Building on Successful Relationships

Works are well underway along the M1 motorway between junctions 23a and 25 Smart Motorways upgrade. We are delighted to again be working with members of the Costain team who were previously involved with the M1 upgrade to Smart Motorways between junctions 28 and 31. This time though Costain are working in joint venture with Galliford Try.

Our works to construct in situ concrete barrier in both the central reserve and verge as well as in situ surface water channels will be undertaken principally within 2 phases running July through September 2017 and March through May in 2018.

The works basically comprise:
- 8,000m of surface water channel
- 130no surface water channel outfalls
- 12,000m of variable profile concrete barrier
- 41no Expansion Units
- 1no 5 panel Emergency Crossing Point

Around 8,000m3 of concrete is being supplied by Hanson.

All business is important but repeat business is vital and is the most significant recognition of our dedication to safe systems of work, quality, innovation and value.

Costain Galliford Try Joint Venture have been awarded M1 motorway junctions 13 to 16 Smart Motorway and we all must work very hard to ensure that we again are their preferred supply chain partner for a scheme that will begin April 2018 and incorporate around 40,000m² of in situ concrete barrier and drainage channels.

In addition to M1 junctions 13 to 16 Smart Motorway Highways England have confirmed an unprecedented number of major motorway improvement schemes commencing early in 2018 which will include over 250,000m² of in situ concrete barrier and drainage channels.

Credit where Credit’s Due?

On almost a daily basis it is an absolute pleasure to see and hear ideas from all levels of the business on how to improve our business and surroundings.

Most ideas are often derived from problems that we all face in our working day and in many ways, these are the best problems to solve in that an hour here and 10 minutes there soon adds up over the space of a year.

To further promote a “well-established culture” for improvement it has been decided that a monthly process of identifying individuals who have shown positive solutions for improvement should be nominated for a reward.

From this month, onwards an “Innovation” scheme will be introduced to give every employee the opportunity to raise suggestions and potentially receive a reward.

The Reward itself will be Meadowhall vouchers, fixed to the value of £50. The vouchers are usable in any shop/restaurant within the Meadowhall shopping complex.

Ideas for improvement can come from anywhere however whilst carrying out our daily duties the “7 Wastes” which are - defects, transportation, overprocessing, overproduction, inventory, movement, waiting should not be far from our minds, in that most problems and issues fall within them.

Business is Booming! Barriers are Being Built!

In early June, this year the commercial team successfully negotiated the commencement of works for 60 off steel safety barriers across a number of separate schemes.

Typically manufactured in sporadic 10 panel batches, the 60-panel quantity demanded a different and more structured approach.

A production plan was devised by the team to accommodate the unusual levels of barrier manufacture, during the planning stages of the requirement “LEAN” principles were adopted to level load the requirements against the available resource.

The procurement team were provided with materials schedules to ensure that “Just in Time” principles were met and excessive levels of “Work in Progress” did not clutter the workshops.

To accompany the barriers there are the relevant fixing cages that are also manufactured by the Fabrications Team, these cages are typically made in low batch quantities to accommodate demand, however due to this sudden inflation in requirement “Time” has become a premium, through the hard work of the team and challenging of historic practices it was realised that batching of the initial bending operations saved time resulting in a production increase of 10 cages per week to a current 15 per week,

This demonstrates that “Challenging the Current” is key when maximising “Productivity”.

The team face a tough and challenging summer to satisfy all areas of demand,

BUT – Together Everyone Achieves More

Story by Stephen Lee Group Lean Manager
MSM Safety Engagement – ‘Safe to the Finish’ Campaign

Throughout July and August 2017, Extrudakerb’s client, Manchester Smart Motorways (MSM), have been driving a ‘Safe to the Finish’ campaign to improve safety performances on site.

Extrudakerb, as a key subcontractor on site, have held formal discussions with the MSM Senior Management Team, to provide feedback on the site and assist with suggesting what improvements could be made, not only for Extrudakerb’s Operations, but for the whole site.

One proactive suggestion from ourselves was to hold a company specific Safety Week, dedicated to and carried out by Extrudakerb on our specific work operations, and Extrudakerb completed this and fed back the outcome and photos to the client for them to disseminate to other subcontractors if they wished.

The Safety Week consisted of a full safety engagement tour, PPI training, lifting operations review and on-site management of concrete movements.

Many thanks to Dave Hogg, Steve Kirkham and Danny Whitehead who assisted in delivering the Safety Week to the Extrudakerb Team on MSM.

Story by Tom Ashworth Health and Safety Manager

Continuing to Grow

Extrudakerb have been recognised as the ‘53rd fastest growing company in Yorkshire’

Every Autumn, the Yorkshire Business Insider Magazine evaluates ALL Yorkshire Businesses, and publishes the results of the 100 fastest growing companies within Yorkshire. Extrudakerb have been included in this year’s standings at a very commendable position of 53nd.

This is further recognition that collectively everyone involved with Extrudakerb, are all working together and pushing for continuous improvement and success.

This can only be made possible through a successful team effort and dedicated workforce.

Story by Danny Wake Contracts Director

Innovation of the month

To mark the commencement of the “Innovation of the month” an employee that has delivered many improvements in the past few months has been nominated and approved, by James Charlesworth to receive the September reward,

A “mobile wheeled assembly frame” that allows a safely restrained barrier to have its wheels fitted anywhere rather than being limited to a work area bench, was introduced to ensure that consistency and quality is maintained between manufactured units.

Many thanks and keep up the hard work,

John Stringer, Fabricator Welder Innovator of the Month - September 2017

M3 Jct 2 to 4a Smart Motorways now in Full Operation

The upgraded M3 smart motorway is now fully open and operating at speeds up to 70mph.

On Friday 30 June 2017, the M3 became fully operational as a four-lane smart motorway between Jct 2 for the M25 and Jct 4a for Farnborough.

Throughout the project, Extrudakerb reinforced their strong and collaborative relationship with Balfour Beatty to ensure delivery despite working to very strict deadlines placed upon them by Highways England.

Extrudakerb commenced work on the M3 project in April 2015 and were heavily involved in the project through to its completion in June of this year.

With a contract value of £11.8m, the M3 Smart Motorways is one of Extrudakerb’s single largest projects in the company’s history and was the company’s largest project for some time in the South West of the country.

Overall quantities for the project are defined below;

- Slipform CB-V and CB foundation = 25km (11500m3)
- Slipform slot drain = 32km (12300m3)
- Mass fill concrete between slot drain and carriageway or VCB = 9000m3
- Hand Lay CB-V and slot drain = 3200m3
- Linear drainage outfalls = 702no
- Linear drainage access units = 617no
- Total volume of concrete = more than 36000m3

The success of the M3 Smart Motorway together with the enhanced relationship with Balfour Beatty in the South of the country will hopefully place Extrudakerb in a strong position for future projects, in particular the M4 Jct 3 to 12 Smart Motorways project, due for commencement in 2018, which will see 32 miles of the M4 upgraded in a similar vain to the M3.

Story by Andrew Cottam Major Projects Manager