

YORKSHIRE LINK

Introduction

Balfour Beatty is co-promoter/developer of and a 50% investor in Yorkshire Link Limited (YLL), awarded the PFI Concession Agreement to Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO) the M1-A1 Link Road by the UK Secretary of State for Transport. The M1-A1 Link Road is one of the largest DBFO contracts awarded to date and has a concession period of 30 years. The project achieved financial close in March 1996 and the Road was officially opened in March 1999, 3 months ahead of the original programme.

Project Description

The M1-A1 Link Road is a dedicated motorway link of nearly 30km in length which provides strategic connections between the M1 and M62 motorways to the south of Leeds and the A1 Trunk Road south of Wetherby. In addition to the construction of the M1-A1 Link Road, the Project included the improvement of the M62 east of junction 28 to the Lofthouse Interchange, the M1 from near to junction 42 to near Belle Isle, and the A1(M) from Hook Moor to Bramham.

The total construction expenditure amounted to £234m and was built by a Construction Joint Venture (CJV) in which Balfour Beatty had a 50% interest. The construction price included the cost of 18km new road construction, 12km widening of existing road, 2 motorway interchanges, 5 junction, and 147 structures including 2 tunnels, 28 overbridges, 14 underbridges and 1 viaduct.

Contractual Arrangements

The DBFO Contract is the principal Project Agreement and is between YLL



and the Secretary of State and sets out the obligations of both parties in relation to the Project. These obligations include the operation and maintenance of the Road by YLL throughout the concession period to certain specified minimum standards, with various penalties if these standards are not maintained.

There was also a Construction Contract between YLL and the CJV. Under this contract, the CJV operated under its own management, assumed all design and construction related obligations contained within the DBFO Contract and was responsible for the management and obligations of construction sub-contractors.

Under the terms of the DBFO Contract YLL is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Project Road and these responsibilities will be co-ordinated by an Operations and Maintenance Unit within YLL.