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CONSTRUCTION OF HERMISTON PARK AND RIDE GETS UNDERWAY

Construction has commenced at Hermiston Park and Ride, one of six park and ride sites planned for the Edinburgh area.

Construction of Hermiston Park and Ride is being procured and project managed by the City of Edinburgh Council and will be completed in summer 2005. The new £3.4m, 450-space facility will be served by a high frequency bus service that will link the site to the city centre. Facilities at Hermiston Park and Ride will include a terminal building incorporating ticketing, waiting area and information area.

Several road improvements will be made in conjunction with the new car park, including improved bus access from the car park and a new bus priority scheme from the proposed Hermiston Junction to the Calder Junction. Improvements to the existing cycle and pedestrian access will also be included within the proposed scheme.

The new Park and Ride is located on the A71 Calder Road at the junction of Calder Road with Riccarton Mains Road. It is close to Hermiston Village, Heriot-Watt University and the Heriot-Watt Research Park.

The Council is currently developing three new Park and Ride Sites. These will be located at Ingliston on Eastfield Road near the A8, Hermiston and Straiton off the A701. These sites will be in addition to existing sites at Ferrytoll in Fife and the rail-based facility at Newcraighall. A further site is being developed by Midlothian Council at Toddhills close to the A7.

Outline planning permission has been secured for Straiton Park and Ride and negotiations are underway with the landowner. Straiton is scheduled for completion in 2006.

Cllr. Andrew Burns, Executive Member, Transport, the City of Edinburgh Council said:

"New park-and-ride sites around Edinburgh will have an important role to play in increasing travel options for motorists. Sites at Hermiston, Straiton and Ingliston will enable motorists to park their car at the edge of town and then jump onto a high frequency bus service into the city centre. Park and ride sites are a key part of our ambitious transport plans for Edinburgh which is all about improving public transport, tackling congestion and getting the city moving again."

Ends

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