Dear Mr Farrell

Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee

Forth Replacement Crossing Update 2

I refer to the commitment given by Transport Scotland to provide regular updates in relation to the Forth Replacement Crossing (FRC) Project. The most recent FRC Project Update 1 was provided to the Rural Economy and Connectivity (REC) Committee on 31 August 2016. This update to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee includes updates on the following key areas:

- Progress of Construction
- Stakeholder Engagement
- FRC Public Transport Strategy

Photographs illustrating progress can be found at Annex A.
Progress Update

Since the last written update to the REC Committee on 31 August 2016, REC Committee appearance on 7 September 2016 and REC Committee site visit on 31 October 2016, significant progress has been made on the North and South approach roads and the Queensferry Crossing. Significant milestones achieved in the past few months include:

- Road construction including the laying of final road surfacing, installation of Intelligent Transport System (ITS) gantries, white lining and barrier installation on the south side approach road has been substantially completed. (Photograph 1)
- South Approach Viaduct – deck concreting progressing with 36 out of 42 pours completed. (Photograph 2)
- Centre deck fan recognised as longest free standing balanced cantilever in the world by Guinness Book of World Records in October 2016 (Photograph 3)
- South deck fan closure to Centre deck fan in October 2016. (Photograph 4)
- North deck fan closure to Centre deck fan in November 2016. (Photograph 5)
- 107 deck units (out of 110) lifted by 7 December. 3 deck units remain to be lifted between the South deck fan and South Approach Viaduct. (Photograph 6)
- North Approach Viaduct deck concreting completed. (Photograph 7)
- Road construction on north side approach roads including Ferrytoll Junction progressing as planned. (Photograph 8)

Stakeholder Engagement

Community relations continue to be excellent with the North Community Forum and South Community Forum merging to form a single Community Forum which met most recently on 30 November 2016.

The project continues to attract a great deal of interest from a variety of stakeholders, including the general public, schools, colleges, universities, industry, international visitors and the media.

The Schools Programme has attracted over 19,000 school pupils from throughout Scotland and the Project Exhibition has attracted over 20,000 visitors. Presentations have been attended by over 29,000 people interested in hearing more about the FRC Project and latest in the construction of the Queensferry Crossing.

The overall Outreach and Education Programme has now attracted over 68,000 individuals across all activities.

The latest Project Update was published in November 2016, a copy of which is attached for your interest.
FRC Public Transport Strategy

The FRC Public Transport Strategy Working Group continues to meet on a bi-annual basis. The Working Group most recently met on 7 December, the focus of that meeting was on engaging with bus operators on starting to plan for the opening in line with the ‘Queensferry Crossing and Forth Road Bridge Users’ Guide’ produced by Transport Scotland. The A8/A89 Corridor Study Report, which identifies potential improvements in public transport access on the corridor and through Newbridge junction itself, has now been passed to the team taking forward the Strategic Transport Projects Review in 2017 to ensure measures identified in this corridor are considered. The Working Group continues to review the schemes and measures included in the Revised Implementation Plan within the Public Transport Strategy, and will consider this at the next meeting which will be scheduled for Spring 2017.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

David Climie CEng FICE
FRC Project Director
Annex A

Photograph 1 – South side approach road (October 2016)

Photograph 2 – South Approach Viaduct (October 2016)
Photograph 3 – Centre deck fan (October 2016)

Photograph 4 – South deck fan closure to Centre deck fan (October 2016)
Photograph 5 – North deck fan closure to Centre deck fan (November 2016)

Photograph 6 – Queensferry Crossing (November 2016)
Photograph 7 – North Approach Viaduct (October 2016)

Photograph 8 – North side approach road (October 2016)