

Chief Planning Officer

**Network Strategy Division - South**

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2007

Dear Sir

**DfT Circular 02/2007 PLANNING AND THE STRATEGIC ROAD NETWORK,  
GUIDANCE ON AGREEMENTS UNDER s278 OF THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 and  
GUIDANCE ON TRANSPORT ASSESSMENT**

I am writing to all planning and transport authorities within the areas covered by the Government Offices for London, the South East and the East of England to draw attention formally to the above documents which were published a few weeks ago by the Department for Transport (DfT) and by Communities and Local Government (CLG).

DfT Circular 02/2007 "Planning and the Strategic Road Network" sets out new policy for the Highways Agency's role within the national spatial planning system and describes how the Agency will participate at all stages in the planning process. For example it sets out how the Agency will take part in the development of Regional Spatial Strategies (in London the Mayor's Spatial Development Strategy) and Local Development Frameworks and how the planning bodies should engage with the Agency in the preparation of their plans. It also sets out how the Agency will deal with planning applications referred to it under the terms of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995.

DfT Circular 02/2007 replaces DTLR Circular 4/2001 "Control of Development affecting Trunk Roads and Agreements with Developers under S278 of the Highways Act 1980"

The new circular can be found on the DfT's website at:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/162259/165237/circular207planningsrnpdf>

New "Guidance on agreements with the Secretary of State under s278 of the Highways Act 1980" can be found on DfT's website at:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/strategy/policy/guidancesection278highwaysact>

Jointly with CLG, DfT has also published "Guidance on Transport Assessments" (GTA) which gives advice about the preparation and content of Transport Assessments and Transport Statements for submission with planning applications. I should particularly like to draw your attention to Chapter 5 of this document which sets out the link between

transport assessments and the development plan making process. The GTA can be found on DfT's website at:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/162259/165237/202657/guidanceontapdf>

I am sure that you are already aware of the new Circular and its associated guidance and I hope these have been discussed by our respective officers during the course of normal business.

If you require any more information about these publications or have any questions, or wish to discuss, could you please contact my relevant Regional Manager in the first instance as listed on the enclosed schedule.

As a further opportunity we are considering whether a seminar would provide a suitable arrangement by which we could usefully discuss the Documentation and its usage. If you consider this worthwhile, **please let me know by May 31<sup>st</sup> 2007**

Yours Sincerely



Gwyn Drake  
Divisional Director

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