
From: Graham A (Alasdair)

Sent: 31 August 2016 16:48

To: Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; Minister for Transport and the Islands; DG Economy; PS/Transport Scotland; **REDACTED**

Subject: Routine - A96 Dualling - Procurement of Design Consultant for Eastern Section

REDACTED

**A96 DUALLING PROGRAMME INVERNESS TO ABERDEEN
PROCUREMENT OF DESIGN CONSULTANT FOR EASTERN SECTION**

Please find attached Ministerial Submission in respect of the A96 Dualling Programme which sets out the proposed procurement arrangements to be put in place to secure consultancy services for the A96 Dualling Eastern Section.

Regards

Alasdair



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Head of Design Team 1 and 3

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Transport Scotland, the national transport agency
Còmhdhail Alba, buidheann nàiseanta na còmhdhail

From: Alasdair Graham
Transport Scotland
31 August 2016

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work

A96 DUALLING PROGRAMME INVERNESS TO ABERDEEN PROCUREMENT OF DESIGN CONSULTANTS FOR EASTERN SECTION

Purpose

1. To seek agreement that the proposed procurement arrangements are put in place to secure consultancy services for the delivery of the A96 Dualling Eastern Section.

Priority

2. Routine. We intend to publish the OJEU Notice seeking consultancy services later in September so an early response would be helpful to enable the necessary arrangements to be put in place.

Background

3. Ministers' announced their plans to upgrade the A9 between Perth and Inverness to full dual carriageway by 2025 and the A96 between Inverness and Aberdeen by 2030 during the launch of the Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP) in December 2011. The programme to upgrade the A96 to dual carriageway standard must deliver approximately 88 miles of improvements in the next 14 years and will comprise a number of projects phased to suit the available funding.

4. The outcome of the preliminary engineering and strategic environmental assessment work on the A96 Dualling was presented to the public at a series of exhibitions held between 11-21 May 2015.

5. Based on the preliminary work (DMRB Stage 1 assessment), a grouping of schemes has been considered for design and assessment purposes and in April 2015 Ministers approved the proposal to progress the next stage of design as three geographically aligned sections in addition to the Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) section which is at a more advanced stage of development. The three sections are proposed on the basis of a Western (~46 km), Central (~31 km) and Eastern (~42 km) section (**Annex A**). An outline programme was also publically announced at the exhibitions in May 2015 to indicate delivery timescales for DMRB Stage 2 route options assessment with procurement of consultants for the Western and Eastern sections commencing in 2016 with the Central Section following in 2019.

Consultancy Procurement Arrangements

6. In September 2015 approval was given to initially procure consultants for the Western Section followed by the Eastern Section later in 2016 (following the award of the contract for the Western Section). This approach would allow us to maintain demonstrable progress on the A96 Dualling towards the 2030 delivery date and meet the

Ministerial commitment to commence route option assessment work for the Western and Eastern Sections.

7. In June 2016 the design contract for the Western Section was awarded to Mott MacDonald Sweco Joint Venture and work has now commenced on the route options assessment for this section.

8. To meet previous commitments it is now proposed to commence the procurement of a design consultant for the Eastern Section. The procurement programme will initially involve the publication of one OJEU Contract Notice later this month. Anticipated timescales based on early approval are:

Eastern Section:

- Contract Notice – late September 2016
- Invitation to Tender – December 2016
- Receipt of Tenders – February 2017
- Contract Award – March 2017

9. The supplier market has already been warmed up with the work being taken forward on the A9 Dualling and also on other sections of the A96 Dualling. Suppliers have been putting resources in place and we would expect a good response to OJEU Contract Notice for the Eastern Section. The new procurement regulations which came into force earlier this year will apply to this procurement exercise.

Financial

10. **REDACTED**
11. **REDACTED**
12. **REDACTED**

Communications Handling

13. The publication of an OJEU Notice for the procurement of a design consultant for the Eastern Section later this month will offer an opportunity for the Minister to make an announcement on the A96 Dualling Programme. Initial discussions with Strategic Communications officials have already taken place and a press release will be prepared in advance of the publication of the OJEU Contract Notice.

Conclusions

14. **The Minister is invited to agree that a OJEU Contract Notice is published later this month seeking a design consultant to take forward the design and assessment of the A96 Dualling Eastern Section and note the proposed communications handling.**

15. **The timetable for procurement is in line with the project timetable to support delivery of the project by 2030. Whilst the procurement approach retains a degree of flexibility to ensure that commissions are let in line with available funding streams a longer term funding stream will be required to ensure delivery of the programme by 2030.**

Alasdair Graham

Transport Scotland
 Major Transport Infrastructure Projects
 Planning & Design – Design Team 3
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31 August 2016

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity			X		
Minister for Transport and the Islands			X		

DG Economy P/S Transport Scotland Roy Brannen, Chief Executive, Transport Scotland Transport Scotland Directors Graham Porteous, TS, MTRIPS Craig Cameron, TS, MTRIPS Fred O'Hara, TS, MTRIPS John McFarlane, Special Adviser Communications Economy Press Transport Scotland Transport Scotland Media Stephen Orr, TS, MTRIPS Strategic Comms Danny Chalmers, TS, Press Transport Scotland Steven Carmichael, TS, Press Transport Scotland
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ANNEX A

A96 DUALLING PROGRAMME INVERNESS TO ABERDEEN PROCUREMENT OF DESIGN CONSULTANTS FOR EASTERN SECTION

DMRB Stage 2 Assessment Sections



