

Iceland



Name: Icelandic Tunnelling Society

Type of Structure: Independent Society of corporate and ordinary members, founded 1974

Number of Members: 55 members, 17 corporate members.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES DURING 2019 AND TO DATE

Three board meetings and an annual meeting with invited speakers. In addition, one lecture with invited speaker.

CURRENT TUNNELLING ACTIVITIES

The Dyrafjordur tunnel, a 5.6km long, 50m², road tunnel in the Westfjords in north west Iceland which lies between two fjords, Arnarfjörður and Dýrafjörður, and will, when opened for traffic, replace a difficult mountain road that is closed several days over winter due to heavy snow accumulation. It will shorten the travel distance along the main road linking the north and south

of the Westfjords by 26km. Excavation started in August 2017 and the opening is planned for September 2020.

FUTURE TUNNELLING ACTIVITIES

Fjardarheidi road tunnel, a 13,5km long, 60m², road tunnel in east Iceland. This road tunnel will replace a mountain road between Seydisfjord village at the fjord side to a larger inland community Egilsstaðir. The present mountain road peaks over 600m a.s.l. and can be dangerous to pass for several days in winter due to icy road and sudden snowstorms. The tunnel will not only ease travel for locals but also for several tourists coming to Iceland by ferry from Europe (Denmark and Faroe

Island). Pre-design is ongoing. This will presumably follow with an environmental impact assessment and tender design in 2021. Possible start of tunnel excavation is assumed in 2022.

There are some underground hydroelectric projects planned but construction is not foreseen in the near future (next two years).

STATISTICS

- 1. Length or volume excavated - % mechanized/% conventional during 2019**
Approximately 1.2km, drill & blast
- 2. List of tunnels completed:**
Dyrafjordur road tunnel, 5.6km

EDUCATION ON TUNNELLING IN THE COUNTRY

No special education on tunnelling except for a traditional education in engineering and geological courses (University of Iceland and University of Reykjavik).