

THAMES GATEWAY BRIDGE PUBLIC INQUIRY**NOTE ON CLOSING SUBMISSIONS**

- 1 This explanatory note is intended to assist parties with limited experience of public inquiries in the preparation of their closing submissions.
- 2 The purposes of your closing submission might be broadly:
 - i) To summarise very briefly the points from your case as it rests at the time of making the closing submission.
 - ii) To identify any point on which you have been satisfied by those whose case you oppose.
 - iii) To identify in the cases of those you oppose those aspects of their case which you claim not to have been made out.
 - iv) To make any legal submission associated with your case. If any decided case is referred to in your closing submission, full copies of the judgement must be provided with the closing.
- 3 Closing submissions do not contain new evidence.
- 4 Closing submissions may be made in writing only, or in writing and orally. The same weight is given in either case. The oral presentation of closing submissions will consist of the party reading out, verbatim and without addition, to the inquiry their written closing submission.
- 5 Parties may make closing submissions at the end of their appearance to give evidence at the Inquiry, or may reserve their right to make a closing submission toward the end of the Inquiry.
- 6 The Rules establish that the Promoters (in this case, Transport for London) have the final right of reply and so their closing submission will be made at the end of the Inquiry, presently scheduled for 3 May 2006.
- 7 Tuesday 25 April 2006 and Wednesday 26 April 2006 are set aside for the oral presentation of closing submissions by parties other than Transport for London. If you want to make a closing submission in person at the Inquiry on either of those days, it is possible for you to book with the Programme Officer a fixed time at the Inquiry for you to do so. In such cases you must provide a realistic assessment of the time you will need to read your closing submission at the Inquiry. That will be the amount of time you will be allowed to present your closing submission. At any inquiry, very few closing submissions take more than 20 or 30 minutes to deliver and many can be delivered in 10 minutes. The closing submission

of the promoters is necessarily more wide-ranging and so often takes longer.

- 8 If you book a fixed time to read your closing submission to the Inquiry, you must provide the Programme Officer, prior to your appearance at the Inquiry to read your closing submission, with one electronic copy (on floppy disc or CD-rom) and four paper copies of your closing submission. The paper copies will be needed for the Inspector, the Assistant Inspector, the promoters and the Inquiry Library.
- 9 If you want to read your closing submission to the Inquiry but do not choose to book a fixed time for doing so, then you should attend the Inquiry on 26 April and, perhaps, subsequent days as necessary until the Inspector calls you to read your closing submission when the Inquiry's business can accommodate you. In such cases your written closing submission should be received by the Programme Officer by noon on 25 April 2006. One electronic copy and four paper copies should be provided. If no written copy is so provided then the Inspector will not hear your closing submission but you may submit it in writing to the Programme Officer by noon on 26 April 2006.
- 10 If you do not want to read your closing submission to the Inquiry you may make it in writing. In such cases you should give one electronic copy and four paper copies of your written closing submission to the Programme Officer by noon on 26 April 2006.

M Ellison Inspector
J Watson Assistant Inspector

17 March 2006