



Meeting of Forth Estuary Transport Authority

25 February 2011

Invitation to the New York City Bridges Conference in July, 2011 and attendance at the ICSBO Workshop in Copenhagen in May 2011

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The bi-annual New York City Bridges Conference is being held on the 25 and 26 July, 2011. In addition, a European Workshop of the International Cable Supported Bridge Operators (ICSBO) organisation is being held over 1½ days in Copenhagen in May, 2011. This paper seeks approval from members to allow the Chief Engineer and Bridgemaster to travel overseas to attend the NY Conference; and for the Chief Engineer and Bridgemaster, and Engineering Services Manager, to attend the ICSBO Workshop in Copenhagen.

2 Background

- 2.1 The New York City Bridges Conference is held every two years in New York City and is an important source of exchange of information and discussion for bridge engineers and operators, helping them to keep up to date on all aspects of bridge maintenance, including the specialist field of inspecting and maintaining long span cable supported bridges.
- 2.2 The ICSBO European Workshop is the first to be held under a new format and is planned to be an annual meeting. The venue of the 2012 meeting has not been decided. However, members will be aware that ICSBO Conference is being hosted in 2013 by this Authority and the 2013 Workshop will also be held in Edinburgh during the Conference. The Authority has been active in promoting the continued work of the ICSBO organisation as it is the only forum for owners and operators of long span bridges to exchange information and discuss all aspects of operating and maintaining long span cable supported bridges.

Bridge owners and operators from all over Europe will be in attendance at the Workshop to discuss a range of topics relating to bridge operations and maintenance.

3 Main Report

- 3.1 The Chief Engineer and Bridgemaster has been invited to chair a session and present a paper at the New York Conference. As it is an overseas event, approval is sought from the Board for attendance at this conference.
- 3.2 Attendance at such events, especially if asked to chair a session or present a paper, has great benefits to the Authority both in the knowledge gained and the prestige afforded to Forth Road Bridge. The paper the Chief Engineer is proposing to submit is entitled 'Design for Maintenance' and will examine the need for the experience of engineers working in the field of bridge maintenance to be harnessed during the design of bridges.
- 3.3 In addition, given the Authority's involvement in the ICSBO organisation and the benefits of such a forum, it is proposed that the Chief Engineer and Bridgemaster, and the Engineering Services Manager, attend the ICSBO Workshop in Copenhagen. As this is an overseas event, approval is sought from the Board for attendance at this Workshop.

4 Financial

- 4.1 The travel and accommodation amount to around £1500 for the NY Conference. The total travel and accommodation costs for the Copenhagen Workshop amount to around £850. Attendance at both events can be met from within the Authority's budget.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 It is recommended that members approve the travel overseas to allow the Chief Engineer and Bridgemaster to chair a session and present a paper at the biannual New York City Bridges Conference to be held on the 25/26 July, 2011.
- 5.2 It is also recommended that members approve the travel overseas to allow the Chief Engineer and Bridgemaster, and the Engineering Services Manager, to attend the ICSBO Workshop in Copenhagen.

Barry R Colford
Chief Engineer and Bridgemaster

Appendices: None
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Background: Board Reports 19 June 2009 and 30 April 2010
Papers: