

23 January 2009

MOUND JUNCTION CLOSED AS UTILITY WORK RECOMMENCES

Utility diversion work on the Mound junction will recommence on Saturday 24 January ahead of the full closure of Princes Street in late February 2009.

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 traffic diversions will replicate those in operation prior to the Christmas works embargo and will last until the full closure of Princes Street in February.

This will see:

- The Mound/Princes Street junction closed
- Access to the National Galleries permitted at the Mound/Market Street junction
- Buses, taxis and cycles remaining on Princes Street
- Hanover Street closed to southbound traffic at the George Street junction

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: "This work sees the beginning of the end of the vital preparatory work that has been undertaken for the last year. 2009 is an exciting year for the Edinburgh tram project in which the scheme will really take shape on the streets of the Capital.

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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



“The work on the Mound will of course mean that temporary traffic diversions will be put in place. This has been meticulously planned by experts from CEC, **tie** and Lothian Buses.

“We have also 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.

“The Edinburgh business community and its public want this work done quickly and safely. This methodology, coupled with the traffic management measures, is the best way to achieve this.”

Ends

23 January 2009

For further information, please contact Gordon Robertson at Media House on 0131 247 7520 or 07887 542 124.

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.

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Media Release

2. Work Programme:

Date	Activity	Duration
Saturday 24 January	Utility work recommences at the Mound/ Hanover Street/Princes Street junction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mound/Princes Street junction will be closed Access to the National Galleries will be permitted at the Mound/Market Street junction Buses/taxis and cycles will remain on Princes Street until the full closure in late February. 	Work to finish end of May 09
Saturday 24 January	Hanover Street will be closed to southbound traffic at the George Street junction	Work to finish end of November 09

City Centre traffic diversions from Saturday, 24 January 2009

