

Introduction

This leaflet describes the Roads Service scheme to strengthen, resurface and repaint the steel spans of Foyle Bridge. The refurbishment works will commence in December 2003 and be concluded by Autumn 2004.

An assessment of the bridge in 1998 concluded that parts of the structure do not comply with current assessment standards, and hence strengthening works were required. These standards take account of the increase in vehicle weights and the volume of traffic, since the bridge was designed and constructed in the late 1970s.

The opportunity is also being taken to refurbish the bridge. After 20 years the protective system to the steelwork and deck surfacing are showing their age. The bridge will therefore receive a full repaint, and the roadway and footways will be resurfaced. Necessary maintenance to the parapets, safety fences, bridge bearings and expansion joint will also be undertaken during these works.

Key Construction Features

On completion of the strengthening and refurbishment works to the Foyle Bridge its overall external appearance will remain the same save for a new coat of paint and new deck surfacing.

The strengthening work will involve the fabrication of approximately 1200m of 508mm diameter by 50mm thick steel circular hollow tubes which will be attached to the bottom flange of the steel box. An innovative jacking system will be used to prestress these tubes with loads in the region of 1000 tonnes. This will relieve the large compressive stresses in the bottom flange of the steel box girders.

Following liaison with Sustrans and as part of the National Cycle network, the footway on the South side on the bridge deck only will be converted to a shared footway/cycleway, prior to future cycleway provision on the approaches.

How will this affect you?

During the bridge strengthening and refurbishment works each two lane carriageway, or bridge box, will be **reduced to one lane**. This is to reduce the traffic loading on the bridge, ensuring construction plant and strengthening materials do not overload the bridge prior to it being strengthened. This period has been minimised as much as possible to reduce traffic delays but will be of the order of thirty weeks within the **period December 2003 and July 2004**.

During the works there will be a free vehicle recovery service in operation to reduce delays.

To expedite resurfacing of the carriageway this work will be done in the best weather window, and when traffic flows are lowest, between **July and September 2004**. During this period one two lane carriageway, will be completely closed at a time, with a **contraflow** set up on the other two lane carriageway.

Roads Service

Roads Service is an Executive Agency within the Department for Regional Development. It is responsible for managing a safe, efficient and environmentally acceptable road network in Northern Ireland.

Commenting on the scheme

Roads Service would welcome your comments on the project. Please send your comments by email to roads.northern@drdni.gov.uk or by post to: The Divisional Roads Manager, Roads Service ñ Northern Division, County Hall, Castlerock Road, Coleraine BT52 1HS.



Foyle Bridge

Strengthening and Refurbishment

Explanation of the Scheme

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Diaphragm above river pier on Foyle Bridge.



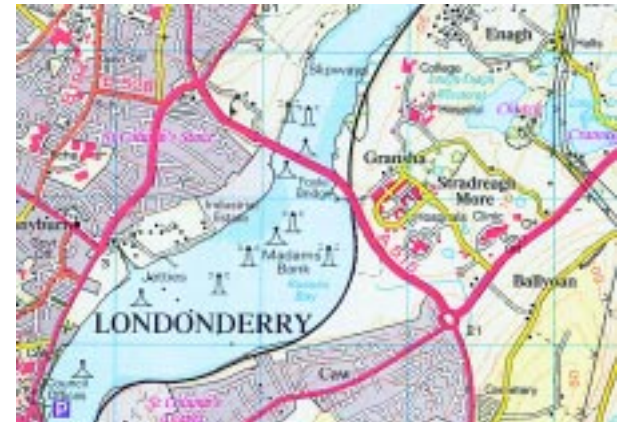
View underneath Foyle Bridge.



Aerial View of Foyle Bridge.



Similar struts installed on another project.



Extent of strengthening works.