

Jack Lynch Tunnel Newsletter

Introduction

2019 marked the fifth successful year of the Operation and Maintenance of the Tunnels and Traffic Control Centre contract awarded to Egis Road and Tunnel Operations (ERTO) by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). ERTO are proud to deliver the safe operation and maintenance of the Jack Lynch Tunnel (JLT) as a vital part of the motorway infrastructure that supports Cork and its environs. ERTO also manage the Dublin Tunnel and Motorway Traffic Control Centre. The dedicated staff based in JLT provide 24/7 support to more than 70,000 daily road-users.

Egis Road and Tunnel Operation Management

Jack Lynch Tunnel Traffic Volumes

The total traffic volume through the Jack Lynch Tunnel in 2019 was 21,975,544 vehicles. This gives an annual average of 60,207 vehicles availing of the Jack Lynch Tunnel each day.

The busiest month for traffic volumes through the Jack Lynch Tunnel in 2019 was May, with an average daily traffic volume of 70,591 and a total volume for the month of 2,204,972.



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 prioritise maintaining availability of the tunnel. Disruptions such as over-height vehicles, abnormal loads and breakdowns require frequent intervention and action from the duty staff.

There were no major road traffic accidents involving injury recorded in the Jack Lynch Tunnel in 2019. ERTO staff assisted and managed 79 vehicle breakdowns. There were also 39 cases requiring tunnel maintenance technicians and recovery staff to intervene and remove debris from the tunnel to ensure the optimum safety of tunnel users whilst maintaining free flow.

Notable Events

Cork City Marathon

Cork city marathon plotted its course through Jack Lynch Tunnel on the 2nd of June. To facilitate the smooth running of the event in this area, a specialised traffic management plan was put in place.



20th Anniversary of the Jack Lynch Tunnel

ERTO were invited to present at the 20th Anniversary of the Jack Lynch Tunnel held by the Institute of Engineers Ireland, Cork Region. The presentation was an excellent opportunity for members to gain a unique insight into the integral operation, maintenance and forward planning required to manage and future proof the asset. The presentation was followed by a tour, during a Planned Maintenance Tunnel Closure, of the Jack Lynch Tunnel, where Engineers could observe the complexities and scale of works involved in the management of the tunnel.



Project Management Office (PMO)

ERTO PMO have undertaken approximately 64 projects under scope development and implementation stage in 2019, deploying best in class technologies to ensure the efficient and safe use of the tunnel for our customers. The projects were undertaken with minimal impact to the public and have resulted in increased safety improvements to the tunnel for all road users.

Over the course of 2019 a number of enhancements were undertaken to improve public safety and operation of the Jack Lynch Tunnel including:

- Approach road drainage improvements at the south portal implemented to improve flooding defence measures on the N40.
- The installation of new IP CCTV cameras has improved monitoring of the tunnel approach roads and provide real-time information to the Motorway Traffic Control Centre (MTCC) to assist with the management of the Road Network.
- The team have been involved in the design stage process for multiple road schemes including the deployment of Intelligent Transport System infrastructure on the N40 and Dunkettle Interchange free flow scheme.



2020 Upgrades

With the JLT reaching its 20th Anniversary several essential upgrade projects are in the planning stages and will be undertaken in 2020. The PMO are currently working with local stakeholders to ensure that the safe operation of the tunnel is maintained and essential upgrades are undertaken with minimal impact to the city.

ISO Certification

Demonstrating its commitment to upholding the highest industry standards, in 2019 ERTO maintained its certification, awarded by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI), for:

- Quality (ISO 9001:2015);
- Environmental (ISO 14001:2015);
- Occupational Health & Safety (ISO 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 daily. 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 2019.

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 in close co-operation with the emergency services, the Tunnel Safety Officer and other stakeholders. ERTO staff constantly maintain and monitor all equipment to safeguard the public and employees. Effective traffic management plans are a key focus to ensure the smooth running of the tunnel. On-going interaction and feedback with stakeholders constantly tested the safety and responses to significant incident scenarios.

Training and Exercises

ERTO are constantly developing our skills and capabilities through both in-house and external training courses. Through constant educational development, we ensure the delivery of a safety conscious and high-quality customer experience. On-going training was completed throughout 2019 and various exercises were conducted to ensure the efficient and swift responses of all ERTO teams. Tunnel control staff are in constant contact with stakeholders and their colleagues in Dublin Tunnel to share information and Best Practice.

Tunnel Maintenance and Closures

In 2019 there were 9 planned full maintenance tunnel closures and 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.

ERTO manage the operation and reliability of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII's) JLT portfolio, using a comprehensive asset management system. This system includes detailed Annual Asset Management plans with clearly defined Asset Management strategies and objectives. ERTO also produces a 36-month Forward Capital Works programme (FCWP). The core elements of the asset management system utilise detailed annual reporting such as System Asset Group Status reports, General Inspection reports, Cleaning reports, Special Inspection reports and every 4-years, a complete Principal Inspection is managed on all 11 specialist systems. ERTO are continuously researching ways of completing their O&M obligations using a more lean, strategic approach.

ERTO strive to benefit from technological advances in systems and are making every effort to future proof the systems. As Egis is an international company ERTO has access to a significant volume of data and system experts from all over the world, we continuously collaborate to provide a world class service to both our client and the road user.

