

Will the repair of the Cairngorm Funicular Railway work (7)?

Description

When I wrote post (6) ([see here](#)) in the series with this title I thought I had covered the majority of the issues with the funicular. I arrived at the conclusion that yes the repairs would work but with no idea of the longevity of those repairs. Job done.

Then, on 04/05/2021 it was reported in the magazine New Civil Engineer that on the evening of 03/05/2021

At least 20 dead after rail bridge collapses in Mexico City

04 MAY, 2021 | BY ROB HORGAN

At least 20 people have been killed and dozens more injured after a railway bridge collapsed onto a busy road in Mexico City last night.

PODCAST



Some of you may have also seen the news footage and YouTube videos.

The next two photos are from the BBC news website and illustrate before and after the collapse.





Photos from BBC news website and courtesy of Google/Getty Images

There is no mention of what repairs or strengthening were carried out in order to bring the line back into service but presumably they were designed in accordance with all the correct regulations in force and the designs would have been checked by a suitably qualified engineering consultancy!

Now some may say “oh well cracks had appeared as a result of an earlier earthquake which must have been the cause of the collapse”, but, again from BBC news:-

Yet the incident did not occur on one of the older lines, which have been through at least two major earthquakes in the past 35 years. Rather it happened on Line 12, completed as recently as October 2012.

This structure was only finished in 2012 and yet elevated parts of the line, including the collapsed section, had to be closed for multiple repairs in 2014.

In 2017, the then director of the city's metro, Jorge Gaviño, said the line "was born with endemic problems that would never be solved in its life" and that it would require "permanent" maintenance.

The suggestion is therefore that the original construction may have been at fault. How much of this is similar to the situation with the Cairngorm funicular and the damage that it has suffered, not just between two piers but along its whole length?

The Mexican authorities have promised a full investigation into the collapse, including concerns about design problems and construction standards amongst other allegations. Now compare that to HIE's and ex-rural affairs minister Fergus Ewing's determination to ensure that there will be no public inquiry into what happened in the past or into the future huge waste of public funds that is to be devoted to repairing and maintaining a substandard installation.

Let's hope that history does not repeat itself.

Category

1. Cairngorms

Tags

1. Cairn Gorm
2. funicular
3. HIE

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