



news release

NEXT PHASE OF TRAM CONSTRUCTION ANNOUNCED

tie Limited has today (Wednesday) announced the next phase of the construction of the Edinburgh Tram project.

The vital utility diversion work that is preparing the way for the scheme's infrastructure will be starting in Edinburgh's city centre from mid February.

Phase 1 of the work will include the closure of Shandwick Place for 5 months; work on Princes Street from Frederick Street westwards and telecom diversionary work in St Andrew Square for 4 months.

Phase 2, which will follow in April, will see work commence at the west end of Princes Street at the Lothian Road junction.

The work will begin in February and will be completed by the Edinburgh Festival embargo in August 2008.

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.

Traffic will be diverted from the west end of Edinburgh and George Street will become a key arterial route for traffic flowing through the city centre.

Enabling work, centred around Charlotte Square, Hope Street, Frederick Street and St Andrews Square, has already begun.

Willie Gallagher, Executive Chairman of **tie** Limited, said: "This programme of work will complete the majority of utility diversions in the centre of Edinburgh. The work will be completed before August so as not to impact on the Edinburgh Festival.

"The work will of course mean that temporary traffic diversions will be put in place. We have modelled a number of options to develop the best solution that provides optimum flow for both public transport and other traffic.

"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.”

Cllr Phil Wheeler, Transport Convener, City of Edinburgh Council, said: “It is imperative that Edinburgh remains open for business throughout the construction work. This programme of work and accompanying traffic management has been developed in co-operation with the Council and a wide number of stakeholders and is the best way to manage the requirements of the construction with the needs of the business community and public.”

Iain Coupar, Marking Director, Lothian Buses, said: “It is important that the travelling public are kept informed of all changes to routes, services and bus stops. We will ensure that the right messages are communicated to them in advance and during the works.”

Ends

9 January 2008

For further information, please contact Gordon Robertson at Media House on 0131 555 1015 or 07887 542 124.

Notes to Editors

1. Work Programme:

Phase 1 – commencing Mid February

- Closure of Shandwick Place and beginning of utility diversion
- Commencement of utility diversions along eastbound carriageway of Princes Street to corner of South Charlotte Street
- Continuation of telecom diversions in St Andrew Square
- Commencement of Lothian Road/Princes Street junction utility diversionary works

Phase 2 –commencing Mid April

- Commencement of Princes Street utility diversionary works eastwards from South Charlotte Street
- Continuation of diversionary works along Shandwick place from Lothian Road Junction to Manor Place Junction