

# Planning for growth

Hilary Chipping  
Director of Network Strategy  
Highways Agency

# THE CHALLENGE

- Development and regeneration of land is essential to a healthy and prosperous economy;
- But the strategic road network is becoming increasingly congested;
- Effective planning of land use is an essential element in enabling successful development.

# DEVELOPMENT CONTROL POLICY (1)

## The Past:

- Impact of traffic from development considered over 15 years;
- Improvements to the network identified and funded by developers;

## DEVELOPMENT CONTROL POLICY (2)

- The Future:
  - Use of 'soft measures' such as travel plans to mitigate impact of traffic;
  - Use of technology to make better use of existing capacity;
  - Development to be 'sustainable' to mitigate impact.

# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN PRACTICE?

- Essential to have a realistic forecast of the traffic impact of potential new development;
- On some parts of the network either available capacity would accommodate traffic demand now or future planned additions to capacity would accommodate future demand.

- Where traffic demand exceeds capacity then congestion would result without some form of mitigation.
- Options:
  - Reduce traffic demand from development.
  - Add to capacity where this is feasible.
  - Some combination of these two.

# WHAT MEASURES ARE THERE TO MANAGE DEMAND?

- Travel Plans to encourage better choices about when and how to travel;
- Modal Shift to public transport, walking and cycling;
- Car sharing encouraged by High Occupancy Vehicle lanes.

# WHAT CONSTRAINTS CAN BE PLACED ON DEMAND?

- Limit the number of parking places;
- Manage access out of development onto strategic network;
- Charging for road use.

# HOW CAN EXISTING CAPACITY BE ENHANCED?

- Improve junctions;
- Use technology to control speeds and flows;
- Hard shoulder running;
- Manage access.

# DEMAND MANAGEMENT IN SUMMARY MEANS:

- Limit traffic generation from development through sustainable planning.
- Focus on mitigating the impact of traffic not “predict and provide”.
- Use soft measures such as travel plans and car sharing.
- Work to control demand to the available capacity.

## **ROLE OF NEW PLANNING SYSTEM:**

- Regional Spatial strategies will mean that infrastructure is considered alongside development;
- Local authorities consult Highways Agency on Local Development Frameworks so transport needs are considered before planning applications.

## ISSUES TO RESOLVE

- Measuring capacity is not straightforward;
- Forecast demand depends on assumptions;
- Where there is more than one development then a master plan is required;
- Binding agreements needed with local authorities and/or developers to ensure that controls are imposed.