

In Brief

MAC wins worth £300m

EnterpriseMouchel has bagged a pair of five-year managing agent contractor (MAC) deals from the Highways Agency for road maintenance in areas one and 13, worth a total of up to £300 million. EnterpriseMouchel first won the area one deal, which includes around 290-km of road in Cornwall and parts of Devon, in 2006. Mouchel is also working on area 13, which covers about 320-km of highways, mainly in Cumbria and parts of north Lancashire, but for a separate joint venture.

Gantry design award

Consultant Gifford has been appointed by Atkins to design the gantry superstructures for two important managed motorway projects – on the Bradford-Leeds section of the M62 between junctions 25 and 30, and for all the approaches to the M4/M5 interchange near Bristol.

Training for inspectors

Staff from the Leicestershire Highways Training Centre have recently returned from a successful trip to Carlisle to train future highway inspectors. The Leicestershire County Council run training centre was approached in summer 2009 by Carlisle City Council to deliver the LANTRA Awards Highway Inspector Accreditation course. In February, 11 officers from Carlisle City Council completed a full week's training course of nine modules.

Morrison eases congestion

Morrison Construction Civil Engineering will be improving traffic flow into Salford city centre from the west as part of a major regeneration initiative. Works will focus on three roads close to the M602 roundabout – Broad Street, Albion Way and Liverpool Street – which will be widened and partially reconstructed. The new contract also includes earthworks, footpaths, street lighting, reinforced concrete works for future features, and upgrading of four underpasses. The client is the Salford Urban Regeneration Company and total value of the work is £2.5m.

Training just the ticket

North Lincolnshire Council has appointed Alpha Parking Ltd to provide training for its Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO), notice processing staff and supervisors. Alpha will supply the area's CEOs with training to City & Guilds (C&G) Level 2, while their supervisors will benefit from the Supervisor and Team Leader course, which is accredited by the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM). North Lincolnshire's back office team will take the newly created ILM Level 2 foundation course in Notice Processing.

Best practice hits the road

Highway design teams across the country can experience the latest industry ideas, information and best practice at a series of weekly UK Roads "Road Shows".

The "Road Shows" are two-hour lunchtime events that are held in your place of work. A series of short, 15 minute presentations are given on a selection of topics from a range including foundation design, supports, signs, lighting, signals, surfacing, road studs, restraint systems, electrical disconnection systems, kerbing and road safety (including passive safety).

The events are free to host and attendees can receive a two hour CPD certificate endorsed by the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation.



Over thirty of these popular shows have already taken place during the past six months and with a packed schedule already confirmed through to June, UK Roads is now seeking venues for the late summer and Autumn of 2010. Venues already visited to date include: Derbyshire CC, Leicestershire CC, BEAR Scotland (Perth & Edinburgh), Highways Agency Areas 1, 2, 4 & 6, Durham CC, Amey (SW Scotland), Norfolk CC, Essex CC, Wakefield, Hampshire CC and Telford & Wrekin (Jacobs).

If you work for a local authority, an HA managing agent or other consulting engineering company and want more details, or want to arrange an event for your design teams at your place of work, please contact UK Roads at: info@ukroadsltd.com or simply ring on 02392 737000.

Guardrail debate continues

Leaders of Transport for London have hit back at an article in last month's Highways by Dr Doug Stewart criticising the authority for its approach to removing pedestrian guardrail.

Dana Skelley, Director of Roads for London Streets, said: "As part of the Mayor's desire to de-clutter London streets, TfL is reviewing the use of all pedestrians guard rail (PGR) across the entire Transport for London Road Network (TLRN), otherwise known as the red routes. Much of the pedestrian guardrail in London was installed decades ago, prior to the formation of TfL, and since then, peoples attitudes to walking and travelling around London have dramatically changed. "Where there is no longer a clear safety benefit for guardrail on our road network, we look to see if they can be removed, as in many cases they are inconvenient for pedestrians and intimidating for cyclists.

"TfL has developed a detailed safety and site specific assessment process, the Guard Rail Assessment Framework (GRAF), to identify

where PGR has a clear safety benefit and this is being used to assess whether guardrail is required at a specific location. GRAF is similar to the Department for Transport's guideline on the assessment of guardrail, LTN 02/09, and is carried out by experienced road safety engineers.

"The risk assessment considers a wide range of factors including the nature of the area, past collision statistics, average vehicle speed and also the local knowledge of London's borough councils. To date we have removed 45km of PGR across the Capital and in many cases, this has been done by reducing, rather than entirely removing, the amount of guardrail at a specific location. TfL's Streetscape Guidance also advises that where, for safety reasons, pedestrian guard rail is included in future designs it should permit clear sight of people or objects behind the railing when observed from an acute angle and TfL will continue to install guardrail, such as the one created by Dr Stewart, if it is considered that it will provide a safety benefit to pedestrians."

Costain continues on successful road

Costain's road maintenance outfit continues to pay dividends with the A-One+ grouping, which also features Colas and consultant Halcrow, winning its fourth Highways Agency area deal, this time valued at £115 million.

The latest win for A-One+ is a managing agent contractor (MAC) deal for area 14 covering Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Durham and North Yorkshire. A-One+ managing director Andy Jamieson said: "This contract secures five years work with a blue chip client and builds on our

successes in Areas 10, 7 and 12."

Work includes management and maintenance of motorway and trunk roads within Area 14 plus design and planning of road improvement and renewal schemes, plus bridge and winter maintenance. After the contract elapses in 2015, there is an optional extension of two more years for A-One+, which was only formed a few years ago. Area 14 covers 635-km of roads, including sections of the A1, A66, A696, A194, A184 and A195.