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Committee
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12 July 2024

Dear Convener,

A83 Rest and Be Thankful

I write to provide an update to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee on the Scottish Government's commitment to deliver an infrastructure solution to address landslip risks at the A83 Rest and Be Thankful.

Delivery of a permanent and resilient solution to the landslip risks is a priority and we continue to seek ways to achieve that as quickly as possible. I am pleased to confirm that Transport Scotland has today announced its intention to award Structural Soils Ltd the Detailed Ground Investigation contract for this project. The contract, which is worth £5.5 million, has been competitively procured with three bids being received, demonstrating value for money.

Subject to the completion of a 10 day standstill period, the contract is anticipated to be awarded on Tuesday 23 July, with site works scheduled to commence next month.

This scheme is technically challenging and the landscape is dynamic so it is vital we understand the terrain we are working in, in order to develop a suitable solution of the correct standard in the correct place. These ground investigation works are essential in providing sufficient information to help inform the proposed design and to determine the amount of land required to build and maintain the scheme, and will be essential to inform contractors' bids when tendering for the construction works.

We continue to progress design work at pace and the announcement on 2 June 2023 of the preferred route option through the Glen Croe valley is a very important milestone in finding a solution to this long-standing problem. The proposed new debris flow shelter will help protect the road and road users from potential future landslides.

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I can advise that detailed design and assessment of the preferred option is progressing at pace and will conclude with the publication of draft Orders for comment, currently expected by the end of 2024. Progress following publication of draft Orders will depend on the level and nature of any representations, including objections, to the published draft Orders.

Further details on the A83 Rest and Be Thankful long term solution can be found on the Transport Scotland website [A83 Rest and Be Thankful \(transport.gov.scot\)](https://www.transport.gov.scot).

I hope you find the above information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



FIONA HYSLOP
Cabinet Secretary for Transport

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