[Your manager's name],

I am seeking your approval to attend **Bridges Scotland 2025**, taking place on November 26-27, 2025 at the SEC Glasgow. This event presents an unparalleled opportunity that promises to significantly benefit our council's bridge and infrastructure management objectives, while also allowing me to enhance my professional development in line with our asset management responsibilities.

This event, above all others, is *the* biggest event for the bridge design, construction and restoration sector in Scotland. This will give me direct access to Transport Scotland bridge specialists, fellow local authority engineers, structural design experts, asset management professionals, and government representatives that we normally wouldn't see in one place altogether. Attending will be critical to achieving [add project(s) or initiative(s) for bridge maintenance programmes/asset management improvements/safety compliance/cost efficiencies]. We should consider the impact on our residents and infrastructure safety if we don't stay current with sector developments while other councils do.

**Here is why attending Bridges Scotland 2025 is essential to improving our council's bridge management:**

1. **To enhance asset management:** Through various networking opportunities with fellow local authority professionals, I'll gain direct access to best practices in bridge inspection, maintenance programming, and lifecycle management being implemented across Scotland's councils. With Transport Scotland officials presenting updates on their annual maintenance programme and bridge inspection processes, I can learn from proven methodologies that could improve our own asset management approach.
2. **To ensure safety compliance:** Bridges Scotland 2025 provides essential updates on the refreshed Inspection Manual for Highway Structures and current safety standards. With presentations from leading technical directors like Kevin Dentith from WSP, I'll gain insights into critical safety aspects and compliance requirements that directly impact our duty of care to residents and road users.
3. **To access funding and policy updates:** Our participation ensures we're informed about Transport Scotland's latest bridge programmes, government policy changes, and potential funding opportunities for local authority bridge works. Understanding major projects and strategic directions will help us align our asset management plans with national priorities and identify collaborative opportunities.
4. **To gain technical expertise:** Bridges Scotland 2025 brings together leading practitioners sharing insights on bridge design, construction, restoration, carbon reduction strategies, and innovative problem-solving approaches. These sessions will provide practical knowledge we can apply to our own bridge challenges, helping us deliver better value for our council tax payers while ensuring infrastructure safety and longevity.

**A snapshot of who I'll be able to connect with:**

**/** Transport Scotland bridge management specialists
**/** Local authority bridge engineers and asset managers
**/** Leading structural engineering consultants
**/** Bridge inspection and maintenance specialists
**/** Government officials and policy makers
**/** Construction and restoration contractors
**/** Technology providers offering bridge management solutions
**/** Research institutions and innovation specialists

**The event is free to attend**, making this an excellent value opportunity for professional development and technical knowledge sharing. The event is co-located with Road Expo Scotland and runs in partnership with Transport Scotland, ensuring access to the most relevant and current information for local authority bridge professionals. After attending, I'll prepare a comprehensive briefing note for our team highlighting key takeaways, best practices, regulatory updates, and how the insights can be applied to improve our council's bridge management and resident safety.

Thank you for considering my request. I look forward to your reply.

Best regards,

[Your Name]