

## **Public Accounts Committee**

### **A465 Section 2 Road Improvement**

#### **Additional information from the Welsh Government**

The Committee scrutinised the Welsh Government on the A465 Section 2 Road Improvement on 28 September 2020. The Welsh Government agreed to provide the Committee with the following additional information:

- A table with details of all major road schemes, and associated costs, delivered in the last 12 years.
- Dates of the remaining 6 scheduled road closures between now and the scheduled end of the A465 Stage 2 project.
- Provide a note with details of community projects that will be undertaken as part of the Section 2 project.
- A table showing completed schemes which have used the ECI contract model since 2015, with summary information re. actual against scheduled completion date and cost against budget.

## MAJOR TRUNK ROAD PROJECTS

Details of all major road schemes, and associated costs, delivered in the last 12 years 2008-2020

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Includes completed schemes which have used the ECI contract model since 2015, with summary information: actual against scheduled completion date and cost against budget

Project and current status	Estimated Cost at KSA 3 (£M)	Estimated cost at Construction contract award – KSA6 (£m)	Estimated/final out-turn cost (£m)	Comments
A465 sec 1 Abergavenny to Gilwern Completed May 2008		25.2m	56.9	<b>Not ECI</b> Traditional ICE 5 <sup>th</sup> .
A5 Pont Melin Rhug Completed August 2008			5.1	<b>Not ECI</b>
A470 Blaenau Ffestiniog to Cancoed Completed September 2008			16.5	<b>Not ECI</b>
A470 Llanwrst to Hafod May 2009			4.6m	<b>Not ECI</b>
M4 widening Castleton to Coryton Completed Jan 2010	81.5 (Nov 2002)	99.3 (Feb 2007)	95.8 (Mar 2010)	<b>ECI</b>
A40 St Clears to Haverfordwest (a) A40 Penblewin to Slebech Park Completed Mar 2011	27.6 (Ma 2005)	40.5 (Dec 2008)	41.4	<b>ECI</b> Increase in cost from KSA3 as a result of inflation, unexpected 14 month delay caused by the special assembly procedures that were invoked by the County Council's continuing objections and instructed additional work and accepted additional costs resulting from design standard changes.

Project and current status	Estimated Cost at KSA 3 (£M)	Estimated cost at Construction contract award – KSA6 (£m)	Estimated/final out-turn cost (£m)	Comments
A470 Penloyn to Tan Lan, Llanrwst Completed Apr 2011	Not prepared	6.4 (Oct 2008)	5.8	<b>Not ECI</b>
A483 Four Crosses Relief Road Completed Jul 2011	4.1 (at KSA4) (Oct 2006)	6.48 (Jan 2010)	6.67	<b>Not ECI</b> Increase in cost as a result of unforeseen archaeology uncovered during construction.
A487 Porthmadog, Minffordd and Tremadog Completed Oct 2011	26.4 (Mar 1994)	60.1 (Dec 2009) A figure of 53.7 was previously reported but this excluded inflation.	55.5	<b>ECI</b>
A470 Cwmbach to Newbridge Completed Dec 2011	25 (Nov 2005)	50.9 (Feb 2010)	50.7	<b>ECI</b>
A487 Glandyfi Completed Jun 2013	Not prepared	14.97	20.14	<b>Not ECI</b> Increase in cost due to unforeseen ground conditions resulting in additional works/delays. Network Rail imposed design changes during construction causing significant disruption to the programme. Delays also associated with Statutory Undertakers.
A4810 Steelworks Access Road Completed Sep 2013	Not prepared	18.75 (Nov 2011)	24.95 (Sep 2013)	<b>Not ECI</b> Increase in cost as a result of inflation, an increase in scope and delays with statutory undertaker diversions.
A470 Maes yr Helmau to Cross Foxes Completed Oct 2013	7.9 (2004)	11.33	12.25	<b>Not ECI</b> Increase in cost as a result of a delayed award of contract (due to statutory procedures) affected construction programme resulting in delays.

Project and current status	Estimated Cost at KSA 3 (£M)	Estimated cost at Construction contract award – KSA6 (£m)	Estimated/final out-turn cost (£m)	Comments
A470 Gelligemlyn, Ganllwyd Completed April 2014	7.3 (Nov 2007)	8.61	10.7	<b>Not ECI</b> Increase in cost as a result of unforeseen ground conditions resulting in design changes and additional costs/prolonged programme and presence on nesting Barn Owl on the site delayed programme.
A477 St Clears to Red Roses Completed April 2014	41.6 (Nov 2006)	64.4 (Jan 2012)	72.1 (Jul 2014)	<b>ECI</b> Increase in costs from KSA3 to start of KSA6 as a result of land cost increases, inflation and an increase in scope. Increase of final out-turn cost as a result of Unchartered Archaeology of National importance, Extreme weather, Unforeseen costs for high pressure Gas Main crossing works where there was an historic failure of the utility company to protect the line against future works.
A465 Abergavenny to Hirwaun - Section 3 Tredegar to Brynmawr Completed September 2015	43.8 (Nov 2000) Historic 148.4 KSA3 (Aug 2009) (167.2 when uplifted using inflation indices to the start of construction date - Nov 12)	167.8 KSA6 (Nov 2012)	163.97 Final out-turn as of Sept 2020	Scheme finished and opened in September 2015.  <b>ECI Scheme delivered on-time and within budget.</b>  Scheme partially funded by circa £78m of ERDF funding.
A4232 Eastern Bay Link – completed 2017	£26m Jan 2015	£52 Mar 2016	£54.8 Jul 2017	<b>Not ECI</b> Design and Build (D&B) Contract – completed on time

Project and current status	Estimated Cost at KSA 3 (£M)	Estimated cost at Construction contract award – KSA6 (£m)	Estimated/final out-turn cost (£m)	Comments
M4 Brynglas Tunnels – completed		£40m Dec 2015	£40.3 Dec 2018	<b>Not ECI</b> Design and Build – completed on time
M4 Junction 28 – completed 2018	£19.28m Jun 2014	£20.71m Feb 2017	£19.9 April 2020	<b>ECI– delivered on time and within budget</b>
A483 Newtown bypass – completed 2019	£101 Jun 2013	£95m Feb 2016	110.2 (Aug 2020)	Scheme finished and opened in February 2019.  <b>ECI – delivered 3 months ahead of programme – over budget due to contractor overspending on the design and supervision, preliminaries (site establishment &amp; staff requirements), drainage, structures, earthworks and increased land cost.</b>

**The Committee requested the dates of the remaining 6 scheduled road closures between now and the scheduled end of the A465 Stage 2 project.**

- Friday 16/10/20 – Monday 19/10/20
- Friday 13/11/20 – Monday 16/11/20
- Friday 04/12/20 – Monday 07/12/20

The dates for closure in 2021 have not be finalised but when they are the Committee will be provided with them.

**The Committee requested details of community projects that will be undertaken as part of the Section 2 project.**

In recognition of the disruption and in order to maintain good local relationships, Welsh Government are in discussion with local authorities, local elected members and public interest groups to develop a list of potential modest legacy projects for the local communities along the route.

A number of proposals have been received from members of the public and local groups but the process has stalled as a result of COVID-19 (WG comms have prioritised activity elsewhere) but will now re-start.

Once all proposals have been received they will be sifted to establish a package which can be submitted to the Minister for approval.

Example projects received to date for consideration include:

- A community car park to access the active travel routes, and local caving network
- Footway Improvements and Woodland walk through new bat habitat
- A package of enhanced reinstatement works to provide a local amenity area at the old Clydach Picnic Site

It will be difficult to establish a value for money assessment for these. The evaluation will be based on ensuring the projects are spread between the communities along the route and how they meet local objectives

The schemes to be taken forward would be delivered outside the main construction contract by a different contractor either in parallel with remaining construction of the dualling or once construction is finished. The timeline will be established once the package is agreed and the Committee will be provided with the final list.