

## 2 Assessing transport capacity

### KEY MESSAGES

- A Transport Assessment is required for all schemes which will generate a significant travel demand
- Further guidance is contained within Transport assessment best practice guidance document, TfL 2006

- 2.1 This guidance aims to make sure that applicants submit all the information that is needed to determine a planning application in terms of the assessment of transport conditions before and after the development has taken place, and transport measures that will need to be secured before a development comes into use.
- 2.2 It relates to Camden Core Strategy policy CS11 - *Promoting sustainable and efficient travel* and policy DP16 - *The transport implications of development* of the Camden Development Policies.



### When does this apply?

- 2.3 This guidance applies to planning applications that involve a change in the way that a site is accessed from the highway, and planning applications that will alter how people or goods are moved, how many trips they make, and when the trips take place.
- 2.4 Reference should be made to Transport for London's guidance document 'Transport assessment best practice' for more detailed guidance, along with section 2 of this guidance, relating to Travel Plans. In line with policy DP16 of the Camden Development Policies document, where the transport implications of proposals are significant we will

require a Transport Assessment to examine the impact on transport movements arising from the development.

## **How should Transport Assessments be prepared?**

### **The requirement for a formal Transport Assessment**

- 2.5 Appendix 1 of the Camden Development Policies document provides guidance on the scale of development that is likely to generate a significant travel demand and therefore require either a transport assessment or a transport statement. The use class and floorspace relationships in Appendix 1 are simply guidelines, and have been selected on the basis that their travel characteristics are likely to have a significant impact on travel. The Council will require submission of a Transport Assessment for a development likely to have any of the following travel characteristics (having regard to any existing travel generated by activity on the development site):
- a) More than 1,000 person trips per day; or
  - b) More than 100 person trips during the morning or evening peak (0700-1000 or 1600-1900); or
  - c) More than 500 vehicle movements per day; or
  - d) More than 100 vehicle movements in any single hour; or
  - e) More than 20 heavy goods vehicles (over 7½ tonnes) per day; or
  - f) Any heavy goods vehicle movements between midnight and 6am.
- 2.6 Although a formal Transport Assessment is not required for schemes that do not have any of these travel characteristics, where there is any material change to travel patterns, information will still need to be submitted as part of the standard development control process, indicating the amount of travel that will arise, and when and how it will be accommodated (see paragraph 2.12).

### **Information required as part of a Transport Assessment**

- 2.7 At an early stage, applicants should discuss with the Council the scope of the Transport Assessment, and the most appropriate methods to use (e.g. data sources, estimation of trips generation, modelling requirements). The level of information contained within the Transport Assessment should relate in scale and kind to the particular development.
- 2.8 A Transport Assessment should generally include the following information. Please note that this table is a summary of the information contained within Transport assessment best practice guidance document, TfL 2006 and so reference should be to this TfL guidance.

Figure 1. Transport Assessment Requirements

<b>TA1. Description of development</b>		
a)	Detailed site plan (min. 1:1250).	Always required.
b)	Schedule of floor areas of existing uses on the site.	Always required.
c)	Schedule of floor areas of proposed uses on the site.	Always required.
<b>TA2. Description of base networks</b>		
a)	Plan showing relationship of site to the surrounding road, public transport, pedestrian and cycle networks. Include any tram routes or proposals.	Study area and base networks to be agreed with the Council.
b)	Information on traffic flows, accident records, on-street parking conditions, and identify any critical links and junctions.	For proposals increasing motor vehicle movements, criteria C to D.
c)	Information on frequency, reliability and capacity of bus, tram, underground and rail services within the study area.	For proposals increasing trips and trip concentrations, criteria A and B.
<b>TA3. Trip generation</b>		
a)	Number of person trips generated by mode and time of day.	Always required.
b)	Number and size of vehicles required to service the building.	Always required.
<b>TA4. Trip assignment</b>		
a)	Assignment of vehicular trips to the road network.	For proposals increasing motor vehicle movements, criteria C to D.
b)	Assignment of public transport trips to the bus and rail networks.	For proposals increasing trips and trip concentrations, criteria A and B.
c)	Justification for assignment methodology.	Always required.
<b>TA5. Vehicular access and circulation</b>		
a)	Analysis of junction design for access and egress, using appropriate packages if necessary (such as PICADY, OSCADY, LINSIG and TRANSYT).	Always required where a new access is provided or where an existing access will be more intensively used.
b)	Describe the arrangements for servicing and access for emergency vehicles.	Always required.
c)	Describe the number, allocation and design of on-site parking and compare this with Council standards.	Always required.
<b>TA6. Pedestrians and cyclists</b>		
a)	Assess the capacity and safety of existing pedestrian and cycle facilities and describe how they are affected by the development.	Always required.
b)	Describe the number, allocation and design of on-site cycle parking and compare this with Council standards.	Always required.
c)	Describe design features on or outside the site to assist pedestrians and cyclists.	Always required.
<b>TA7. Public transport</b>		
a)	Assess the accessibility of the site by public transport.	Always required.
b)	Identify BR and Underground stations and lines, tram routes or proposed tram routes, and bus services that will be significantly affected by the development. Evaluate and quantify impact of additional demand on capacity.	For proposals increasing trips and trip concentrations, criteria A and B.
c)	Assess and quantify impact of additional road traffic on bus and tram reliability.	For proposals increasing motor vehicle movements, criteria C to D.
<b>TA8. Road network</b>		
a)	Identify junctions and links that will be affected by development traffic. Quantify and evaluate the reserve capacity, queues and delays at critical junctions.	For proposals increasing motor vehicle movements, criteria C to D.
b)	Carry out a Safety Audit.	Only required where physical changes are proposed on the public highway.
<b>TA9. People with a transport disadvantage</b>		
a)	Identify measures to make the site accessible to people with a transport disadvantage, including access for community transport services, the provision of designated car parking, drop-off points, shopmobility and scootability schemes (loan of scooters or electric wheelchairs to assist movement in the area around a home or destination from the initial point of arrival), and physical design features.	Always required.
<b>TA10. Environmental impact</b>		
a)	The impact of generated traffic on air pollution and noise (unless included in an Environmental Assessment).	For proposals increasing motor vehicle movements, criteria C to D.
<b>TA11. Conclusions and recommendations</b>		
a)	Summary of transport impacts.	Always required.
b)	Details of remedial measures proposed to alleviate any identified problems or evidence provided that no remedial measures are necessary. In most cases, these will include outline provisions of a Transport Plan.	Always required.

- 2.9 The Regent's Canal in Camden has a transport function for walking and cycling and to a lesser extent for movement of passengers and freight by water. In addition to considering the highway and public transport networks detailed above, where a development is adjacent to the Canal, or the Canal forms a part of the pedestrian and cycle network close to a development, the Transport Assessment should consider how the development may affect travel on and alongside the Canal. Policy DP20 of the Camden Development Policies deals specifically with the use of the Regent's Canal for moving goods and materials.

### **What should the Transport Assessment achieve?**

- 2.10 Where an Assessment is submitted, it should enable the Council to consider whether:
- the development is acceptable in its proposed form and without any alterations to existing transport arrangements;
  - some alteration would be needed to the development or to transport facilities or networks in order to accommodate the travel it would generate in an acceptable way;
  - the development could not proceed without unavoidable harm to travel or the transport system, in which case the proposal will be contrary to LDF policy DP16, and will be refused by the Council if it is not withdrawn.
- 2.11 If the Assessment shows that amendments are needed, it should recommend specific amendments and mechanisms to ensure that these amendments take place in the event of the development being implemented. Recommendations might include:
- conditions to prevent implementation prior to the completion of planned transport provision with secured funding;
  - conditions to ensure that implementation is in phases, such that each phase follows completion of any necessary planned transport provision with secured funding;
  - a legal agreement to ensure submission and implementation of:
    - a travel plan to manage travel demand;
    - a servicing plan to manage on- and off-site servicing arrangements following completion;
    - a construction management plan for the period from commencement to full operational occupation of the development to manage on- and off-site construction traffic, delivery and removal of materials, and any temporary changes to other traffic movements (including pedestrian and cyclist movements) in and around the site;
  - changed on-site arrangements for pedestrians, cyclists, cycles or motor vehicles (including public transport) through substitution of drawings showing amended facilities for movement, picking-up and

setting-down, parking, storage, queuing, loading and unloading, and/or employee lockers and showers;

- changed off-site arrangements for pedestrians, cyclists, cycles or motor vehicles (including public transport) through a legal agreement to ensure funding and implementation of amended or new facilities for movement, picking-up and setting-down, parking, queuing, loading and unloading, and/ or other measures such as public transport services, shelters, information and signage, city car clubs and city car schemes.

### **Developments below the threshold for Transport Assessment**

- 2.12 Development Policy DP16 states that larger developments that would have implications for transport, but which fall below the threshold for a full transport assessment, will still be required to submit information regarding the transport implications of that scheme. Appendix 1 of the Development Policies document provides guideline floorspace thresholds for these types of developments. The type of information required is set out in DP16 and could be submitted as part of a Design and Access Statement.

### **Further information**

Draft Guidance on Transport Assessment, Department for Communities and Local Government/ Department for Transport, August 2006 - this can be viewed on the consultation papers pages in the roads and vehicles section of: [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

Transport assessment best practice guidance document, Transport for London, May 2006 – this can be obtained via TfL at: 0845 305 1234