

TOLSON URGES MINISTER TO BACK NEW BRIDGE

Jim Tolson MSP speaking after John Sweeney had launched the information programme on the new Forth Crossing welcomed the Scottish Parliament commitment to fund a new crossing. Jim said “Having carefully considered all the criteria the Government has set out for the new crossing then only a bridge can fulfil it.

- We need a crossing that can be put in place as quickly as possible to protect the economic viability of the whole of the east of Scotland.
- We need a crossing that will take all commercial traffic ensuring that Fife businesses have fast access to markets in Edinburgh, Glasgow and beyond.
- We need a bridge that will have the least impact on the environment and with the tunnel option going through sites of Special Scientific Interests on both sides of the Forth, the bridge is the key winner here.
- We need a bridge to increase the amount of public transport available. From the outset, Rapid Transport Buses will be able to use the new bridge giving Fife the best transport system in and out of the City of Edinburgh and one day the bridge should be able to carry a Light Rail Transport System. This will be good for the economic future of Fife making Dunfermline the best place to live, work and invest in.
- We need an option that gives the public real ‘value for money’ and with the bridge likely to cost nearly £1 billion less than a submerged tube tunnel, I know where I would want to put my money providing a crossing but also investing nearly £1 billion in schools, hospitals and other transport improvements – the bridge is a clear winner here too.

I have outlined the main issues regarding a new Forth crossing and have strongly urged the Minister to provide a cable stay bridge and to start the job quickly. Time is of the essence and we must know when work will be started on the bridge and when it will be finished. Any delay is not acceptable to the businesses or commuters in my constituency”.

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