

London Councils TEP Circular

To:	Transport Policy Officers and Officers Advisory Panel on Transport	Cc:	Transport and Environment Committee
Date:	11 December 2007	Ref. no:	TEP 07/59
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Highway Functions on the Transport For London Road Network

Summary

This circular provides a summary of information from a TEC Executive Sub Committee report on Highway Functions on the Transport for London Road Network (TLRN). The report suggests that the current management of the TLRN presents some prime-face inefficiencies and difficulties in the coordination of road works.

In response to this report on 13 September 2007, the TEC Executive Sub committee agreed that a request be made to transfer TfL's highway authority functions for some sections of TLRN to the boroughs, on a case-by-case basis.

To help take this work forward, I would be grateful if you would please let me know your views and identify any TRLN roads that your borough would like to take over the highway functions for by **15th January 2008**.

Dear Colleagues

Introduction

The TRLN was established by the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It comprises 500km of some of the busiest roads in London and all previous trunk roads in London. The TLRN also includes roads integral to the local road network. The purpose of creating the TLRN was to have a strategic vision for the management of the main roads of London.

TfL is responsible for the traffic and highway function of the TLRN. The physical management and maintenance of TLRN has been divided up and administered through separate contracts. Separate management of the TLRN and borough roads has made it more difficult to coordinate street and road works and led to some inefficiencies. Some of these problems have been addressed by London Works which has enabled better coordination of road works, but results have been at a cost, and have not always been consistent.

Under the current legislation TfL could transfer its highway authority function to boroughs through the following mechanisms:

- Redesignate some or all of the TLRN as GLA side roads, whereby the borough is the highway authority and TfL is the traffic authority.
- Redesignate some or all of the TLRN as London Strategic Road Network under the 2004 Traffic Management Act, whereby the borough is both the highway and traffic authority but TfL retains veto over the use of traffic management powers.

Both of the above mechanisms could be achieved by an Order from the Mayor. Alternatively, TfL could appoint boroughs as their agents or delegate their highway authority power to boroughs.

On 13 September 2007, the TEC Executive Sub committee agreed that a request be made to transfer TfL's highway authority functions for some sections of TLRN to the boroughs, on a case-by-case basis.

This issue was raised at the TEC Elected Officers' meeting with Peter Hendy on 28th November 2007. Peter Hendy agreed in principle that TfL would be willing to consider borough requests to take over the highway functions on a case by case basis but they would want to do this on the basis of a like-for-like comparison of the maintenance costs involved. Peter Hendy also wants boroughs to consider whether there are any roads that should change from borough to TfL control.

To help us prepare a response to TfL, we are asking for boroughs' to provide information on the following:

1. Are there any parts of the TLRN in your borough, which you would like to take over the highway functions for? If yes, please list the roads, or sections of roads, with the maintenance costs for 2006/07 shown separately for each road.
2. Are there any roads for which your borough currently is the highway authority where it might be more appropriate for TfL to be the highway authority. If yes, please list the roads, or sections of roads, with the maintenance costs for 2006/07 shown separately for each road

Please note this is specifically with regard to highway authority functions only – traffic authority powers will remain unchanged.

Timetable

I would be grateful if you would please let me know your response to the above questions and any other comments you may have on highway functions on the TLRN by **15th January 2008**.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Lyons
Transport and Planning Policy Officer