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Our Ref: GMG/JAH/2195
Your Ref: «Obj_No»

14 NOVEMBER 2005

Dear

THAMES GATEWAY BRIDGE PUBLIC INQUIRY: NEW EVIDENCE TO BE SUBMITTED BY TRANSPORT FOR LONDON: POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR YOUR EVIDENCE TO THE INQUIRY

The Inspector has asked me to write to all parties (that is, all people or organisations) who have appeared, or who intend to appear, at the Thames Gateway Bridge Public Inquiry which is being held at Charlton Athletic Football Club. The purpose of this letter is to let you know:

- i) That Transport for London (TFL) is producing some new evidence; and
- ii) The timetable for TFL to publish and present its new evidence to the Inquiry; and
- iii) The possible implications for the evidence of supporters of, and objectors to, the scheme; and
- iv) How parties will be able to respond to the Inquiry in the light of the new evidence TFL will submit; and
- v) The next steps to be taken.

1 The areas covered by TFL's new evidence

1.1 At the Inquiry, some objectors to the Thames Gateway Bridge proposal queried TFL's assessment of the traffic changes that would happen if the bridge were built. TFL announced at the Inquiry on 27 July 2005 that it would carry out new traffic surveys and check its traffic assessment. The traffic surveys took place in September.

1.2 On 11 November 2005, TFL presented to the Inquiry an interim report on its new work, "TFL/200: Thames Gateway Bridge: Additional Counts and Modelling Work". This describes the traffic surveys and findings, the work carried out so far and what TFL intends to do next. TFL/200 is available in the Inquiry Library and on the

Inquiry Website at:

http://www.persona.uk.com/thamesgateway/tfl_docs_electronically.htm

- 1.3 Among other things, TFL/200 includes the following conclusions:
- i) Overall traffic levels after adding the effect of the TGB are estimated to be higher than previously, although the incremental traffic growth that would be due to the Bridge would be no greater than previously forecast (see paragraph 20 of TFL/200).
 - ii) The proposed tolls for using the bridge and the proposed mitigation measures might be changed (see paragraph 21 of TFL/200).
 - iii) The economic case for the scheme and the environmental assessment of the proposed Bridge might be changed (see paragraph 23 of TFL/200).
- 1.4 TFL told the Inquiry that it has not finished work on these matters. TFL will give new evidence to the Inquiry when its work is complete.

2 The Timetable For TFL To Publish Its New Evidence

- 2.1 At the Inquiry, TFL said it would issue its new evidence according to the following timetable:

TFL's new evidence on traffic and tolls	By 30 November 2005
TFL's new evidence on scheme economics	By 9 December 2005
TFL's new evidence on the environmental effects of the proposed scheme	By 16 December 2005

- 2.2 When TFL provides me with an electronic (as opposed to a printed) copy of the material, I will put that on the Inquiry website. A printed copy will be available at the Inquiry library.
- 2.3 A session of the Public Inquiry will be held on Tuesday 20 December 2005 at which witnesses for TFL will present its new evidence and at which questions of clarification may be asked. No cross-examination will take place on that day. The opportunity for cross-examination on TFL's new evidence will arise later, as set out generally in Section 3 of this letter.

3 Possible Implications For Your Evidence

- 3.1 As a result of the new evidence TFL produces, some parties might wish to modify in some way their evidence to the Inquiry. For example, some parties gave evidence about detailed aspects of the traffic implications of the proposed Bridge which, if TFL amends its traffic figures or tolling proposals, those parties might want to change so as to reflect their own views of TFL's changed proposals. Similarly, if some of your evidence is (for example) about TFL's original proposals for tolls on the bridge and

they change their tolling proposals, you might want to change that part of your evidence too. But there may be matters about which people have given evidence that are not affected by TFL's new evidence – for example, planning policy or the consultation process before the Inquiry was announced. There may be some matters that TFL's new evidence affects only very slightly. And people who made general objections to the scheme might feel that those objections would remain in any case. In such cases it is likely that there would be no need for such parties to amend their earlier evidence.

- 3.2 So, in order to decide whether you want to alter your evidence as a result of the amendments that TFL make to theirs, you will need to read TFL's new evidence once it has been made available as set out in Section 2 of this letter. You can, of course, attend the Inquiry at 10:00 a.m. on 20th December to hear TFL's new evidence and to ask questions of clarification about it.
- 3.3 If you choose a course of action that results in your appearing at the Inquiry on two occasions and wish to cross examine TFL witnesses on the new material, then you may do so, even if you have previously cross examined them on the rest of their case. But such an objector will not be allowed, on their second appearance, to cross examine TFL on evidence not affected by the new material. Nor will TFL be allowed to cross examine any objector who has already been open to cross examination on evidence which is unaffected by any new material produced by the objector.
- 3.4 After the Inquiry, the Inspector will make his report taking into account all the evidence given at the Inquiry or put to it in writing. If you decide to alter your evidence as a result of the amendments that TFL make to their evidence, it will be the final version of your evidence that the Inspector will take into account.

4 How You Can Respond

- 4.1 If you decide that you want to alter your evidence as a result of new evidence produced by TFL, then you can do so.
- 4.2 If you have already appeared at the Inquiry and given your evidence, you may prepare Supplementary Evidence and submit that to the Inquiry either as a written representation or by attending the Inquiry again to give your Supplementary Evidence.
- 4.3 If you have not already appeared at the Inquiry and given evidence but are due to do so then you will by now have prepared your evidence and will have been programmed to attend the Inquiry some time between now and Friday 2 December 2005. The Inquiry will continue to sit during that period. You may either:
- i) Give your evidence to the Inquiry in its current form, and decide whether to prepare and submit Supplementary Evidence when you have seen TFL's amendments to their evidence; or,
 - ii) Decide not to give evidence to the Inquiry at the present time, in which case a later date will be arranged for your appearance when you will have had time to read TFL's new evidence and change yours, if you wish; or

iii) Decide to give some of your evidence at the time you are currently programmed to appear and the remainder at a later date once TFL's new evidence is available.

4.4 If you decide not to appear until after TFL's new evidence has been given, please let me know as soon as you can. If you decide to appear as currently programmed the Inspector will ask you, at the start of your appearance, whether you want to defer any part of your submission as a result of TFL's intention to provide new evidence.

5 Next Steps

5.1 Parties who, having seen TFL's new evidence, decide to prepare further evidence of their own on matters arising out of TFL's new evidence, should prepare that Supplementary Evidence in writing and, if it is more than 1500 words long, should provide a summary as well. The date by which that evidence should be provided will be decided by the Inspector. A session of the Inquiry will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday 22 December 2005 when the Inspector will, among other things, hear representations regarding the procedure to be followed. He will then announce the details of the timescale for the presentation of evidence.

5.2 The Inquiry will adjourn on 22 December for a period to allow the preparation and submission of Supplementary Evidence by those who will have given evidence to the Inquiry and to allow the modification of evidence by those who have chosen to delay their appearance in the light of TFL's position. TFL will also be allowed time to prepare rebuttal evidence and to provide that to the relevant party in advance of their appearance. It is therefore likely that the adjournment will last for some weeks. Having adjourned on 22 December 2005, it is not envisaged that the inquiry will resume before 31 January 2006. Retimed dates for closing submissions by those who have asked for such a facility will be offered shortly before the revised closing date of the Inquiry.

5.3 Please contact me if you need any clarification of this letter. You will understand that I cannot advise further on what TFL's new evidence will contain, since it has not yet been issued.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Graham Groom', written in a cursive style.

Graham Groom
Programme Officer