



The Mersey Gateway Project, UK – Delivery of a Major New 3P Procured Crossing

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Abstract

In March 2014, Halton Borough Council announced the successful financial close and award of the contract for the Mersey Gateway Project. This had been preceded by an intense procurement process that had taken some 3 years and it was with immense pride that the Council made the announcement that the 30 year concession contract had been awarded. Construction of the new crossing is currently underway with its opening due in 2017.

The centrepiece of the project is a spectacular new double span 1km long cable stayed bridge over the River Mersey Estuary in the North West of England. The crossing will be tolled and includes several km of new and upgraded road. The new crossing will be a transformational project for the region, key to the economic strategy and a trigger for regeneration and investment.

Keywords: Major Crossing, Cable Stay Bridge, Tolloed Highway, Project Delivery, PPP, Planning Application, Transport and Works Act.

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview of the Project

The Mersey Gateway Project is a Public Private Partnership (PPP/3P) project for a new tolled highway crossing of the River Mersey in the North West of England.

The project involves the provision of new and upgraded bridge and highway infrastructure to relieve the congested Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB) which connects the towns of Widnes and Runcorn on the north and south sides of the Mersey respectively. A crucial element of the project involves the construction of a 2.2km long elevated crossing of the Mersey estuary and Manchester Ship Canal, the centre piece of which is a 6 lane, 1km long, twin span cable stayed bridge.

Although there are limited local road crossings of the Mersey in Warrington town centre, the SJB provides the only strategic road crossing between the Mersey Tunnels in Liverpool to the west and the M6 motorway at Thelwall Viaduct to the east, a road distance of up to 55km.



Figure 1. River Mersey Crossings