

Jack Lynch Tunnel Newsletter

Introduction

2018 marked the fourth successful year of the Operation and Maintenance of Tunnels and Traffic Control Centre contract awarded to Egis Road and Tunnel Operations (ERTO) by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). ERTO are proud to complete another year in our six year contract and continue to deliver the safe operation and maintenance of the Dublin Tunnel, the Jack Lynch Tunnel Cork, Motorway Traffic Control Centre and the Average Speed Enforcement Office with thanks to the dedicated 95 members of staff providing 24/7 service year-round.

Egis Road and Tunnel Operation Management

Jack Lynch Tunnel Traffic Volumes

The total traffic volume through the Jack Lynch Tunnel in 2018 was 24,453,274 vehicles. This was an increase of 0.5% over the same period in 2017. This gives an annual average of 66,995 vehicles availing of the Jack Lynch Tunnel each day.

The busiest month for traffic volumes through the Jack Lynch Tunnel in 2018 was May, with an average daily traffic volume of 70,468 and a total volume for the month of 2,184,508. For the same period in 2017 the average daily traffic volume was 69,330 and the total traffic volume for May 2017 was 2,149,243 – a monthly increase of 1.6%.



Abnormal Loads, Accidents, Over-heights, Breakdowns and Rescues

Over-height vehicles, accidents, abnormal loads and breakdowns require constant vigilance from the operational duty staff. Ensuring the safety of tunnel users and motorists at all times, ERTO staff also work hard to maintain maximum availability of the tunnel. Disruptions such as over-height vehicles, abnormal loads and breakdowns require frequent intervention and action from the duty staff.

In 2018 alone, 18 over-height vehicles, 8 northbound and 10 southbound, were detected and either prevented from entering the tunnel or monitored when travelling through the tunnel.

Fortunately, there were no major road traffic accidents involving injury recorded in the Jack Lynch Tunnel in 2018. ERTO staff assisted and managed 135 vehicle breakdowns. There were also 52 cases requiring Tunnel Maintenance Technicians and recovery staff to intervene and remove debris from the tunnel to ensure the optimum safety of tunnel users.

Notable Events

28th February – 1st March 2018 – Storm Emma

Preparations were made in relation to the Red Warning Alert, Storm Emma, on the 28th February which continued into March. Throughout the Red Alert, our teams ensured that all areas of the network were kept operational, clear and accessible for all traffic using the Jack Lynch Tunnel. Adequate staffing levels, equipment and supplies were fully met, despite the difficult conditions, keeping the tunnel operational throughout the severe weather event.

Kittens Rescued May 2018

Our Maintenance Technicians successfully rescued an adventurous 5 week old kitten from the tunnel. Cork Cat Action Trust rehomed the explorer, who is now happy and safe in her new home.

Cork Cat Action Trust
May 28, 2018 · 🌐

This brave little kitten was rescued by Padraic of Tunnel Management a couple of hundred yards up the Jack Lynch tunnel this morning. She was clinging up against the wall when she was spotted, and fortunately she was so frightened she couldn't move! She's only about 5 weeks old, and a pure sweetie. We're wondering what to call her.... Jacqui for the tunnel, Patricia for Padraic,? We're open to suggestions! 😊



Cork Cat Action Trust
June 4, 2018 · 🌐

One week on, this is Lee, the Tunnel Kitten. She's about 6 or 6.5 weeks old now, and very confident.



Project Management Office (PMO)

A number of enhancements were undertaken to improve public safety, operation and the safety of the Jack Lynch Tunnel including:

1. JLT approach Road Flooding Resilience;
2. CCTV Enhancements

TII Support Projects

Over the course of 2018 ERTO PMO have provided significant technical and design support to TII for the development of the Motorway Network and supporting infrastructure. These projects included:

1. Dunkettle Interchange Upgrade project;
2. Development of a new Motorway Operations Control Centre

ISO / OHSAS Certification

Demonstrating its commitment to upholding the highest industry standards, in 2018 ERTO upgraded its certification, awarded by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI), for:

- Quality (ISO 9001:2015);
- Environmental (ISO 14001:2015);
- Occupational Health & Safety (OHSAS 45001:2018);
- Asset Management (ISO 55001:2014);
- Information Security (ISO 27001:2013)



Environmental

ERTO remain committed to protecting our Environment. The Environmental systems are closely monitored on a daily basis. The air quality metrics for the Jack Lynch Tunnel bores remained consistently within the limits set forth in applicable regulations in terms of environmental safety and emissions. There were no reportable environmental incidents in 2018.

Tunnel Safety

The highest priority for ERTO staff is to provide a tunnel that is safe for users and operational staff. To ensure the safest possible service is provided, all aspects of the tunnel infrastructure, operation, maintenance and training are reviewed on an on-going basis. Throughout the year, a programme of reviews, training and emergency exercises was completed with close co-operation with the emergency services, the Tunnel Safety Officer and other Stakeholders.

Training and Exercises

ERTO are constantly developing our Operational Staff, Maintenance Technicians and Engineers' skills and capabilities through both in-house and external training courses. Through constant educational development, ERTO staff are increasing their knowledge and capabilities, in turn, ensuring the delivery of a safety conscious and high quality customer experience.

In December 2018, extensive preparations began for an Emergency Full scale exercise held in line with the requirements of European Directive 2004/54/EC. The main purpose of the drill is to test the effectiveness and integration between the stakeholders as well as incorporate any lessons learned into procedures and future operations. This was successfully completed in January 2019.



Tunnel Maintenance and Closures

In 2018 there were 12 tunnel closures, 8 planned maintenance closures totalling 51 hours 15 minutes, equating to 0.585% of the year. A further 7 hours were allocated for the Cork City Marathon. To reduce the impact on traffic, planned maintenance or improvement works and subsequent tunnel closures occur at night.

To improve the reliability and operation of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII's) asset portfolio, a 36-month Forward Capital Works Programme (FCWP) with clearly defined Asset Management Strategies and Objectives for 2017/2018 was outlined for the Service Manager. This detailed a plan for monitoring and improving all assets and systems of the Dublin Tunnel, the Jack Lynch Tunnel and the Motorway Traffic Control Centre.

ERTO are making every effort to manage the obsolescence, end of life and manufacturer discontinuation of systems and parts used in the Jack Lynch Tunnel by undertaking the following:

- Sending obsolete parts to a local electronics company for repair/refurbishment;
- Sending obsolete parts to specialist companies for testing and recertification;
- Sourcing all available parts on the internet, or sourcing alternative/compatible options