



16 May 2013

Historic tunnels to close on Monday for refurbishment

A free timetabled shuttle bus service will be in place from 6am on Monday (20 May) when the historic Tyne Pedestrian and Cyclist Tunnels between Howdon and Jarrow close for refurbishment.

The bus will run every half hour between 6am and 8pm. Workers needing to get to and from work outside of these hours can register for the dedicated Night Service. Both services will cater for pedestrians and cyclists.

Paul Fenwick, project director for the tunnels' owners, the Tyne & Wear Integrated Transport Authority, said: "We hope the message of the closure has now been received by everyone who uses, or intends to use, the tunnels.

"We have more than 30 people signed up for the Night Service which is in line with our estimates. We are asking people to be flexible and tolerant while this service beds in and allow more time for their journeys.

"We have also had a number of requests from people wanting to take photographs of the tunnels for their own personal record before the major changes that will take place during refurbishment. I think this shows just how loved the tunnels are."

Further information on the refurbishment and the alternative transport arrangements are available on the tunnels' website at www.tynepedestrianandcyclisttunnels.co.uk

Notes to editors

Media Contacts: Richard Simpson (07821 537106) and Samantha Wilcox (0191 265 8803)
Bradley O'Mahoney Public Relations.

Background information:

The refurbishment will include the removal of two of the original four wooden-step escalators and their replacement with inclined lifts. The remaining escalators will be renovated and opened up to public view but will not be usable except in the case of an emergency.

Other works include a complete modernisation of the tunnels' mechanical and electrical systems, and improvements to the fabric of the structures.

GB Building Services have been appointed main contractor. The works are expected to take 56 weeks.

To see a copy of the shuttle bus timetable please visit:

<http://www.tynepedestrianandcyclisttunnels.co.uk/bus-timetable/>

Night shift workers can register for the Night Service by downloading a form from

<http://www.tynepedestrianandcyclisttunnels.co.uk/night-service/>

To see a virtual model of the tunnels post-refurbishment go to:

<http://www.tynepedestrianandcyclisttunnels.co.uk/tour-the-tunnels/>