

A83 'REST AND BE THANKFUL' TASKFORCE

Introduction

The second meeting of the A83 Taskforce was held on 11th October. The Taskforce includes representatives from Argyll and Bute Council, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, HITRANS, Mid Argyll Chambers of Commerce, timber and tourism groups, ferry operators and National Farmers Union.

Progress

- Construction works are currently ongoing to upgrade the Old Military Road to, what is essentially, trunk road standard.
- Works are also continuing at the slip site on the A83, with the first two phases of protective debris netting on sections of the hillside now complete, and phases three and four due to get started shortly. Traffic management at the Rest and Be Thankful was lifted over the weekend.

Background

Transport Scotland considers that the Old Military Road has a number of advantages over the forest track as an emergency diversion. It is wider with no steep slopes over most of its length. The engineering is simpler and the alignment is generally straighter with less severe consequences, should a vehicle leave the road. In addition, the road construction is more substantial, reducing the need for thick resurfacing layers to be laid to carry traffic loads..

Feasibility Study

Earlier this year Transport Scotland announced a £100,000 study to investigate the feasibility of improvements on the A83 trunk road. This study has looked closely at what more can be done in managing the effects of landslides at the Rest and be Thankful, including long-term engineering options such as rock shelters, stabilisation using vegetation techniques and investigating alternative access routes to mid Argyll. The feasibility study remains on schedule to report in draft form by the end of this month, with the final report by the end of the year.

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