

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

IRVINE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE – 2 FEBRUARY 2005

M77 SLIP ROADS/EMERGENCY ACCESS

Report By Executive Director of Development & Property Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise the Committee on the implications for emergency access to the M77 if the south-facing slip roads at the Kingswell junction are not constructed.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The south facing slip roads at the Kingswell junction on the new M77 would allow northbound M77 traffic to exit the motorway and southbound local traffic to join the motorway. However, despite intensive lobbying by East Ayrshire Council, the Scottish Executive do not consider these slip roads to be essential for the interchange arrangements for local and M77 traffic at Kingswell. The slip roads may be provided by the developer of the proposed Motorway Service area (MSA) subject to agreement being reached with the Scottish Executive, but if the MSA development does go ahead, these slip roads will not be built. The slip roads are not included in the current construction contract.

3. THE PRESENT POSITION

- 3.1 Following concerns raised by the Ayrshire Economic Forum, the Head of Roads & Transportation wrote to East Renfrewshire Council, (the Project Director for the scheme) and the Scottish Executive on 15 July 2004.
- 3.2 The responses made it quite clear that the motorway has been designed in accordance with current guidelines. The emergency services were consulted and the issue of journey times for emergency response fully discussed with the relevant parties. No adverse comments were received from the emergency services.
- 3.3 Copies of the correspondence are attached to this report (Appendix 1).

At the Community Safety Forum meeting on 1 December 2004 a representative of the Fire Service expressed a preference for the slip roads, which would expedite emergency access. It was agreed that the Chair of the Community Safety Forum would write to the Head of Roads & Transportation on this matter. This will be referred to the Scottish Executive for comment.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications for East Ayrshire.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications for East Ayrshire.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Committee is invited to note the contents of this report.

James Lavery

Executive Director of Development and Property Services

SG/SH

21 December 2004

LIST OF APPENDICES

- 1. Letter from Head of Roads & Transportation to East Renfrewshire Council – 15 July 2004**
- 2. Response from East Renfrewshire Council – 13 August 2004**
- 3. Response from Scottish Executive – 2 August 2004**

For further information please contact Sandy Gillatt on 01563 555734

Implementation Officer : Sandy Gillatt

Contact: Mr J T Kane
Our Ref: T96001/04 JTK04034
Date: 19 July 2004

MR WILLIE GILLAN
EAST RENREWSHIRE COUNCIL
ROADS & TRANSPORTATION SERVICE
1ST FLOOR
190 CARNWARDIC ROAD
THORNLIBANK
G46 8HR

Dear Willie,

M77/GSO PROJECT – KINGSWELL INTERCHANGE

I have received correspondence from the Ayrshire Economic Forum following their meeting of 11 June 2004 expressing their concerns over the deletion of the south facing slip roads at the Kingswell Interchange.

I have been asked to pass these concerns to yourself as Project Director for the scheme and to the Scottish Executive.

Their concerns relate mainly to journey times of emergency vehicles attending incidents on the M77 between Fenwick and Malletsheugh.

It is understood that for safety reasons the emergency cross overs on the motorway will be closed off with safety fence, as a result, without the south facing slip roads, emergency vehicles could be involved in a considerable journey to the first available exit, resulting in poorer response times.

The Forum are aware that the missing slip roads at Kingswell may be provided by the developer of the proposed Motorway Service Area subject to agreement being reached with the Scottish Executive but should negotiations collapse, these slip roads will not be built.

Could you please provide a response to these concerns to enable me to reply to the Ayrshire Economic Forum.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Kane
Head of Roads & Transportation

Cc Chris Rogers – Scottish Executive
Chief Executive
Director of Development & Property Services

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Environment Department
Director: Andrew J Cahill, BSc (Hons)

Roads & Transportation Service
Thornliebank Depot - 1st Floor, 190 Camwadic Road, Thornliebank, G46 8HR
Phone: 0141 577 3417 Fax: 0141 577 3414

Head of Service: J Devine, BSc MSc CEng MICE

Our Ref: 03/077 ; SR/6934
Your Ref:
Date: 13 August 2004
When calling please ask for: Willie Gillan - Direct Dial 0141 577 3447



DX Address: East Renfrewshire Council
DX501601
Giffnock 11

Mr J Kane
Head of Roads and Transportation
East Ayrshire Council
Greenholm Street
KILMARNOCK
KA1 4DJ

Dear Jim,

M77/GSO DBFO Project
KINGSWELL INTERCHANGE

Thank you for your letter of 11 June 2004 regarding the Ayrshire Economic Forum's concerns over the deletion of the south facing slip roads at the Kingswell Interchange, and in particular to the journey times of emergency vehicles attending incidents on the M77 between Fenwick and Malletsheugh.

As you are aware the decision to delete the south facing slip roads from the current contract was taken by the Scottish Executive and any concerns regarding this decision should therefore be referred them.

Please note that Connect have carried out the requisite consultations with the emergency services and that the issue of journey times has been fully discussed with the relevant parties. Please also note that in accordance with current guidelines it is not proposed to include any emergency crossing points in the central reserve of the new M77.

I trust that the above information, together with the comments made by Chris Rogers, of the Scottish Executive, in his letter of 2nd August, will allow you to respond appropriately.

Yours faithfully

W T Gillan.
Project Director

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SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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Your ref: T96001/04 JTK04034
Our ref:

2nd August 2004

Dear Jim

M77 GSO Project - Kingswell Interchange

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to Willie Gillan regarding Ayrshire Economic Forum's concerns for emergency service operations on the M77. I will leave it to Willie to provide you with a response for the Economic Forum, but please note the comments below:

As you may know, the Economic Forum's letter to you followed the presentation by Kingswell Developments to the Forum on 11th June at which Kingswell Developments raised the issue. This is the third time this issue has been raised with the Executive in recent weeks - each time courtesy of Kingswell Developments.

The design of the M77 has been through due process - as has that for the Glasgow Southern Orbital - with all the consultation process that implies. The junction spacing on the M77 do not appear excessive - indeed our concerns have been for the close spacing of junctions at the southern end requiring departures from standards.

The Executive has received no adverse comments from the emergency services on the design of the M77 between Fenwick and Malletshead that I have been able to trace.

If you are aware of anyone at the emergency services who is pressing this issue please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Chris Rogers

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL	
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT	
ROADS & TRANSPORTATION DIVISION	
05 AUG 2004	
MAIL REF: 60495	FILE REF:
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9/11/04

