



## **Asiant Cefnffyrdd Gogledd a Chanolbarth Cymru North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent**

### **NMWTRA Supporting Information to Public Accounts Committee**

#### **A55 Road Works Coordination for Noise Fence Construction at Abergele, January – March 2015**

Further to NMWTRA's attendance at the Public Accounts Committee Oral Evidence Session on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015, the following timeline indicates the programming requirements and the Streetworks coordination process for delivery of the A55 west bound Noise Mitigation Project at Abergele. It must be noted that due to the nature of the A55, any traffic management will inevitably cause some levels of disruption, however NMWTRA and its contractors takes every practicable measure to minimise disruption as far as possible.

In summary, the key issues relating to the timing and coordination of the works are as follows:

- A Ministerial commitment was given to the Clwyd West AM to construct the noise fence during the 2014/15 financial year following representation from local residents regarding noise levels;
- Works at Foryd Road Bridge were initially due for completion by 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014 ahead of the planned construction of the noise fence;
- Funding was not made available to the Agent for construction of the noise fence until 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014;
- The noise fence construction was included within the quarterly Streetworks Coordination meeting held by Conwy County Borough Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 with no adverse comments raised;
- Statutory periods for the implementation of the required Temporary Traffic Regulation Order, after funding was made available, dictated that the earliest start on site would be 4<sup>th</sup> January 2015 for preliminary site clearance works;
- Statutory processes under the New Roads & Street Works Act 1991 and Welsh Government (WG) embargo periods have been complied with by NMWTRA, WG and the local authorities;
- Construction works were instructed by WG for completion before 31<sup>st</sup> March;
- All works programming on the A55 including the noise fence project was necessarily agreed with Welsh Government given the relationship with the A55 Resilience projects.

In addition the following comments apply:

1. Foryd Road Bridge is approximately 4 miles away from the A55 noise fence works.
2. The closure of the Foryd Road Bridge and its approved diversion route did not involve the diversion of any traffic onto the A55 and therefore did not impact on A55 traffic flows.

3. The implementation of a lane 1 westbound closure on the A55 to construct the Noise Fence did not impact on the works or associated diversion at Foryd Road Bridge. There was no impact on A55 eastbound traffic as both lanes remained open throughout the works.
4. The Foryd Road Bridge project was delayed and caused that scheme to be undertaken in the same time period as the A55 Noise Fence Construction.
5. NMWTRA/WG planned the construction of the Noise Fence taking into account the prevailing roadspace and funding constraints.
6. There was no constraint applied to the A55 noise reduction scheme by the County Streetworks Authorities.
7. Note that weekly roadworks bulletins are provided to WG.

### A55 W/B at Abergele - Noise Fence Construction 2014/15 Timeline

Date	Timeline Action	Comment
<b>22/04/2013</b>	Ministerial Commitment to Clwyd West Assembly Member for construction of Noise Fences at Abergele	This representation and subsequent commitment arose due to numerous complaints from local residents about excessive noise levels.
<b>19/11/2013</b>	Further Ministerial response to Clwyd West AM following a request for an update on construction programme	Ministerial commitment to construct A55 westbound noise fence in 2014 "as soon as roadspace allows"
<b>07/01/2014</b>	NMWTRA Bid submitted for continued Noise Fence design and construction programme during 2014/15, in accordance with the Ministerial commitment.	NMWTRA bid included £450k for construction of Abergele W/B fence and £100k for A55 J27 E/B on slip noise fence in accordance with 2013 Ministerial commitments
<b>01/04/2014</b>	Initial WG allocation of £250k for Noise fences during 2014/15 financial year	Funding allocation from WG insufficient to meet estimated construction costs and Ministerial commitment.
<b>03/06/2014</b>	NMWTRA budget allocation reduced by WG (£3M Capital reduction)	Allocations reduced across all budget headings.
<b>16/06/2014</b>	WG/NMWTRA reduced noise fence budget allocation to £50k	With insufficient funding initially allocated to progress the project in line with Ministerial commitment and a requirement to reduce overall capital budget by £3M, the Noise Fence budget was reduced to £50k in order to continue with design only. Due to level of funding there is no WG commitment to construction phase at this time.
<b>June - Aug.</b>	Detailed design of Noise fence progressed.	-

Date	Timeline Action	Comment
18/07/2014	A55 Summer Embargo Starts	Night-time works permissible - Noise fence construction deemed to be unsuitable for night time working due in part to proximity of properties and level of noise likely to be created during unsociable hours.
01/09/2014	A55 Summer Embargo ends	
22/09/2014	WG indicate £250k allocation for Noise Fence construction	Still insufficient allocation to commit to a construction contract for the noise fence at Abergele in line with Ministerial commitment
03/10/2014	Tender Start Date for Foryd Bridge Works (Denbighshire CC Works)	Initial works period was programmed by DCC for 4/10/14 to 27/10/14
08/10/2014	Email from WG to NMWTRA instructing that construction of the W/B A55 Noise Fence at Abergele must be constructed during the 2014/15 Financial Year with instruction to prepare tender documentation and procure the works for a construction start in early January - WG emphasised the need to complete construction in the shortest achievable timescale to mitigate disruption.	NMWTRA instructed their Consultant to progress in accordance with this instruction and ensure completion of construction by 31st March 2015. <b>Funding for construction phase not allocated at this stage but WG acknowledged budgetary requirement.</b>
Oct. 2014	NMWTRA A55 Route Management programmed Noise Fence works for February / March due to other committed works on A55 (Conwy Tunnel Refurbishment and A55 Resilience Project) to minimise concurrent road works – Both of these other schemes were also Ministerial Commitments)	Works on A55 for Tunnel Refurbishment and Resilience projects significantly reduced road space availability. At this stage no clash with DCC Foryd Road Bridge Scheme.
10/11/2014	Consultant issues construction programme options to identify least disruptive method of constructing the Noise Fence	Agreed 5 day working, 07:00 - 21:00 with Lane 1 closure west bound only. Traffic management removed each Friday by 14:00 and reinstated each following Sunday evening to avoid peak traffic flows.
13/11/2014	Temporary Traffic Order Notice (TON) issued following discussions with Conwy CCB Streetworks - TON to be effective in February 2015	Forms part of ongoing liaison with CCBC as Streetworks Authority.
02/12/2014	DCC Streetwork coordination meeting	DCC notify a provisional revised start date of approx. 16th Feb 2015 for Foryd Bridge Works due to technical design issues -Streetworks notification not submitted at this stage due to uncertainty of start date.

Date	Timeline Action	Comment
02/12/2014	Conwy CBC Streetworks Coordination meeting - schedules of planned works distributed on 2nd December, including NMWTRA's A55 Noise fence construction and Works in Abergele. Meeting held on 3rd December. Schedules of all proposed works were considered and accepted by the Streetworks Authority without comment.	Meeting attended by NMWTRA representative. Schedules copied to WG. Noise fence scheme committed for Streetworks purposes at this stage. Foryd Bridge still uncertain with no Streetworks commitment at this stage. Wales & West works to gas main in Abergele town centre also notified at this stage. CCBC undertaking coordination as Streetworks Authority
11/12/2014	<b>WG approved £550k funding for construction of Noise Fence</b>	<b>Sufficient funding now confirmed for Noise Fence construction at Abergele in accordance with Ministerial commitment for completion by end of financial year. WG instruction to proceed with construction phase.</b>
12/12/2014	Proposed Noise Fence Construction included within Conwy CBC Streetworks Bulletin	Bulletin distributed to Traffic Wales.
Dec. 2014	NMWTRA procures Noise Fence construction contract through established Contractor Framework	Use of Framework allows for rapid procurement.
Dec. 2014	Additional site clearance works identified to permit noise fence construction - TON Amended for earliest start date.	TON dates amended to allow January 2015 start - Earliest date achievable was 4th Jan 2015 due to WG statutory procedures for processing Temporary Traffic Regulation Order
Dec. 2014	Site clearance works agreed with Conwy CBC Streetworks for Early Jan - Feb. Works required full closure of W/B on-slip at J23a. Main A55 carriageway not affected.	The A55 works during this period of time were programmed <b>not</b> to impact on utility works in Abergele Town Centre
19/12/2014	A55 Christmas embargo starts	Night-time works permissible - Noise fence construction deemed to be unsuitable for night time working due in part to the close proximity of properties and the level of noise likely to be created during unsociable hours.
02/01/2015	A55 Christmas embargo ends	
06/01/2015	Site clearance works undertaken for a period of 3 weeks	Works undertaken off-peak (09:00 - 15:00) with TM removed each day to reopen carriageway. West bound carriageway only affected by Traffic Management
06/01/2015	Noise Fence Construction Contract awarded to Framework Contractor.	Contract start date set as 2nd February - 3 week period allowed for contractor mobilisation.
Feb. 2015	Noise Fence construction delayed by 2 weeks due to proximity of ongoing A55 Resilience project Traffic Management. This was by agreement with WG.	Construction delayed to reduce number of concurrent schemes on A55. No Traffic Management installed for noise fence construction at this stage.

Date	Timeline Action	Comment
<b>12/02/2015</b>	Part N Streetworks notification for Noise Fence Construction submitted via Gwynedd CC (on behalf of NMWTRA) for notification to relevant Streetwork Authorities. This confirms the committed contract start date as 16/02/2015. No adverse comment or formal response received from Streetworks Authorities regarding start date, duration or proximity of other programmed works.	Information shared between Streetwork Authorities. Part N notice forms element of statutory process to confirm works immediately prior to start. Updated notice submitted on a weekly basis throughout the construction period.
<b>16/02/2015</b>	Noise fence construction commences. WG instruction to delay the installation of traffic management until after peak morning traffic flows.	Neither Foryd Road Bridge nor Abergele town centre works on site at this stage.
<b>22/02/2015</b>	Foryd Road Bridge works start on site - bridge closed	DCC diversion route plan for Foryd Bridge work did <b>not</b> require any traffic to be directed onto the A55 thus both A55 Noise Fence and Foryd Road Bridge Schemes were not in direct conflict.
<b>23/02/2015 to 27/03/2015</b>	Wales & West gas main works – Chapel Street, Abergele. Dates taken from CCBC Streetworks bulletin (12/12/2014)	NMWTRA not sighted on any subsequent notifications in relation to the Abergele town centre works. Dates assumed to be correct.
<b>27/03/2015</b>	Noise fence construction completed	Scheme completed within programme ahead of Easter embargo. There are no planned daytime traffic management on the A55 ahead of the summer embargo in July. There may be emergency reactive works as required.

Financial Year	Date of Initial Budget	Details	Capital	Revenue	Other	Total
2015/16	30.03.15	Provisional Allocation Email from Nina Ley to Dave Cooil	25,311,900	14,954,740		40,266,640
2014/15	02.04.14	Provisional allocations Email from Richard Morgan to Dave Cooil	26,324,730	19,282,000		45,606,730
2014/15	03.06.14	Budet Reduction	23,279,900	19,282,000		42,561,900
2014/15	16.12.14	Additional funding email to Dave Cooil from Gareth Day	26,009,900	19,282,000		45,291,900
2014/15	19.02.15	Additional funding RTSR scheme email to Mark Mcnamara from Gareth Day	26,309,900	19,282,000		45,591,900
2013/14	13.03.13	Email from Richard Morgan to Tom Brown	21,885,500	19,178,000		41,063,500
2013/14	08.05.13	Budet Reduction Email Richard Morgan re MM/SR schemes	21,096,910	19,178,000		40,274,910
2013/14	28.01.14	Additional funding email to Ian Hughes from Rob Webster	26,827,370	19,178,000		46,005,370
2012/13	22.03.12	Initial Allocation Email from Ian Davies to Tom Brown	26,218,000	16,850,000	-	43,068,000
2012/13	21.06.12	Budget Reduction email from Ian Davies	22,057,000	15,190,000	-	37,247,000
2012/13	12.12.12	Additional funding email to Tom Brown from Ian Davies	26,720,000	18,190,000	975,000	44,910,000
2012/13	16.01.13	Further additional funding	27,625,000	18,190,000	975,000	45,815,000
2011/12	14.04.11	TWIS approvals as at 31/03/11	17,127,670	10,300,000		27,427,670
2011/12	07.07.11	Revised allocation by Email from Ian Davies (confirmed in letter 03/08/11)	17,215,000	10,564,000		27,779,000
2011/12	29.11.11	Addition Funding Email from Rob Webster	20,055,000	11,864,000		31,919,000
2011/12	01.03.12	Additional late Funding	21,085,000	11,864,000		32,949,000