

# M77/GSO Highway



## Key information

Construction cost **c. \$164 million**  
Length **16 miles**

Awards **Saltire Society Award for  
Civil Engineering 2005**

## Introduction

In May 2003 Balfour Beatty Capital was awarded a \$334 million, 32-year public-private partnership (PPP) project to design, build, finance and operate the M77/GSO highway.

Balfour Beatty's share of the investment company is 85%. As of December 31, 2005, Balfour Beatty had invested all its committed investment of \$32 million.



## Project overview

- The project includes nine miles of a new two-lane highway on the M77 highway, six miles of a new divided highway for the Glasgow Southern Orbital (GSO) and 2,600 ft. of road on the A726 highway junction with the GSO.
- Opened in April 2005
- A charity "Run the Road" event was held to celebrate the opening of the new GSO. The event raised \$500,000 for the Macmillan Cancer Support, the largest amount ever raised for the charity by a single event.
- Provided shorter and more reliable travel times for drivers taking the Glasgow to Ayrshire highway
- Reduced congestion in surrounding communities
- Provided an integrated transit link with Prestwick Airport

## Operations center

Located just 650 ft. from the M77 highway is Balfour Beatty Capital's custom operations center, complete with its own 1,100-ton capacity salt dome. It is ideally situated to efficiently service the new M77 and Glasgow Southern Orbital highways.

The modern, glass-fronted, open-plan office is suitable for up to six staff (there are four permanent members of staff). Attached is a garage that houses two new salt-spreading vehicles which were specifically purchased for this project.

The investment in a permanent operations center demonstrates Balfour Beatty's commitment to this project.

The facilities have been constructed specifically to monitor and maintain the highway, and it incorporates a visitors' center.

The new facility was built by Balfour Beatty Group companies Mansell Construction, Balfour Kilpatrick and Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering.



*"Balfour Beatty Capital made a point of visiting all the community councils, **they explained what would be happening and when**, and set up communication links between the community council and Balfour Beatty."*

*Huntley Gordon, Chair of Mearns Community Council*