



Trams to Newhaven

NEWSLETTER 3
AUGUST 2019

PROJECT NEWS

Updates from the team and a profile on SFN's Project Director – Alejandro Mendoza

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SITE ARCHAEOLOGY

Find out more about our plans for dealing with archaeology on Constitution Street

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ACTIVE TRAVEL

Trams to Newhaven additional projects receives funding from Sustrans to further develop cycling route from Leith Walk to Newhaven

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PROJECT UPDATE

Early Contractor Involvement

Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) period is now entering its third month.

Vibration testing along the route is now complete. In carrying out these works we have gathered information related to how vibrations from the tram could travel through the ground. This will allow us to identify any areas of concern and, from this, design the track infrastructure with measures that mitigate any potentially harmful vibrations.

Ground and site investigation works are now almost complete, with one further site on Leith Walk at Montgomery Street due to complete no later than 14 August 2019. The purpose of ground investigation works is to determine the ground conditions along the route so that the project's final design can be confirmed.

The project team's organisations (SFN, MUS, City of Edinburgh Council and Turner and Townsend) are continuing to make good progress as the project heads towards the final 'Notice to Proceed' date in early October 2019. At this point the Council's Finance and Resource Committee will scrutinise the work done to date and make a final decision on pressing ahead with the project.

Following approval, enabling works are due to commence in late November 2019. This will involve preparing the affected streets for the work to commence. Infrastructure works are then due to commence in early Spring 2020, with services scheduled to run from the Airport to Newhaven in early 2023.

ALEJANDRO MENDOZA MONFORT PROJECT DIRECTOR



TEAM PROFILES

Each month we'll introduce a member of our team



Born: Santa Cruz de Tenerife in 1977

Previous city: Valencia, Spain

Current city: Edinburgh, Scotland

Favourite team: Real Madrid (& Spain)

In fact my whole family is moving from Valencia to Edinburgh to live here and they are excited to come. My kids have already learned to say "Edinburgh" correctly. We will love this city and this country. No doubt.

What is your role on the project?

My role is Project Director of the SFN JV (Sacyr, Farrans and Neopul), the Infrastructure and System Contractor. Thanks to my extensive experience in the delivery of complex infrastructure projects, I will ensure that our programme is implemented in line with our accredited integrated management systems. Through my leadership and guidance, I will help our team to successfully deliver the project whilst maintaining exemplar levels of service. I will hold overall responsibility for the success of the project and ensuring we exceed the Council's aspirations. My main duties will be: providing clear and inspirational direction, building effective working relationships with the Council and stakeholders, regular progress meetings with the Council, stakeholders, third parties and the project manager, providing financial control and managing risks to avoid delays, cost overruns and ensure project quality and promotion of construction excellence and continual improvement.

Tell us a little about yourself...

I have been working for construction companies since I finished my civil engineer masters degree in 2002 and joined in 2008. I have worked on a variety of projects including highways, bridges and underground metro lines, all in Spain. When, in September 2018 I was asked to join the team for the SFN JV tender presentation at the City Chambers. I was rather daunted. It was my first time in Edinburgh, my first time in Scotland and my first thought was that everything was very different from Spain. But after four months of living in Edinburgh, I can say that we are not so different, we're open minded, nice, hospitable and friendly.

Tell us about your career history

I studied in a Master of Civil Engineer, with one year spend abroad in Oregon State University as part of an international student exchange programme. Seventeen years ago, I started my career in a Sport Centre in Guecho, Vizcaya in the Design Department, then I was moved to Teruel, Castelnou, as Project Manager for executing the civil works of a combined cycle power plant. I was then involved as a Design Manager for a Zaha Hadid Project, the Pabillion Bridge, for the International Expo of Zaragoza of 2008. I had to work with an international team of architects and engineers from England, Holland and Germany. After this I became Project Manager for the Zaragoza Beltway in a project of 18km on highway including 44 structures and various entrances to the city. Following this, I was responsible for two further Civil Works Projects in Bilbao. Firstly, as a Project Manager of the Highway BI-635 in Amorebieta, which included a 700m tunnel and then latterly as Project Director for part of Line 3 of the Bilbao underground, which included a new intermodal train station in Bilbao's *casco viejo* (old town), surrounded by old buildings and urban stakeholders, all the while dealing with great technical challenges. Finally, I moved to Valencia in 2017 as Regional Business Development Manager. Now, as I begin this new chapter in my professional and personal life with great enthusiasm on the tram project, I am aware that the challenges and expectations are significant. I am looking forward to being a key member of the team who will help deliver this project successfully.

What parts of your job do you enjoy the most?

SFN is an international, multidisciplinary and very valuable team composed of excellent professionals from different parts of Scotland, Ireland, England, Spain and Portugal. It may seem like a huge challenge to align all of us with so many ways of working but I'm happy to say that we are a great and professional team, all working to the same goal. The last four months have shown me that it was easier than expected. Sacyr, Farrans and Neopul have the same commitment to the success of this challenging project. As in every construction project I've been involved in, every day is different. Through every day I will be able to enjoy how the project is developing from zero to an operating tram.

What part of the project are you most looking forward to?

What I am most looking forward is the start of the construction phase, facing and solving all the issues we will deal with. Also keeping working the same way we've been working this first four months – in a very collaborative and trusting way. As said, due to the experience acquired in the past, we are aware of the issues we will face, and we are ready to solve them.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time?

I've never tried to figure out where would I be in the future, rather, I approach life on a day to day basis. In the construction business where things are in constant flux, it makes future life planning all the more difficult. But if I could choose something...I think I would love to stay here in Scotland.

What is your favourite song?

No particular song. Pop and Rock...almost every type of music. Chiquetete and his "*Esta Cobardía*" song may be my most sensitive song due to its historical family background.

Which countries have you travelled to?

I have travelled to almost all European countries during a 30 days InterRail journey when I was 18. I also spent some time in Oregon, USA, as part of an international student exchange program when studying my MSc in Civil Engineering. Through my work I was fortunate enough to travel to Bolivia as part of an Unicef engineers volunteer program. I have also spent time in Chile, Argentina and Brazil as my parents were living there for some time. Not to forget Thailand, where I was married (maybe that should have been first!). And finally...the UK, where I have spent some time in England visiting my brother in law who was working there. And of course my new home, Scotland, where I have been made to feel very welcome.

PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGY

The listed graveyard wall at South Leith Parish Church will be dismantled and reinstated

As part of the tram construction works the 1790s A-listed South Leith Parish Church graveyard wall on Constitution Street will be dismantled to allow for improved foundations to be constructed. The wall will then be rebuilt in the same location.

As well as the removal and reinstatement of the wall, archaeological work will be required to exhume approximately 200 gravesites dating from between the 14th and 17th centuries. All work will be carried out under the leadership of the city archaeologist as well as external agencies.

The work will not require any significant excavations beyond the wall into the graveyard itself and is being designed to avoid disturbing known burials within the present graveyard.

The project will be making an application to the Sherrif Court for consent to exhume the pre 17th century gravesites on 9 September 2019. If you have any queries about this or the works to remove and reinstate the wall, please contact the team via

newhaven.tram@edinburgh.gov.uk



An exhibition 'Past Lives of Leith', based on archaeological work from the first phase of tram works, is currently on show at the Museum of Edinburgh, where you can find out more information about:

- The excavations - how the discovery happened
- Historic background - how the excavation site fits into the history of Leith
- Who was buried in Constitution street? How the analysis reveals key facts about their age, sex, build and pathology
- How were they buried? How the different forms of burials discovered led to clues about social status and how they may have died
- Isotope analysis: how scientific analysis was used to discover more about where the people buried were from and even details about what they ate
- New dating for the graveyard: how the uncovered remains, which precedes the South Leith Parish Church graveyard, changes what we know about the history of the area.

[Click here to find out more](#) about the exhibition which runs until October 2019.

ACTIVE TRAVEL: DEVELOPMENT FUNDING SECURED FROM SUSTRANS

A key commitment made by the project following consultation throughout 2018 was an agreement to investigate further the potential for safe or segregated cycleways from the foot of Leith Walk to the waterfront.

Due to width constraints on this section of the route between Constitution Street and Ocean Terminal we are unable to provide segregated cycle lanes between Foot of the Walk and the waterfront. People on bikes will continue to be able to use the road alongside other vehicles as they do today, although entry to Constitution Street from the Leith Walk end will be restricted to trams and buses only. This is because of the width restriction on the street and the dangers posed to cyclists where the tram lines run close to the kerb edge due to the proposed platform arrangement.



We have been working with local cycle interest groups to develop alternative routes to keep cyclists moving around the area safely and conveniently and are delighted to announce further funding from the Sustrans Community Links programme to help progress design work to improve cycling options from the foot of Leith Walk. We will continue to work closely with our cycling community and active travel partners in the coming months to develop a solution that provides safe and convenient onward cycling options for the north of the city.

We are still collecting responses from businesses to find out more about demand for free electric cargo bikes. You can [complete the survey here](#) until 15 August 2019.