



Forth Road Bridge CSSC Brief

1. Update

Inspection of the Forth Road Bridge has revealed significant cracking. Detailed examination and inspection, followed by repairs has commenced and the bridge is not anticipated to re-open until the New Year.

Traffic is diverted across the Kincardine and Forth Crossing at Kincardine. This has resulted in heavier than normal traffic queues.

2. Priority Route

A bus and HGV priority route is in operation between Cairneyhill and Longannet roundabouts on A985 with no access (other than residents to their houses) for private cars. This came into effect on 7th December. Learning from day one has resulted in the restrictions on private vehicles using this route being lifted between 2000 and 0500 hours.

A common sense approach to Doctors and District Nurses etc using the route for access between 1000 and 1500 hours has also been implemented with explicit discretion to permit access being devolved to officers supporting the traffic restrictions there.

The plan is being further reviewed today with a view to opening it to LGV's

3. Congestion

Traffic volume through Culross as vehicles try and find an alternative route has increased considerably.

Heavy traffic congestion is now experienced at the roundabouts at the Kincardine Bridges and north. Tweaks to the plan are being implemented by operational commanders on the ground which is permitting the traffic management plan to evolve and develop and reducing the tailbacks.

Police Scotland have deployed 10 RP double crewed cars and 8 RP bikes to assist in traffic flow, enforce compliance with the signage for priority routes and mitigate the displacement of traffic.

Tailbacks this morning at peak flow were 3 miles northbound and 4 miles southbound. Queues on A907 were at peak 3 miles. The Clacks bridge, Kilbaggie and Gratrarry roundabouts were experiencing high volume of traffic. This was heavier traffic volume than yesterday.

Operational commanders redirected traffic southbound through Kincardine Bridge to alleviate the Clacks bridge and this worked well. Delays of about an hour can be experienced at peak time.

Traffic pinch point was as predicted the roundabouts at Kilbaggie, Gartarry and Higgins Neuk. RP resources are deployed there and are required to continually actively manage the flows.

Traffic volumes started to ease by 0930 hours at both Monday and Tuesday at the roundabouts and by 1000 was free flowing but still heavy.

Traffic at Evening peak times is less dense but the roundabouts are still the pinch points and tail backs are anticipated.

4. Alternative Transport Options

Transference of commuters onto the provided bus service has not been well taken up with the buses running at 10% capacity today.

Capacity still exists for commuters to use the park and ride facilities. Bus tickets are almost 50 % of previous prices. It is now £3:00 for a return ticket from Fife to Edinburgh

Bus and HGV times using the priority corridor average 1 hour for Rosyth to Edinburgh. At peak times this is now 1 hour 22 minutes.

Car journey times Rosyth to Edinburgh using the diversion average 1 hour thirty minutes and at peak times 2 hours 10 minutes.

Train services have been increased with an additional 6000 seats each way during peak periods. Total an additional 6000 seats. Scotrail report passengers have increased by 11000 with the trains busy but still having capacity. This has seen take up of and are running at capacity during peak periods.

Comms

The Transport Scotland website is the up to date accurate source of information on the congestion.

Police on roads patrol following Forth Road Bridge Closure

People are urged to consider their travel plans across of the East of Scotland, following the closure of the Forth Road Bridge on Friday 4 December.

Work is underway to repair the bridge following the discovery of defective steelwork and it will be closed until the New Year.

Police Scotland is supporting its partners in keeping diversionary routes open and running safely whilst the closure remains in place.

Assistant Chief Constable Malcolm Graham said: "Road Policing Officers are working closely with traffic management partners to monitor the road network in Fife, Forth

Valley, Edinburgh and the Lothians, to ensure travel disruption is minimised whilst the essential repairs take place.

They are on patrol on key routes to help clear any traffic incidents which do occur and keep people moving.

"I would urge all drivers to consider if your journey is necessary, and to consider other options like public transport. Please check the conditions before you set off and leave extra time if you must travel.

"The closure of the bridge does not affect our ability to respond to emergency calls, and officers will continue to answer 999 calls and carry out our daily tasks as normal."

For more information on the closure of the bridge visit www.transportscotland.gov.uk

For the latest travel updates visit www.trafficscotland.org or follow @trafficscotland on Twitter.

Forthcoming events that may be impacted by the closure are forecast ahead and reviewed every 24 hours. Where possible mitigation measures are introduced. For football clubs engagement with the clubs to contact their fans through website and social media, alerting them to the congestion, allow plenty of time for travel and if possible use public transport..