

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

17 NOVEMBER 2015

A92 PFI 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

1. BACKGROUND

The A92 is a vital strategic route in the Angus and Dundee area serving the major population centres along the Angus coast. It is both a busy commuter route and a major route for commercial traffic. Prior to dualling, the A92 had a very poor road safety record and its configuration was also cited as a major factor in the decline of economic activity in the area and a disincentive to inward investors. Angus Council and Dundee City Council believed that in order to improve the safety, quality of life and economic opportunity in the area the A92 between Dundee and Arbroath and associated roads had to be upgraded.

In 2002 Angus Council awarded a £53m design, build, finance and operate (DBFO) contract under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) to Claymore Roads, a special one-off company formed by construction conglomerate Morgan Sindall and Barclays Bank's European Infrastructure Fund. The contract which will run for a duration of 30 years is paid 75% on the basis of accessibility and the remainder according to traffic levels which are measured at four locations along the route.

The project dualled the section of road between Claypotts junction in Dundee and Elliott in Arbroath, provided grade separated junctions in the rural sections combined with roundabouts for all other road junctions and a dedicated footway/cycletrack along the route.

The project had the following objectives:

- Immediate and ongoing reduction in accidents,
- Improved reliability of journey times,
- Improvement in provision for walking and cycling,
- Facilitate improved public transport services,
- Reduction in use of unsuitable alternative routes,
- Assist in economic development and regeneration, and
- Minimise possible adverse environmental impact.

At a more localised level the project also identified very real benefits for the communities of Barry and Muirdrum by providing by-passes to the villages which were bisected by roads carry considerable volumes of traffic.

The construction of the A92 dual carriageway between Claypotts, Dundee and Elliott, Arbroath was completed on budget 7 months ahead of schedule and opened to the public on 27 September 2005.

2. DETAIL

Sunday 27 September 2015 was the 10th anniversary of the opening of the A92 dual carriageway between Dundee and Arbroath.

Prior to dualling, the A92 had a particularly poor road safety record with the accident rate in some sections being more than 50% above the national average for a single carriageway road. Over the ten year period between January 1989 and December 1998 there were 20 people killed, 119 people seriously injured and 295 people slightly injured as a result of road traffic collisions on the single carriageway road between Claypotts, Dundee and Elliott, Arbroath. In comparison for the period between 27 September 2005 and 31 July 2015 there were no fatalities, 17 people were seriously injured and 33 people slightly injured as a result of road traffic collisions on the A92 dual carriageway in Angus between West Grange roundabout, Monifieth and Elliott roundabout, Arbroath.

There were 14 injury accidents on the A92 over the last three years which represents an accident rate of 0.0402 per million vehicle kilometres. This figure is very much less than the 0.119 national average accident rate for such a road.

Predictions showed that, prior to dualling of the A92, the continued development and expansion of the coastal towns of Monifieth, Carnoustie, Arbroath and Montrose would likely result in an increase in traffic flows along the route. The base traffic flows between Claypotts and Ardestie in 1995 was 15,460 annual average daily total (AADT), which exceeded the 13,000 AADT desirable level for a 7.3m wide single carriageway road. Projected flows for 2018 for the A92 were estimated at 21,400 AADT (low growth) to 24,500 AADT (high growth), which are both within the capacity range of between 11,000 to 30,000 AADT for a dual carriageway all-purpose road.

Since construction of the dual carriageway traffic flows on the A92 have been constantly monitored. In 2014 the flows varied from 14,737 AADT at Nether Kelly to 21,254 AADT at Balmossie, with an average AADT for the whole route of 16,887.

Approximately 6.2 million vehicles use the A92 between Dundee and Arbroath every year, the vast majority of which do so without accident or incident.

Over the last 10 years the dual carriageway has more than achieved its objectives by vastly improving the daily commute for thousands of local travellers and by opening up exciting new opportunities for house building, tourism and industry in the area. It is anticipated that this upgraded, safer route will continue to bring economic and social benefits to the whole of the county.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for the Council arising directly as a result of the information contained in this report.

4. CONSULTATION

Appropriate Council Officers and the local Divisional Police Commander for Tayside have been consulted in the preparation of this Schedule.

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