



# Bircham Dyson Bell

# Roads

'It is an inescapable fact that the road network is the backbone of the UK economy.' That was Sir Rod Eddington's assessment in his influential Transport Study of 2006. Roads carry more goods and people than any other mode of transport in the UK but, as Eddington highlighted, managing that ever-increasing traffic calls for a more sophisticated approach to road schemes than ever before.

As well as challenges, this presents opportunities. For example, substantial Government funding is available to local authorities prepared to introduce demand restraint measures such as road user charging. Alternatively, tolling to help recoup construction costs may be an option for new roads, bridges and tunnels that will still be needed.

Our Major Projects Group brings together the complete range of skills and experience needed to plan and deliver such schemes. We can help you with the legal aspects of obtaining consent for, procuring, constructing and operating a road scheme of any scale or type. Throughout the process we can also advise on communications and the public affairs aspects.

## Our Experience

Our recent work includes:

- advising Nottingham City Council on its proposed workplace parking levy;
- advising Transport for London on a number of variations to London's Congestion Charge, including recent proposals for CO2 charging;
- advising Transport for London in relation to the Low Emission Zone;
- acting for Merseytram in promoting to the Mersey Tunnels and subsequently in relation to varying the tolls;

- advising Transport for London on section 278 and section 177 Highways Act agreements and licences in relation to a major retail development in Victoria;
- acting for the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive in the promotion of the Transport and Works Act Order to authorise the Leigh Guided Busway; and
- acting for Cambridgeshire County Council in the promotion of a Transport and Works Act Order to authorise the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway.

## Road User Charging and Workplace Parking

Congestion and emissions are two of the key challenges facing the British transport system and demand restraint is central to meeting those challenges. Road user charging and workplace parking offer a powerful and flexible mechanism for managing traffic demand locally. A road user charge can also be used to tackle emissions, as has been done in the case of the London Low Emission Zone (**LEZ**).

The creation of a legally robust, workable scheme involves a range of legal and communications issues including proper consultation, complex drafting and possibly managing a public inquiry. We have expertise in all these areas.

Together with our longstanding experience of authorising urban transit projects this means we are ideally placed to advise on the Transport Innovation Fund, which requires demand restraint along with transport improvements.

## Tolling, bridges and tunnels

Tunnels and bridges are invariably complex engineering projects involving detailed authorisation procedures. They can often be combined with the introduction of tolling, which brings its own challenges. We have expertise in

all these areas, regularly advising on tolls, bridges and tunnels. On tolling, we acted for the Merseyside Passenger Transport Authority in relation to the amendment of the Mersey Tunnels tolls and advised on the increase in tolls on the Clifton Suspension Bridge. We also acted for objectors in relation to the Thames Gateway Bridge and the Poole Harbour Opening Bridge.

### General Highways Work

Major transport and infrastructure projects frequently involve complex highways issues. We routinely promote projects of this kind, including a number of guided busway schemes. We also regularly advise on a wide range of highways matters including TROs, stopping-ups and agreements and licences under the Highways Act.

Further information: For further information on our services please contact any of our Major Projects Group Partners (see separate sheet for details) or Rahul Bijlani, who will be happy to assist you.



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