



11th June 2008

news release

Final Phase of Tram Utility Diversions Announced for Haymarket Interchange

tie Limited has today (Wednesday) announced the final phase of the tram utility diversion work in the city centre which will take place at the Haymarket Interchange.

This critical utility diversion work that has been underway across the City since September 2007 will now enter its final phase in July 2008 and will end in February 2009.

The work will be carried out in five distinct stages, with the first three stages being completed by early November.

Associated enabling work starting on June 16th will see the introduction of temporary pedestrian crossings at key locations so as to ensure the continued safety and uninhibited flow of the walking public.

As in our other sections of work, important temporary traffic management solutions have been carefully developed so as to ensure the free flow of traffic through the different phases.

During the enabling works it is our intention that the Caledonian Alehouse will be demolished. This will be done in a structured way so as to preserve the external stone work and slates for salvage. Several options are currently being explored

Willie Gallagher, Executive Chairman of **tie** Limited, said: "Haymarket is a critical location for the Edinburgh Tram Project and we are mindful of its importance to the City. As such, we will ensure that any impact associated with these works is lessened by good planning and robust traffic management.

"Work has already commenced on the Haymarket Station car park site and this will now branch out to on street works.

“With any of our works that have involved significant temporary traffic management diversions the assurance that the public need to hear is that we work with our partners – the City of Edinburgh Council, Lothian Buses and the emergency services. As in these other locations, we will provide for the optimum flow of traffic for both public and private.”

“Our work with local community groups has now started and it’s important that we agree solutions to issues including access and service delivery and collection arrangements as part and parcel of these works.

“We recognise that Edinburgh wants this work done quickly and safely. Our proposed methodology, alongside the traffic management measures, is the best way to achieve this.”

Bill Campbell, Lothian Buses operations director said: “Many of our busiest bus services pass through the Haymarket area so it is critical that the diversions are managed properly. As at Shandwick Place and Constitution Street, we have worked closely with tie and The City Council in the planning of the diversions and we are confident that everything will go according to plan and that any inconvenience to passengers is kept to a minimum.”

Cllr Phil Wheeler, Transport Convener at the City of Edinburgh Council, said: “Each phase of the utility diversion programme has been well managed to ensure that traffic continues to flow in the city while tram work goes on and I am sure this stage will be no different.

“Edinburgh remains very much *open for business* while work goes on and every effort is being taken to ensure that access to businesses for customers, services and deliveries is retained. We are also running a marketing campaign on the wealth of reasons to visit the city centre and we will continue to work with businesses on creative ways to ensure visitors and shoppers continue to come into town while work is going on.”

Ends

11 June 2008

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

Notes to Editors:

The main temporary traffic diversions will involve using the following streets: Magdala Crescent, Eglinton Crescent, Roseberry Crescent, Grosvenor Street and Lansdowne Crescent.

Work Programme:

Stage 1 – Haymarket Station, Dalry Road and Torphicen Street

Stage 2 – Haymarket Station, Dalry completion and Manor Place junction

Stage 3 – Haymarket Station and Manor Place junction

Stage 4 – Station completion and Palmerston Place junction

Stage 5 – West Maitland Street