construction works contract stage.

Ground investigation works completed on site at the end of February 2025.

Progressing development of contract documentation and engaging with stakeholders.

Progressing preparations for advance works contracts.

A9 Dualling: Killiecrankie to Glen Garry project

22.0km of new dual carriageway.

Project at preparation for procurement of main construction works contract stage as part of A9 Dualling: Central Mutual Investment Model (MIM) contract, subject to further decision-making later in 2025.

Market consultation with contractors, equity investors and funders launched on 24 February 2025, inviting participants to respond to questionnaires on their particular interests. Questionnaires were submitted from 22 entities covering all market sectors of interest.

Preparatory work in progress for the final stage of the process to acquire the land required to construct the project.

A9 Dualling: Glen Garry to Dalwhinnie project

9.5km of new dual carriageway.

Project at preparation for procurement of main construction works contract stage as part of A9 Dualling: Central MIM contract, subject to further decision-making later in 2025.

Market consultation with contractors, equity investors and funders launched on 24 February 2025, inviting participants to respond to questionnaires on their particular interests. Questionnaires were submitted from 22 entities covering all market sectors of interest.

Progressed assessment of costs and benefits of delivering the grade-separated junction at Dalnaspidal as advanced works.

A9 Dualling: Dalwhinnie to Crubenmore project

11.0km of new dual carriageway.

Project at preparation for procurement of main works contract stage as part of A9 Dualling: Central MIM contract, subject to further decision-making later in 2025.

Market consultation with contractors, equity investors and funders launched on 24 February 2025, inviting participants to respond to questionnaires on their particular interests. Questionnaires were submitted from 22 entities covering all market sectors of interest.

A9 Dualling: Crubenmore to Kincraig project

16.5km of new dual carriageway.

Project at preparation for procurement of main works contract stage as part of A9 Dualling: North MIM contract, subject to further decision-making later in 2025.

Market consultation with contractors, equity investors and funders launched on 24 February 2025, inviting participants to respond to questionnaires on their particular interests. Questionnaires were submitted from 22 entities covering all market sectors of interest.

The Orders for the project were made on 18 December 2024.

Preparatory work in progress for the final stage of the process to acquire the land required to construct the project.

A9 Dualling: Kincraig to Dalraddy project

7.5km of new dual carriageway.

Dualling operational and main works contract has concluded its maintenance period.

A9 Dualling: Dalraddy to Slochd project (including ACNMU Route)

25.0km of new dual carriageway.

Project at preparation for procurement of main works contract stage as part of A9 Dualling: North MIM contract, subject to further decision-making later in 2025.

Market consultation with contractors, equity investors and funders launched on 24 February 2025, inviting participants to respond to questionnaires on their particular interests. Questionnaires were submitted from 22 entities covering all market sectors of interest.

The Orders for the project were made on 13 November 2024.

Preparatory work in progress for the final stage of the process to acquire the land required to construct the project.

The planning application for the Aviemore to Carrbridge Non-Motorised User (ACNMU) Route was submitted to The Highland Council on 31 March 2025 for determination.

A9 Dualling: Tomatin to Moy project

9.6km of new dual carriageway.

Project at construction stage.

Preparatory works commenced in October 2024 and a temporary traffic management including a speed limit of 40mph came into operation on 10 March 2025.

In-person and virtual 'Meet the Contractor' events held in Inverness and Tomatin between November 2024 and February 2025. The events aimed to provide the local community with further details about the project and traffic management arrangements, as well as provide an opportunity to speak with members of the team. The in-person events received around 135 attendees.

A9 Dualling: Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

Provided Written Update #1 to Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee on A9 Dualling programme on 21 November 2024.

Briefing on A9 Dualling programme held for MSPs on 12 December 2024.

Response to report of A9 Dualling inquiry by Citizen Participation and Public Petition Committee issued on 9 January 2025.

Published report on 14 January 2025 considering rescheduling and acceleration proposals.

Quarterly email newsletters issued in Autumn 2024 and Winter 2024/25.

A total of nine Academy9 events were delivered across 17 schools, generating over 2,150 hours of pupil engagement and 137 hours of teacher participation. This includes approximately 460 hours with primary pupils and 1,690 hours with secondary pupils, indicating the broad reach and impact across age groups. As part of the Tomatin to Moy project to the end of March 2025, we have engaged with over 100 secondary and primary school pupils through school workshops, including risk reduction and routes into work and employed seven graduates with more being recruited currently.

Through the archaeology advance works contract on Tay Crossing to Ballinluig, we have employed six graduates on site and several employees from the local area. All graduates are receiving Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) accredited training on site. To date, 125 days (equivalent to 25 weeks) of training has been implemented for graduates.

On 25 March 2025 we presented to Logierait Primary School about careers in archaeology. Four site visits of groups from the local community were held on 27 March 2025, this included Breadalbane Heritage Society (19 people), Logierait Primary School (14 people), Young Archaeologists and the Dunkeld Archives group.

Section 4: Planned activities between April 2025 and September 2025

(Projects for which dualling is not yet operational are listed from south to north)

A9 Dualling: Pass of Birnam to Tay Crossing project

Engineering and environmental design development and assessment of the preferred route option will continue in preparation for publication of draft Orders for comment, planned for 30 May 2025.

Progressing the Pass of Birnam to Tay Crossing project through the statutory process stage, including holding public exhibitions following publication of draft Orders.

A9 Dualling: Tay Crossing to Ballinluig project

Award of the main construction works contract is expected in Summer 2025.

Mobilisation by the successful contractor, including commencement of work on the detailed design for the project.

Progress remaining advance works contracts.

A9 Dualling: Pitlochry to Killiecrankie project

Continue preparations for procurement of main construction works contract, planned to commence in Summer 2025.

Publish a Prior Information Notice in Spring 2025 (achieved 30 April 2025), inviting interested parties to participate in market consultation and giving notice of a virtual 'Industry Day' to be held prior to commencement of procurement.

Publish the Contract Notice, formally commencing procurement of the main construction works contract.

Progress preparations for advance works and utility diversions to de-risk the main construction works contract.

A9 Dualling: Killiecrankie to Glen Garry project

Progress work to inform further decision making later in 2025, including updating the Outline Business Case for the A9 Dualling programme.

Continue to progress preparation work for the final stage of the process to acquire the land required to construct the project.

Progress preparations for advance works and utility diversions to de-risk the main construction works contract.

A9 Dualling: Glen Garry to Dalwhinnie project

Progress work to inform further decision making later in 2025, including updating the Outline Business Case for the A9 Dualling programme.

Progress preparations for advance works and utility diversions to de-risk the main construction works contract.

Complete assessment of costs and benefits of delivering the grade-separated junction at Dalnaspidal as advanced works.

A9 Dualling: Dalwhinnie to Crubenmore project

Progress work to inform further decision making later in 2025, including updating the Outline Business Case for the A9 Dualling programme.

Progress preparations for advance works and utility diversions to de-risk the main construction works contract.

A9 Dualling: Crubenmore to Kincaig project

Progress work to inform further decision making later in 2025, including updating the Outline Business Case for the A9 Dualling programme.

Progress preparations for advance works and utility diversions to de-risk the main construction works contract.

Continue to progress preparation work for the final stage of the process to acquire the land required to construct the project.

A9 Dualling: Dalraddy to Slochd (including ACNMMU Route)

Progress work to inform further decision making later in 2025, including updating the Outline Business Case for the A9 Dualling programme.

Progress preparations for advance works and utility diversions to de-risk the main construction works contract.

Continue to progress preparation work for the final stage of the process to acquire the land required to construct the project.

Respond to queries from the planning authority on the planning application for the ACNMMU.

A9 Dualling: Tomatin to Moy project

Progress major construction works, which commenced in April 2025.

A9 Dualling: Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

Hold annual stakeholder briefing in Perth in early June 2025.

Continue proactive and reactive media engagement, including progress announcements.

Progress establishment of stakeholder forums for specific areas of programme delivery.

Issue quarterly email newsletters in Spring and Summer 2025.

Progress Academy9 programme of events – seven events confirmed to date between 1 April 2025 and 31 September 2025.

Annex A: Summary of Road Safety Activities

The following activities have been undertaken between 1 October 2024 and 31 March 2025 in relation to road safety on single carriageway sections of the A9 between Perth and Inverness:

The Cabinet Secretary chaired a meeting of the A9 Safety Group in Pitlochry on 9 October 2024.

Transport Scotland, through its Operating Companies, continued with the annual programme of trunk road casualty reduction schemes informed by an annual screening of locations where injury accidents have taken place. This led to a number of road safety investigations/improvements being progressed with a particular focus on safety at junctions between Perth and Inverness, including:

1. A9/A86 Kingussie junction (single carriageway) – investigation complete. Installation of solar bollards to emphasise junction presence during darkness programmed for Summer 2025.
2. A9/B851/B9154 junctions (Fort Augustus/Moy/Croy/Daviot/Nairnside) (dual carriageway) – road safety study to identify potential accident reduction measures.
3. A9/Trinafour junction (dual carriageway) – completed review of road markings and signage to consider if additional measures would be beneficial to prevent ‘wrong-way’ turns by traffic joining the A9. Design underway, construction 2025/26.
4. A9/Dalnaspidal junction (single carriageway) – completed road safety study to identify potential accident reduction measures.
5. A9/B9152 (Lynwilg) (single carriageway) – Completion of road safety study to identify potential accident reduction measures.
6. A9/B9150 Newtonmore/Ralia junction (single carriageway) – Completion of CCTV study to review driver behaviour to identify if additional measures are required to reduce collisions and conflicts.

Progress towards completion of remaining elements of the £5M package of “short term measures” announced in parliament in December 2022 to target perceived fatal accident contributory factors in 2022 between Perth and Inverness. These include:

1. Enhancements to road markings on single carriageway sections – all 8 sections complete.
2. Junction enhancements including solar road studs and red road surface – 14 sections complete and 1 in progress.

3. Upgraded signs at transitions between single and dual carriageway – 10 sections complete and 2 in progress.
4. Improved road markings at transitions between single and dual carriageway – 11 sections complete and 1 in progress.
5. Additional “two way traffic” signs at one minute intervals on single carriageway sections – all 7 sections complete.
6. Directional arrow road markings on single carriageway sections – all 7 sections complete.

The following activities are planned to be undertaken in the six months from 1 April 2025 in relation to road safety on single carriageway sections of the A9 between Perth and Inverness:

A further meeting of the A9 Safety Group (took place in Pitlochry on 6 May 2025).

A Spring Progress Report on “short term measures” will be published on the A9 Safety Group website.

Further deployment of Variable Message Signs (VMS) at 7 strategic locations to enhance road safety messaging.

Continuation or completion of road safety investigations.

Completion of programme of “short term measures”.