

## **TOLSON CALLS FOR SNP TO BACK BRIDGE**

Jim Tolson Lib Dem MSP for Dunfermline West today hit out at the attacks aimed at Transport Scotland by tunnel campaigners. Jim said "Many people who have attend the Information Events hosted by Transport Scotland have been impressed with the clarity of the presentation, the enormous amount of research available and that Transport Scotland have managed to compress five years work in to a little over 12 months."

Transport Scotland recommendations have been verified by both the present and previous Chair of the Institute of Civil Engineers and been welcomed by both the Freight Transport Association and the Road Haulage Association.

Whilst the Immersed Tube Tunnel looks superficially attractive, it fails to meet the objectives Transport Scotland were set, being significantly more expensive, failing to encourage multimodal shift and unable to meet the very tight timeframes available. Instead of making unwarranted attacks on Transport Scotland, Tunnel campaigners should accept that an Immersed Tube Tunnel has been considered but is simply not a viable option.

Jim said, "The SNP Government should make up its mind and put people out of their misery. The recommendations are plain to see and we now need to know when the bridge will be started and when it will be completed. I agree with the Federation of Small Business and the Chamber of Commerce, prevarication could cost confidence in the business sector. We need a decision and we need it now!"