

# Iceland

**Name:** Icelandic Tunnelling Society

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

**Number of Members:** 56 members, 16 corporate members



## ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES DURING 2020 AND TO DATE

Three board meetings and an annual meeting with invited speakers. Meetings via Teams due to Covid 19 pandemic.

## CURRENT TUNNELLING ACTIVITIES

There is no current tunnelling activity. The latest tunnel activity was the Dyrafjordur road tunnel that opened for traffic in October 2020. The tunnel is a 5.6km long, 50m<sup>2</sup>, road tunnel in the Westfjords in north west Iceland. The tunnel lies between two fjords, Arnarfjord and Dyrafjord, and replaces a difficult mountain road that is closed for several days over winter due to heavy snow accumulation and shortens the travel distance along the main road linking north and south of the Westfjords by 26km.



## FUTURE TUNNELLING ACTIVITIES

**Fjardarheidi road tunnel** (Point 1 on map), a 13.5km long, 60m<sup>2</sup>, 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 Egilsstadir. The present mountain road peaks over 600m a.s.l. and can be dangerous to pass during winter

due to icy road and sudden snowstorms. The tunnel will not only ease travel for locals but also for tourists coming to Iceland by ferry from Europe (Denmark and Faroe Island). Pre-design is finished, and the Environmental Impact Assessment is ongoing. Tender design is planned for winter 2021 - 2022 with a possible start of tunnel excavation in late fall 2022.

**Reynisfjall road tunnel** (Point 4 on map), a 1.3km long road tunnel in south Iceland. The tunnel will shorten the main road (highway 1) in south Iceland by about 3km and replace a road through a steep and snowy hill pass. An Environmental Impact Assessment is ongoing. Possible start of tunnelling in 2022.

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

## EDUCATION ON TUNNELLING IN THE COUNTRY

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