



To: The Rt Hon Ruth Kelly MP
Secretary of State for Communities
and Local Government
Eland House,
Bressenden Place,
London, SW1E 5DU

The Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department of Transport
Great Minster House,
76 Marsham Street,
London, SW1P 4DR

2 April 2007

Dear Secretaries of State

Thames Gateway Bridge

Further to the letter of 15 February 2007 from Cllr Roberts to Ruth Kelly which confirmed Thames Gateway London Partnership's strong support for the Thames Gateway Bridge (TGB), we are writing because we are concerned about the lengthy timetable for constructing the scheme.

You will have noted from Cllr Roberts' letter and the Inspectors' Report on the Public Inquiry that a Boroughs Consultative Group (BCG) has been set up with TfL which will allow us to give our views on how TGB is managed, how the opportunities it creates for public transport are fully exploited and how any adverse effects are ameliorated. We four signatories have been appointed by our Councils to form that Group and this letter is on its behalf, not for TGLP. We want TGB constructed as soon as possible so that the regeneration the bridge will stimulate is not subject to more delay.

The programme depends on favourable decisions from you both and we had anticipated that you would be publishing your conclusions this spring. The longer the situation is uncertain, the longer our residents have to wait for the benefits the scheme will bring, and the higher the costs when it is finally tendered. We, therefore, urge you to agree to the proposals for TGB very soon so that TfL can put the scheme out to tender by summer.

By way of further support for our request, there is full cross-party support within our four Councils for TGB, the Public Inquiry was exhaustive and gave full consideration to all issues, including traffic, and we believe the arrangements for flexible tolls and the activities of our Group make it unnecessary for you to have additional modelling information before you come to your decisions.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

Cllr A Kellaway, Newham (Chair BCG)

Cllr S Kallar, Barking and Dagenham

Cllr P Brooks, Greenwich (Vice-Chair BCG)

Cllr P Goody, Redbridge

cc The Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP,
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

ANCHORAGE HOUSE 2 CLOVE CRESCENT EAST INDIA DOCK LONDON E14 1BB
Tel: 020 7673 4578 Fax: 020 7673 4579 Email: mail@thamesgateway.org.uk Website: thames-gateway.org.uk
Thames Gateway London is an Unincorporated Association

LB Barking & Dagenham LB Bexley City of London LB Havering LB Greenwich LB Islington LB Merton LB Newham LB Redbridge

LB Tower Hamlets LB Waltham Forest

London East Learning and Skills Council University of East London University of Greenwich London Metropolitan University Trinity Laban

Ravensbourne College Goldsmiths College Queen Mary London Health Authorities