

**8 April 2009**

### **Jim Tolson welcomes Jam-busting patrols at Forth Road Bridge**

Transport Scotland's pioneering patrol service aimed at cutting jams at some of Scotland's traffic hotspots is to extend its reach to tackle hold-ups en route to the Forth Road Bridge. From early April, a TRISS van will patrol southbound approaches towards the Forth Road Bridge before morning peak traffic and will continue to monitor for incidents until after the evening rush hour.

The innovative Trunk Road Incident Support Service (TRISS) helps reduce congestion caused by incidents and breakdowns on busy commuter routes by attending and clearing up incident sites quickly, allowing police to concentrate on other core activities. It is hoped the TRISS service can be extended in the future to cover other congested areas of the trunk road network.

Dunfermline West MSP, Jim Tolson commented "The TRISS service has already been extremely successful in helping to keep traffic flowing in other key parts of Scotland. I welcome its introduction in the Bridgehead area. Congestion is often caused by incidents which take time to clear. This initiative will speed things up and hopefully keep traffic moving at peak times. The service is beneficial to drivers in keeping the roads safer, clearing incidents more efficiently and cutting down on congestion."

**Ends**

#### **Notes to editor**

1. Transport Scotland is the national transport agency responsible for trunk roads, rail and national concessionary travel. It is an Executive agency directly accountable to Scottish Ministers and came into effect on 1 January 2006. For further information visit [www.transportscotland.gov.uk](http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk)
2. The innovative Trunk Road Incident Support Service (TRISS) helps reduce congestion caused by incidents and breakdowns on busy commuter routes by attending and clearing up incident sites quickly, allowing police to concentrate on other core activities. While not dealing with incidents, TRISS teams patrol the routes and undertake basic maintenance operations. The routes patrolled by the new TRISS service which will be operated by trunk road operating company BEAR Scotland - will include busy commuter arteries such as the M90, A92, A985 and A823.

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3. The TRISS vehicles are fitted with Global Positioning Systems to provide a real time locating and identification facility. Each vehicle is fitted with a hands-free mobile phone to enable crews to communicate with the operating company control room and the Police. The vehicles are also equipped with tools required to attend to incidents.