CABINET SECRETARY ENGAGEMENT BRIEFING:
MS FIONA HYSLOP, CABINET SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT

ROAD EXPO 2024 – KEYNOTE SPEECH

Date and time of engagement	**Wednesday 27th November 2024** 09:30 : Arrival 10:00 : 10:30 : Speech 10:30 : 10:40 : Media Call 10:40 : 10:45 : Lines for event organiser 10:45 : Departure
Where	Road Expo Scotland Hall 5 Scottish Event Campus (SEC) Glasgow G3 8YW
Key message	Delivery of keynote speech opening Road Expo 2024 which is one of the leading events for the roads and transportation industries in Scotland. It provides transport professionals the opportunity to share information, ideas and innovations but it also enables discussion on common challenges the industry faces, all whilst exploring the exhibition of industry-leading products and services.
Who	Transport professionals from industry, Academia, Scottish Government and Local Government.
Why	To deliver keynote speech and open the Road Expo 2024
Official support required	[Redacted regulation 38(1)(b)], Head of Network Maintenance, Transport Scotland (Mobile Number: [Redacted regulation 38(1)(b)]) [Redacted regulation 38(1)(b)], Director of Roads, Transport Scotland (Mobile Number: [Redacted regulation 38(1)(b)]) [Redacted regulation 38(1)(b)], Head of Road Policy and Safety, Media Handler, (Mobile: [Redacted regulation 38(1)(b)])
Media handling	Planned press call with selected broadcast media following keynote speech to inform of National Speed Management Review consultation. BBC and STV will be invited to attend, and we will also look to get a short video clip with the TS comms videographer for use on social media channels. Journalists may choose to attend the event. Transport Scotland will use image of Cabinet Secretary opening Expo on social media. Refer to Annex F for media release.
Dress code	Business Attire

Greeting party and specific meeting point on arrival (if event is at a non SG building)	Main entrance to SEC At drop off point. (What3words ///each.smiles.codes) The Cabinet Secretar**y** will be met by: [Redacted regulation 38(1)(b)], Head of Network Maintenance, Transport Scotland (Mobile Number: [Redacted regulation 38(1)(b)]) [Redacted regulation 38(1)(b)], Director of Roads, Transport Scotland (Mobile Number: [Redacted regulation 38(1)(b)])
Specific entrance for ministerial car/parking arrangements	Main entrance to SEC At drop off point. (What3words ///each.smiles.codes) Free car parking will be available in car park 5 at the rear of the SEC for vehicle.
Agenda	See Annex A

Briefing contents

Annex	Details required
Annex A	Event agenda
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Annex G	Potential Event Promotional Questions for Road Expo Organisers.

Annex A

Agenda

Time (approx..)	*Activity*
09:30	**Welcome, Introductions** Cabinet Secretary arrives at main entrance to the SEC at drop off area and greeted by [Redacted regulation 38(1)(b)]from Transport Scotland. Vehicle parking is available at car park 5 (Annex E), where a designated parking space will be available. A Speaker's badge will be printed and ready to collect from [Redacted regulation 38(1)(b)]on arrival.
09:40 – 09:55	**Road Expo Walkaround Exhibits** Proceed to the main entrance of the conference where [Redacted regulation 38(1)(b)](Hemming Group) will greet you and alongside [Redacted regulation 38(1)(b)]will escort you around a number of exhibitors prior to your opening speech. ***Photo/Media Opportunity*** Photo opportunity as the Cabinet Secretary takes a brief walk around the exhibition. A later media call has been planned after Keynote address to inform the media of the consultation on the National Speed Management Review.
09:55 – 10:00	Welcome and introduction from the Chair ([Redacted regulation 38(1)(b)])
10:00 – 10:30	**Keynote Speech** Cabinet Secretary opening speech.
10:30 – 10:40	**Media Call** Broadcast media interviews (BBC, STV, TS communication video), to inform on the consultation on National Speed Management Review.
10:40- 10:45	**Potential promotional Q&A endorsing the event (Videographer)**
10:45	**End of Engagement**

	Cabinet Secretary proposed departure

Annex B

Summary Page

Purpose of engagement is to deliver keynote address opening at Road Expo 2024. The Road Expo is the Scottish Road and Bridge sector's largest annual conference and exposition, running annually for two-days. The event brings together contractors, clients, road authorities, consultants and policy professionals from Scotland and beyond.

It is a well-established event that has run for over 20 years. It is free to attend. Past events saw approximately 1,500 attendees over the two days (exhibitors, speakers and attendees). Last year's event at Glasgow's SEC was expanded to accommodate 1,800 attendees and approximately 100 exhibitors.

It provides an opportunity for the Scottish Government to set out policies and ambitions for the year ahead. It is also an opportunity to influence and motivate transport professionals, stakeholders and industry partners.

The event will promote best practice, collaboration, behavioural change and innovation and in turn help the road community grow Scotland's economy, tackle the climate emergency and improve the quality and efficiency of Scotland's public services.

The Cabinet Secretaries' attendance at the event and endorsement of its proceedings will add much value and help deliver the conference's (and our) objectives.

Key Issues:
None

Issues to avoid:
None

Lines to Take:

Keynote Speech - Questions from floor not proposed, however Cabinet Secretary welcome to request questions.

Annex C

Additional briefing on Key issues

A9 Fatality (19 November 2024)

At approximately 0814hrs on Tuesday 19 November on the A9 south of Ballinluig a 4 vehicle collision took place. This resulted in the death of a 49 year old male driver. Transport Scotland officials will meet with Police Scotland & the Trunk Road Operating Company to obtain detailed information on this collision.

Lines to take: Our sympathies are with family and friends at this difficult time. As police investigations into this collision are on-going it would be inappropriate for me to comment further at this time, however, as part of our incident policy my officials will meet with the Police Scotland enquiry team and our operating company to obtain more detailed information on the circumstances of the collision.

Scotland' Road Safety Framework to 2030

Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030 sets out a vision for Scotland to have the best road safety performance in the world by 2030 and an ambitious long-term goal where no one is seriously injured or killed on our roads by 2050. It sets challenging targets for the years ahead, with a 50 per cent reduction in fatal and serious injuries and a 60 per cent reduction in child fatal and serious injuries by 2030. For the first time, mode and user specific targets for key priority groups such as pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and over-represented age groups have been created to focus attention by partners on our priority areas.

Road Safety Performance

Transport Scotland published finalised road casualty statistics for 2023 on 30 October. Reported Road Casualties Scotland confirms that 155 people were killed in reported road accidents in Scotland in 2023.

The overall number of casualties rose in 2023 from 5,643 to 5,829. Although the total number of casualties has increased each year since all-time lows in 2020 (the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic), casualties are still at low levels historically. The Scottish Government is clear that one life lost on our roads is one too many. That is why we are investing record £36m this financial year to deliver a wide range of initiatives aimed at improving driver behaviour and ultimately reducing the number of casualties on our roads.

National Speed Management Review
We recognise that vehicle speed plays a crucial factor in our endeavour to improve road safety in Scotland.

A National Speed Management Review is being undertaken to examine the potential effects of changes to national speed limits across Scotland. This review, which flows from the second Strategic Transport Projects Review, is aimed at ensuring speed limits are safe and appropriate for all types of roads throughout Scotland. The review supports Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030 by aiming to reduce casualties, enhance road safety and promote efficient travel for all road users.

Today (27 November) the Scottish Government have launched a public consultation to help shape the future of Scotland's road safety and transport policy.

A75 / A77 Upgrades
The strategic importance of both the A75 and A77 to Scotland's economy is recognised by this government, and we value the critical link they provide to the wider markets in the rest of the UK and Europe by connecting the ports at Cairnryan to the wider trunk road network. Recommendation 40 in the second Strategic Transport Projects Review places equal importance on both the A75 and the A77 to Scotland and its economy.

A75 Springholm and Crocketford
I am pleased that we can now get on and commence the initial design and assessment work for improvements to the A75. Transport Scotland officials had progressed a robust procurement process to appoint a technical advisor to progress this design and development work. This process was paused whilst the UK Government conducted its comprehensive spending review.

M8 Woodside Viaduct
The M8 is another vital part of our road network between our two most populated cities, so is vital that we continue the work on the M8 Woodside Viaduct to ensure the safety of the road and its users due to it carrying approximately 100,000 vehicles daily.

Our Principal Contractor has been delivering this highly complex work on behalf of Transport Scotland while ensuring this busy section of the M8 motorway remains open.

Our work on the propping the viaduct is underway and 13 of the 23 supports have now been propped with 8 spans fully jacked. The completion of the propping works will allow the lane restrictions to be removed. The programme expects the East bound viaduct to remove lane restrictions in Summer 2025 with the West bound restrictions planned to be lifted in early 2026.

A83 Rest and be Thankful

These have included debris fences, catch pits and also tree planting of the hillside above the A83 at Glen Croe.

In the **short term** a range of landslide mitigation measures, such as debris and rockfall fences and catchpits, are currently implemented on the hillside above the A83. It is precisely because we have invested in the **short term solution** meant we had measures in place to address the most recent landslide.

The **medium term solution** consists of a series of improvements to the Old Military Road that is used as a diversion route when the A83 is closed.

The proposed **long term solution** consists of a 1.4km debris flow shelter that provides a permanent solution to the landslide challenges at the Rest and Be Thankful.

A83 Safety in adverse weather

A83 continues to operate with the Old Military Road (OMR) being brought into use as required, in response to weather forecasts and localised monitoring. Updates are then issued to stakeholders and via the Traffic Scotland website when appropriate.

Transport Scotland continues to have a presence on site assessing and monitoring conditions at the hillside, with spotters, sentries and time lapse cameras on site.

A9 Dual

The A9 is an essential route in Scotland. It must be safe, reliable and resilient, and that is what this Government will deliver.

The magnitude of the investment and the complexities of upgrading infrastructure at this scale, in this financial environment, have been and will continue to be considerable. But this is a challenge we will meet.

There will be no let-up – once construction starts on Tomatin to Moy, under the A9 Dualling delivery plan, construction will roll continually until the route is fully dualled between Perth and Inverness.

We anticipate nearly 50% of the A9 between Perth and Inverness will be operating as dual carriageway by the end of 2030, rising to 85% by the end of 2033 and 100% by the end of 2035.

The delivery plan targets completion by the end of 2035, but it should be recognised that this could be affected by circumstances beyond our control, such as severe weather, Brexit, and global pandemics. To not recognise those additional challenges beyond our control would be remiss.

Annex D

Transport professionals from industry, Academia, Scottish Government and Local Government.

You will be met by [Redacted regulation 38(1)(b)], Director of Roads, Transport Scotland and [Redacted regulation 38(1)(b)], Head of Network Maintenance, Transport Scotland

Annex E

Hall 5
Scottish Event Campus (SEC)
Glasgow
G3 8YW (postcode for your satnav is G3 8GS)

Meet at drop off area in front of Main door (see red star) ///each.smiles.codes

Free parking will be available in car park 5 at the rear of the SEC.

Annex F

Draft news release - 27/11/24

National Speed Management Review

Public consultation launched on speed limit changes to enhance road safety

A consultation has launched to gather public and stakeholder views on proposed changes to speed limits in Scotland which are aimed at enhancing road safety.

The National Speed Management Review seeks to ensure speed limits on Scotland's roads are appropriate and contribute to achieving ambitious national casualty reduction targets.

The consultation runs until Wednesday 5 March 2025. It invites feedback on proposals to lower the national speed limit on single carriageway roads from 60 mph to 50 mph and to increase speed limits for goods vehicles over 7.5 tonnes on single carriageways to 50mph and dual carriageways to 60mph. Analysis from the review indicates that these changes could significantly reduce injury collisions, while maintaining journey times and enhancing journey time reliability.

Cabinet Secretary for Transport Fiona Hyslop said:

"Road safety is a priority for the Scottish Government and we remain absolutely committed to working towards our ambitious goal of making Scotland's roads the safest in the world by 2030.

"This consultation on proposed changes to speed limits is part of our record £36 million investment in road safety this financial year. Evidence from the National Speed Management Review indicates that revising speed limits could lead to a significant reduction in the number of injury collisions on our roads, while maintaining journey times and enhancing journey time reliability.

"We want to hear from the public and stakeholders on these proposals. The consultation is available online and a series of engagement sessions will be held early in 2025 to ensure a wide range of voices are heard.

"We must never lose sight of the fact that one death on our roads is one too many. These proposed changes represent a vital step towards achieving national casualty reduction targets, and I urge everyone to take part in the consultation and help shape the future of road safety in Scotland."

For more information and to participate in the consultation, visit *[Link will only become available from 27 November]*

Background info:

- The consultation opens on Wednesday 27 November and closed on Wednesday 5 March 2025.
- Responses will be analysed to inform final recommendations, contributing to Scotland's national road safety policy.
- Analysed findings will be published in summer 2025.

- Forecasts indicate that implementing this change on Scotland's road network could prevent more than 1,200 injury collisions over a 60-year period. This would potentially mean saving 18 lives (a 23% reduction) and preventing 119 serious injuries (an 18% reduction) within the first year of implementation.

Annex G

Planned Question

Q/ What are the key benefits of attending an event like Road Expo Scotland, both for the Scottish Government and the wider transport industry?

A/ The Road Expo Scotland is beneficial for the Scottish Government and for anyone involved in the road, transport, and traffic sectors, as it offers a platform for updates on industry trends, collaboration between companies, and explores innovative solutions. The Scottish Government values this collaboration as it unites the sector into improving Scotland's Infrastructure creating a sustainable, safer and more efficient Scotland.

Q/ How does attending events like Road Expo Scotland help to shape the future of transport in Scotland?

A/ Attending events like Road Expo Scotland play a key role in shaping the future of transport in Scotland. It provides a platform for industry professionals, government representatives to collaborate by knowledge sharing, showcasing technologies and allows discussion around policy and strategy development. Through networking at events like these can lead to collaborative projects and partnerships that drive progress in the sector which can influence changes and enhance the efficiency and safety of Scotland's transport system.