



Date: 6th August 2010

Dear Consultee,

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL BY THE TEN HIGHWAY AUTHORITIES OF GREATER MANCHESTER TO OPERATE A JOINT PERMIT SCHEME ON THEIR COMBINED HIGHWAY NETWORK IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PERMIT SCHEME (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2007

Introduction

In accordance with regulation 3, of The Traffic Management Permit Scheme (England) Regulations 2007, I am pleased to invite your views on the attached draft of The Greater Manchester Road Activities Permit Scheme (GMRAPS).

Part 3 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 introduced Permit Schemes as a new way of managing road works in the public highway and improving Highway Authorities' abilities to minimise disruption from these various activities. Permit schemes provide an alternative to the notification system of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991, whereby instead of informing a Highway Authority about its intention to carry out works in its area, a statutory undertaker or road activities promoter has to book time on the highway by obtaining a Permit from the Permit Authority (the Highway Authority/District). Under a Permit Scheme, the Highway Authority's activities, undertaken by itself, its partners or agents would be treated in exactly the same way with regard to coordination and setting of conditions as a Statutory Undertakers activities.

Highway Authorities may choose to implement a Permit Scheme on all or some of the roads under their control. GMRAPS has been developed to apply to all adopted roads throughout Greater Manchester and therefore will operate within the districts of Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan. This is the 'specified area' for the purposes of the permit regulations. Trunk roads and motorways for which the Highways Agency is the Highway Authority are not included in the scheme.

Background

The Highway Authorities of Greater Manchester are responsible for over 9,000 kilometres of road. There are currently approximately 250,000 road works per year on the network of which approximately 70,000 are on traffic sensitive roads. These road works interrupt the free flow of traffic and pavement users, it is therefore essential that any planned disruption must be coordinated as effectively as possible. Furthermore, it is the intention of GMRAPS to reduce the number of road works and the encourage work being undertaken at times which avoid peak travel time. Greater coordination of road works will not only improve the availability of the highway network, but also provide opportunities for the more efficient organisation of the road works and therefore cost savings by road works promoters.

Fees

The levels of fees that will be applied for applications for Provisional Advanced Authorisations, Permits and Permit Variations have been calculated using the Department for Transport's Permit

Fees Guidance and Permit Fees Guidance Cost Matrix. They reflect the cost to the ten Greater Manchester Authorities of operating the Permit Scheme in relation to statutory undertakers activities, over and above those costs incurred in managing the existing noticing system. The approved schedule of fees will be issued with the Secretary of State's Order (once the Scheme has been agreed) for the implementation of the permit scheme. For convenience the details of the provisional fee levels are provided in Appendix I of the scheme document. The scheme also allows for the discounting and waiving of fees as permitted within the regulations.

What happens next?

This consultation runs for a period of ten (10) weeks. All responses should be addressed to:

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The deadline for receipt of responses is no later than 5 p.m. on the 15th October 2010. We cannot guarantee that responses received after this date will be considered.

All responses received by the 15th October 2010 will be taken into consideration and, if the ten Highway Authorities of Greater Manchester consider it to be appropriate, amendments will be made to the draft Permit Scheme. When the Permit Scheme is finalised, it is expected that an application will be made to the Secretary of State for Transport for an Order enabling the implementation of the scheme.

Thank you for your time considering this document.

Yours faithfully



John Rice
Greater Manchester Strategic Transport Manager