

27 January 2009

TIMETABLE FOR PRINCES STREET TRAM WORKS ANNOUNCED

The Edinburgh Tram Project has today (Tuesday) announced the timetable for the full closure of Princes Street to traffic.

The work on Scotland's most iconic street will begin on Saturday, 21 February and will see the commencement of the laying the rails for the first section of the Edinburgh tram network.

This strategy, agreed by City of Edinburgh Council in December 2008, means that no traffic will be allowed on Princes Street during the work. This will continue until November 2009 with a break in August for the Edinburgh Festival.

Temporary traffic management measures will be put in place to ensure that the disruption to public and private transport in the city is at a minimum. These measures have been developed and reviewed by the three organisations that comprise the Edinburgh Tram Project, City of Edinburgh Council (CEC), **tie** Limited and Lothian Buses.

The worksite will take up the width of Princes Street between South Charlotte Street and South St David Street, both of which will remain open to traffic.

The pedestrian footway on the shop side of Princes Street will remain open providing access to the shops at all times. The pedestrian footway on the garden side of Princes Street will be closed, however, access will be maintained through the gardens.

Pedestrian crossings will be located at South Charlotte Street, The Mound and South St David Street.

During the first week of work, a westbound lane within the worksite will be kept clear and **tie** will monitor traffic movement around the city centre. Once **tie** and its partners are satisfied traffic is flowing, work will begin in this lane.

The site cabins, initially in Castle Street, Frederick Street and Hanover Street will then move on to Princes Street and **tie** will assess how these areas can be used to assist with local business loading requirements.

During the works, buses, taxis and cycles will be diverted via George Street and general traffic will travel along Queen Street. In the event of an incident on George Street or Queen Street a contingency plan has been agreed with the City of Edinburgh Council which involves general traffic having the option to divert

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What are the benefits of trams?

For you

- One part of a better integrated transport system
- Safer – attendant plus driver
- Faster journey times
- Comfortable and accessible
- Less congestion = less pollution & noise
- Looks great

For Edinburgh

- Better transport is essential to the growth of the city and attracting new businesses
- Trams are environmentally friendly
- Connects Waterfront, Edinburgh Park and Edinburgh Airport with the City Centre
- Link to airport will benefit tourism and businesses
- Trams will attract more visitors to the City Centre

Media Release



along Dublin Street, Abercromby Place, Moray Place and Great Stuart Street. This route will only be used in the event of an emergency and is not considered as a permanent diversion.

George Street will be fully accessible and central parking will be maintained, however, some traffic restrictions will remain in place. Additional signage will be installed around the City Centre to advise where shops, bus stops, pedestrian crossings and taxi ranks are located.

The work will be supported by the Edinburgh Tram Project's largest and most sophisticated logistics initiative yet, with approximately 400 businesses expected to receive assistance. The complex pattern of deliveries for all businesses across Princess Street and George Street will be met and assisted by **tie's** dedicated Logistics Team.

Traffic flow and the performance of these measures will be under constant measurement and scrutiny from all three organisations. Necessary changes will be swiftly implemented and contingencies are in place.

David Mackay, Chairman of **tie** Limited, said: "Princes Street is Scotland's most iconic thoroughfare and we understand that the eyes of the country and beyond will be on us as we construct the infrastructure for Edinburgh's trams."

"The work being announced today is also a pivotal moment for the project and will see the first tangible aspects of the Edinburgh Trams appearing in the Capital."

"The track laying and its accompanying traffic diversions have been planned meticulously with **tie's** partners and contractors with speed and safety paramount."

"**tie** has, as ever, considered the views and needs of retailers and businesses into our planning and we are confident that this plan is the best solution for all."

"**tie** will continue to work with the business community in this part of Edinburgh to ensure that practical issues including access and service are resolved and that Edinburgh remains open for business as the work continues."

Cllr Phil Wheeler, Transport Convener at the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "This is a pivotal stage in the trams project and I am confident that following extensive traffic modelling we can keep the traffic in Edinburgh moving."

"People travelling around Edinburgh by foot and all other means of transport will be kept well informed through a multi-media advertising campaign about parking, bus routes and other useful information."

"It will also include other tips about how to carry on shopping around the tram works. It is crucial to Edinburgh and its business community that we get the message across that during this time the shops in Edinburgh will still be open."

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Ian Craig, Lothian Buses Managing Director said:

“This challenging phase in the tram works will see all buses removed from Princes Street between South St David Street and South Charlotte Street. A diversion on this scale will inevitably mean some disruption to bus passengers. We continue to work closely with the City Council in order to keep Edinburgh moving whilst these necessary works are being undertaken.

“Information about the diversion will be widely distributed via our buses, travelshops and of course downloadable from our website – www.lothianbuses.com .”

Ends

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Notes to Editors

1. Edinburgh Tram Project:

The Edinburgh Tram Project comprises City of Edinburgh Council, **tie** Limited and Lothian Buses. Each organisation is involved in the creation, development and measuring of traffic management measures and the planning and logistics of the tram works.

2. Work Programme:

Start Date	Activity	Approx. Duration
Saturday, 21 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Princes Street worksite from Hope Street to South St David Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This site will incorporate the current road closures at The Mound and Hanover Street junctions ○ Buses, taxis and cycles will be diverted via George Street ○ General traffic will travel along Queen Street ○ Pedestrian access on the south side of Princes Street will be through Princes Street Gardens ○ Northbound vehicles from Lothian Road will travel via Hope Street and the north side of Charlotte Square ○ Southbound vehicles will travel from Queen Street, North Charlotte Street, the south side of Charlotte Square, Hope Street and into Lothian Road ○ Central parking will be maintained on George Street ○ Vehicular access from George Street into Castle Street, Frederick Street and Hanover Street will be maintained. Traffic can only travel as far as Rose Street ○ Vehicles departing Castle Street and Frederick Street must make a left hand turn in to George Street ○ Kerbside loading will only be permitted off peak on George Street between 6.30pm and 7.00am ○ Additional loading bays will be located on North Castle Street, Frederick Street and Hanover Street ○ Taxi ranks will be located as shown on the map 	End of November 09 with a break in work for the Edinburgh Festival in August



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