

### M25 junction 28 improvement scheme

TR010029

# 9.114 Applicant's comments on Transport for London's Deadline 7 submission

Rule 8(1)(k)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

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## The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

# M25 junction 28 scheme Development Consent Order 202[x]

## 9.114 Applicant's comments on Transport for London's Deadline 7 submission

Rule Number:	Rule 8(1)(k)
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#### 1. Purpose and structure of this response

- 1.1.1 This document provides the comments of the applicant, Highways England, in response to Transport for London's (TfL) Written Summary of Oral Submissions made at Issue Specific Hearing 3 (REP7-042) submitted to the Examining Authority (ExA) on or before Deadline 7 (20 May 2021).
- 1.1.2 Highways England has sought to provide comments where it is helpful to the Examination to do so, for instance where a representation includes a request for further information or clarification from Highways England or where Highways England considers that it would be appropriate for the Examining Authority (ExA) to have Highways England's views in response to a matter raised by an Interested Party in its representations. Where issues raised within a representation have been dealt with previously by Highways England, for instance in response to a question posed by the ExA in its first round of written questions or within one of the application documents submitted to the Examination, a cross reference to that response or document is provided to avoid unnecessary duplication. The information provided in this document should, therefore, be read in conjunction with the material to which cross references are provided.
- 1.1.3 Highways England has not provided comments on every point made within the representation (for instance, Highways England has not responded to comments made about the adequacy of its pre-application consultation given that Highways England has already provided a full report of the consultation it has undertaken as part of its application for the Development Consent Order (DCO)) and the Planning Inspectorate has already confirmed the adequacy of the pre-application consultation undertaken when the application was accepted for Examination. In some cases, no comments have been provided, for instance, because the written representation was very short, or because it expressed objections in principle to the Scheme or expressions of opinion without supporting evidence.
- 1.1.4 For the avoidance of doubt, where Highways England has chosen not to comment on matters raised by Interested Parties, this is not an indication Highways England agrees with the point or comment raised or opinion expressed.



## 2. REP7-042 Transport for London (TfL) Written summary of oral submissions made at Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3)

Response reference:	Question	Highways England Response
REP7-042-05	2. Agenda item 2 – Traffic and access – provision for non-motorised users  2.1 Agenda items 2.1 to 2.5 – The Designated Funds scheme  []  2.1.2 Essex County Council raised some concerns about the current design of the upgrade of the NMU route, including the use of shared space for both pedestrians and cyclists. TfL, Essex County Council and the London Borough of Havering will all need to be involved in developing the design of the NMU route upgrade to ensure that it is compliant with each organisation's design standards and policies for pedestrian and cycle facilities.	The design of the designated funds NMU scheme has been undertaken in liaison with the relevant highway authorities, including Essex County Council, TfL, London Borough of Havering and Brentwood Borough Council who have previously indicated their support for the scheme as currently designed, including the proposed sections of shared use footways. Section 6.5.6 of Local Transport Note 1/20 - Cycle infrastructure design, published by the Department of Transport (DfT), explains that shared use footways can form part of a scheme where it is not possible or practicable to provide alternative segregated cycle facilities. Circumstances listed where shared use may be acceptable and are applicable to the design of the wider designated funds scheme are as follows:  • Alongside interurban and arterial roads where there are few pedestrians.  • At and around junctions where cyclists are generally moving at a slow speed, including in association with Toucan facilities.  • In situations where a length of shared use may be acceptable to achieve continuity of a cycle route.  Highways England will need to enter into agreements with the respective highway authorities, including Essex County Council to be able to deliver the wider NMU scheme. Consequently, the detailed



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		design of the NMU scheme will be subject to technical approval by the relevant highway authorities, including Essex County Council and TfL, under these arrangements.
REP7-042-06	2.1.3 Concerns were also raised at the hearing about the crossings of the new A12 eastbound off slip road and A12 westbound on slip road that would allow pedestrians on the eastbound side of the A12 to traverse to and from the upgraded NMU route around the roundabout towards Brentwood without having to walk via the subway under the A12 at the junction with Petersfield Avenue. TfL requests that the Applicant provides a pedestrian phase for the crossing of the new A12 eastbound off slip road, as this would have no impact on traffic flows since pedestrians would cross while traffic is held on the slip road to allow traffic to circulate on the roundabout anyway. Providing a pedestrian phase would give a clearer indication to pedestrians of when it is safe to cross and would reduce the risk of pedestrians trying to cross just before the signals change to green for traffic on the slip road.	The provision of a pedestrian phase for the crossing of the new A12 eastbound off slip does not form part of the NMU scheme and Highways England takes the view that such provision is not necessary.



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REP7-042-07	2.1.4 TfL notes that the Applicant's proposed approach for securing the upgrade of the NMU route is through an obligation with the London Borough of Havering secured through section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. TfL questions whether this is appropriate, particularly given that some of the central part of the NMU route that the Applicant has committed to upgrading is in Essex rather than Havering. TfL's view is that securing the upgrade of the NMU route through a requirement in the DCO would be more appropriate. However, TfL's principal concern is that the upgrade of the central part of the NMU route is secured, with the means of securing it being of less concern. TfL notes the Applicant's commitment for the section 106 obligation to be completed and submitted to the ExA before the end of the examination. To the extent that TfL owns any of the land required for the upgrade of the NMU route and subject to obtaining any internal governance approvals, TfL could be a party to any section 106 agreement.	Highways England intends to secure the delivery of the central part of the NMU route via a s106 agreement with London Borough of Havering. It is not necessary for TfL to be party to that as the central section does not involve TfL as highway authority. As explained at the Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3), paragraph 3.1.25 of REP7-018) some works are required in Brook Street (outside the DCO Order limits) to reach the section of the NMU route as it passes through the junction itself. These works will need to be the subject of a separate agreement between Highways England and Essex County Council and this is being discussed between those parties.



Response reference:	Question	Highways England Response
REP7-042-09	2.2 Agenda item 2.6 – The adequacy of the outline Traffic Management Plan (TMP)  2.2.1 TfL explained at the hearing that it had remaining concerns about the outline TMP in four key areas. The Applicant had already committed to addressing some of these concerns in the next version of the outline TMP to be submitted at Deadline 7.  2.2.2 Firstly, the outline TMP needs to show the impacts of overnight closures of the eastbound A12 off slip road. TfL's views on this matter were set out in its Deadline 6 submission (reference REP6-044 paragraph 2.18), making clear that as arrangements for overnight closures of other roads have been included in the outline TMP, the arrangements for the A12 eastbound off slip road need to be included as these have been of greatest concern to Interested Parties. TfL noted that the Applicant had committed to updating the outline TMP in this respect in its response to the London Borough of Havering's Deadline 5 submissions (reference REP6-013) regarding Further Written Question TA 2.4. The Applicant confirmed at the hearing that	Highways England can confirm that these points are covered in the revised Outline TMP (REP7-017).



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	this point would be addressed, including arrangements for escorting emergency services through a closure on the A12 eastbound off slip road should this be necessary.	
REP7-042-11	2.2.4 Thirdly, TfL has raised concerns about the narrow lane running required on the A12 eastbound carriageway, and in particular the comment in the outline TMP that the narrow lanes required may increase potential hazards to pedestrians and therefore nearside lane closures of the A12 may be necessary instead (reference REP4-013 paragraph 2.3.14). This would have been of great concern to TfL because lane closures on the A12 carriageway during peak periods would have substantial adverse impacts on traffic flows and delay. The Applicant subsequently set out that the narrowing of lanes would be towards the central reservation and a protective barrier for pedestrians would be provided (reference REP6-011 question TA 2.4 paragraph 4.5) therefore no lane closures of the A12 carriageway would be required at peak times. TfL stated at the hearing that the outline TMP should be updated	Clarification that closure of the nearside lane on the A12 eastbound carriageway will only take place during off-peak periods, and not during the peak periods, is provided in the amended Outline TMP submitted at deadline 7 (REP7-017).



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	accordingly to specify that lane closures on the A12 eastbound carriageway at peak times.will not be necessary. The Applicant agreed to make this change.	
REP7-042-12	2.2.5 The final point TfL raised on the outline TMP was on a related matter, concerning the Applicant's comments on TfL's responses to the ExA's Further Written Questions which specified that the footway along the A12 eastbound off slip will need to be closed for an extended period during construction (reference REP6-011 question TA 2.4 paragraph 4.5). The Applicant explained at the hearing that pedestrians on the north side of the A12 would need to walk west towards London to use the subway under the A12 at the junction with Petersfield Avenue to access the footway on the south side of the A12 during this time. TfL made clear at the hearing that this footway closure would need to be carefully managed with appropriate signage and other measures in place to reduce the risk of pedestrians trying to cross the A12 carriageway at non-designated locations. TfL perceives this to be a risk because of the length of the diversion route for	Section 2.3.28 and Table 2-1 of the Outline TMP (REP7-017) sets out the proposed approach to temporary arrangements required for pedestrian diversions during construction works. The details of these will be set out in the Final TMP.



Response reference:	Question	Highways England Response
	pedestrians. The Applicant stated that it considers this to be a detailed matter for the TMP rather than suitable for inclusion in the outline TMP. TfL considers that while detailed measures to be put in place do not need to be included in the outline TMP, principles about how pedestrian diversions to be managed to reduce safety risks for both pedestrians and traffic should be included.	
REP7-042-13	2.3 Agenda item 2.7 – Following the submission by the Applicant at Deadline 5 of a signposting document: comment on the requirement or otherwise for a Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) to be submitted to the Examination  2.3.1 TfL set out its position on the lack of a CoCP at the hearing. TfL's overall view is that a scheme of this size and nature would benefit from a CoCP so that the standards and procedures that the Applicant and its contractors must adhere to in order to manage the potential impacts in delivering the scheme are all set out in one place, in an accessible	Highways England made oral submissions at ISH3 as to why it did not consider it necessary to produce a CoCP for the Scheme. See paras 3.1.52 to 3.1.60 (REP7-018). As TfL comments, the Outline CEMP covers in sufficient detail matters that would have been included in a CoCP. Concern was not raised with Highways England over the structure of the documents and proposal for a CEMP during the preapplication stage.



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	way for interested parties, other stakeholders and the general public.  2.3.2 A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) usually sets out how the CoCP will be complied with. TfL accepts that the CEMP for this scheme (reference REP5-027) covers in sufficient detail matters that would have been included in a CoCP and the environmental control plans included in the CEMP plus the content of the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC, reference REP5-028) set out the standards and procedures to be followed. The signposting document (reference REP5-052) also demonstrates that the necessary environmental control plans are secured by requirements in the DCO. However, it would be far easier and accessible for stakeholders and the public if a CoCP was prepared to record all the necessary information in one place and the Applicant has not provided an explanation of why the approach of producing such a public facing document would not be appropriate.	



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REP7-042-14	3. Agenda item 4 – The Draft Development Consent Order  3.1 Agenda item 4.1 - Schedule 2 and how the proposed measures for Grove Farm including additional planting and the appropriate screening as indicated in the REAC Commitment LV0.6 and Commitment LV 1.11 [REP5-028] and as the planting is shown on the Engineering Drawings submitted at Deadline 5 [REP5-007] would be secured in the draft DCO [REP6-005]  3.1.1 TfL continues to be concerned that the proposed mitigation measures for Grove Farm could be located on land or highway that TfL is being asked to take responsibility for. This is a particular concern if the visual screening barriers, or noise barriers if these are decided as being required, are difficult or costly to maintain. TfL considers that it would be appropriate for the Applicant to be responsible for the future maintenance of any such barriers. Further, given that part of the barriers will be on the Applicant's highway alongside the M25 northbound on slip road, it would be sensible for the Applicant to maintain the whole barrier rather than for two authorities to be responsible	Response to 3.1.1: It is Highways England's position that insofar as these features are to form part of the highway then the responsibility for their maintenance falls upon the relevant highway authority for the highway in question.  It is possible that where a highway feature straddles two different highway authorities that they could come to an arrangement as regards its maintenance but that does not displace the general principle stated above.



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	for maintaining different parts of the same structure.	
REP7-042-15	3.1.2 The ExA asked the Applicant at the hearing to consider a specific requirement covering mitigation measures to address the impact of the scheme on Grove Farm (Action Point 8). If it is decided that TfL is to be responsible for maintaining any of the environmental mitigation measures for Grove Farm, which TfL objects to, then it is important that the requirement specifies the involvement of TfL as highway authority for matters related to its function so that TfL is consulted on the design of the measures.	See REP7-042-14 above.  It is Highways England's position that a specific requirement covering mitigation measures in respect of Grove Farm is not appropriate. See Highways England's response (TR010029/EXAM/1.109) to item 21 of the ExA's consultation dDCO (PD-021).
REP7-042-16	3.2 Agenda Item 4.2 – In respect to Part 5, Articles 31 and 32, Transport for London to explain further its concerns as outline in paragraph 2.10 in its Written Representations at Deadline 6 [REP6-044].  3.2.1 TfL set out at the hearing the reasons why it considers Articles 31 (Application of the	See REP7-042-20 below.



Response reference:	Question	Highways England Response
Reref	1981 Act) and 32 (Modification of the 2017 Regulations) to be insufficient.  3.2.2 Firstly, TfL would only want property and rights put into its name (and for which it will become responsible) from the point it is responsible for that land under the DCO, i.e. for the operational phase and not the delivery phase. Under article 31(5), land and rights could vest in TfL prior to or during commencement of construction of the scheme and far in advance of completion of the construction works and handover of the works to TfL. This means that TfL would be the owner of that land and would effectively have liability for that land even though it it has no interest or control over it at that time. TfL is concerned about the implications of this if the scheme was delayed or never	
	completed. It is also unclear how the Applicant would have access to that land to deliver the scheme if it has already vested in TfL. The proper approach is for the Applicant to acquire the land, deliver the scheme and then transfer the land/rights to TfL at the point at which that part of the scheme is opened to traffic.	



Response reference:	Question	Highways England Response
REP7-042-17	3.2.3 Secondly, it is unclear what is meant by the term "express authorisation" for the purposes of Article 31 to enable land that has been acquired to automatically vest in TfL. Article 31(5) specifies that subsection (1) of section 4 (execution of declaration) of the 1981 Act should be substituted with: "The acquiring authority may execute in respect of any of the land which they are authorised to acquire by the compulsory purchase order a declaration in the prescribed form vesting the land in themselves, or in the case of land or a right that they are expressly authorised to acquire for the benefit of a third party in the third party in question, from the end of such period as may be specified in the declaration (not being less than 3 months from the date on which the service of notices required by section 6 below is completed)." It is unclear if such express authorisation is to be obtained from the Secretary of State or whether it is the intention that the DCO will identify where land and rights which are intended to be acquired for third parties.	See REP7-042-20 below.



Response reference:	Question	Highways England Response
REP7-042-18	3.2.4 Thirdly, there is no obligation on the Applicant in Articles 31 and 32 to ensure that TfL has the necessary land and rights to operate and maintain the relevant part of the scheme, only that the Applicant may acquire rights in a third party's name. The wording provides the Applicant with the power to acquire land and rights for a third party but it does not oblige it to do so. It is still unclear how the DCO ensures that the Applicant provides TfL will all necessary land and rights on transfer of any parts of the scheme to TfL.	See REP7-042-20 below.
REP7-042-19	3.2.5 Finally, Articles 31 and 32 will not provide TfL with rights which need to be granted to TfL either over land the Applicant already owns or which the Applicant will acquire but retain for the purposes of the scheme, for example access rights to facilitate maintenance of infrastructure. The power only relates to land which the Applicant does not currently own. Insofar as TfL will require land or rights over the Applicant's current land, it is unclear when and how those will be provided as the DCO is silent on it.	See REP7-042-20 below.



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REP7-042-20	3.2.6 For these reasons, the proposed wording in these articles does not address TfL's concerns and would in TfL's view only operate effectively to address TfL's concerns if Protective Provisions for TfL are required in the DCO or a side agreement between TfL and the Applicant is concluded. The Applicant agreed at the hearing that this is correct. In TfL's view, paragraph 22 of TfL's proposed form of Protective Provisions sufficiently addressed this issue (reference REP4-038, App B).	Highways England and TfL continue to discuss a side agreement and Highways England remains keen to reach agreement with TfL during the remainder of the examination period. TfL's comments on articles 31 and 32 of the dDCO have been accepted by Highways England and will either be addressed through the side agreement or through protective provisions. Highways England's proposed protective provisions for TfL were submitted at Deadline 7 and address these concerns at para 74 (REP7-027). The drafting of para 74 follows that proposed by TfL at para 22 of their draft Protective Provisions (REP4-038) but brings the drafting in line with the articles of the dDCO making express reference to articles 25, 28, 31 and 32.
REP7-042-23	3.4 Agenda Item 4.5 – Transport for London [REP4-038, App A], [REP6-044] and London Borough of Havering [REP4-029], [REP5-061], and [REP6-035] to update the ExA from their respective written submissions and on outstanding concerns with the draft DCO not discussed above	Highways England has amended the Explanatory Memorandum, and this will be submitted at Deadline 9 alongside Highways England's final version of the dDCO.
	[]	
	3.4.2 TfL confirmed that most of its remaining concerns about the DCO could be dealt with in either Protective Provisions for TfL or a side agreement with the Applicant. However, TfL requested that a	



Response reference:	Question	Highways England Response
	new Article 31 be incorporated into the DCO concerning modification of the Land Compensation Act 1973 to specify that the undertaker should be responsible for any compensation claims arising from the authorised development even if part of the authorised development becomes a GLA Road over which TfL is highway authority. The Applicant suggested that the issue could be dealt with through a clarification to the Explanatory Memorandum to the draft DCO. TfL has since confirmed to the Applicant that a clarification to the Explanatory Memorandum would be acceptable.	
REP7-042-25	3.5 Agenda item 4.6 - Updates on the Schedule 9 Protected Provisions for Cadent Gas, Transport for London and (the removal of) Network Rail with updates to be actioned by Deadline 7, Thursday 20 May 2021  3.5.1 TfL is in ongoing discussions with the Applicant about a side agreement which could provide the necessary protections TfL requires and could therefore negate the need for Protective Provisions in the DCO. However, there is no agreement between	Highways England and TfL continue to discuss a side agreement and Highways England remains keen to reach agreement with TfL during the examination period. Should agreement not be reached Highways England's proposed protective provisions for TfL were submitted at Deadline 7 and could be adopted by the Secretary of State in the dDCO (REP7-027).



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	the Applicant and TfL on some key issues and TfL therefore considers that, unless the Applicant's position changes, it is unlikely that a side agreement will be concluded before the end of the examination. On this basis, TfL considers that Protective Provisions for TfL need to be included in the draft DCO.	
REP7-042-26	3.5.2 TfL welcomes the ExA's view expressed at the hearing that either a side agreement needs to be confirmed between the Applicant and TfL, or Protective Provisions for TfL need to be included in the DCO. The Applicant was asked by the ExA to insert an updated version of TfL's Protective Provisions into the DCO as Action Point 7 from the hearing. TfL will continue to engage with the Applicant over both a potential side agreement and the wording of Protective Provisions.	See REP7-042-25 above.
REP7-042-28	4.1 Agenda item 5.1 - Biodiversity: Comments from the parties as to the adequacy of the Outline Ecological Habitats and Species Plan (EHSP) and Outline Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) submitted at Deadline 6 [REP6-019], having	Highways England's amended Schedule 2, Requirement 13(2) in the dDCO submitted at Deadline 7 (REP7-003) such that Work No. 2 is now referred to as requested.  Furthermore, a new commitment will be added to the next iteration of the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC),



Response reference:	Question	Highways England Response
Re ref	specific regard to Chapter 2 of the EHSP. Confirmation that both documents will be added to the next iteration of the CEMP  []  4.1.2 However, TfL pointed out that while Requirement 13 discussed in section 3.3 above regarding deer fencing adequately protects the safety of road users during the operational phase of the project, TfL continues to have concerns about the impact of the scheme on deer movements during the construction phase. These concerns were set out in TfL's Deadline 6 submission (reference REP6-044 paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3). TfL considers there to be a substantial risk of the movement patterns of deer changing as a result of the large construction site and loss	commitment GN0.1 in Table 1.1 to the effect that appropriate fencing and/or other measures will be installed during construction to reduce the risk of deer collisions with traffic along the A12 and other roads.
	of grazing land caused by the construction of the scheme, which could encourage larger numbers of deer to attempt to cross or move along the A12 (and potentially other roads), creating safety risks for both vehicles and deer. TfL considers that commitments should be secured from the Applicant in the EHSP, the CEMP and/or	



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	the REAC to mitigate the impacts of the scheme on movements of deer during construction.	
REP7-042-29	Agenda Item 5.4 – People and Communities: Either Luddington Gold Ltd, Glebelands Estates Ltd (or the Applicant on their behalf) to confirm whether Maylands Golf Course will be responding to our Procedural Decision letter [PD-018] response to the Applicants Change Request 7 [REP6-002]. Applicant to confirm whether the tri-party agreement with the Gardens of Peace Muslim Cemetery will be submitted into the Examination.	Highways England set out the position regarding the trees in question as a post hearing note at para 6.1.20 of its written submission of the Applicant's case put orally at Issue Specific Hearing 3 (REP7-018). Highways England confirmed that as part of the DCO Scheme no trees owned by TfL which are within the Order limits would need to be removed along the A12 verge adjacent to the Gardens of Peace site. However, to facilitate the Designated Funds NMU scheme some trees within the grassed verge adjacent to the Gardens of Peace site that are owned by TfL would may to be felled to allow for the construction of the shared use cycleway.
	4.2.1 In response to concerns raised by the Gardens of Peace Muslim Cemetery about the tree belt on the south side of the A12 which provides screening for the cemetery, TfL stated its position. The tree belt is within the boundary of the DCO and TfL is neither the promoter of the DCO nor will be delivering the project. It is therefore for the Applicant to confirm whether or not the tree belt would be affected during the construction phase of the scheme. TfL recommends that the Applicant provide a	



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	relevant undertaking or commitment on this matter to provide assurance that the tree belt will not be affected by the project.	

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