

## Environmental Assessment

For over ten years GMPTE has carried out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on major schemes such as Metrolink extensions, or guided busways. We look at the possible significant environmental effects of individual schemes and ways that any negative effects can be reduced. These 'mitigation' measures can include noise barriers, moving protected plants, tree planting to replace any that have to be removed, and sometimes even changes to the route to avoid sensitive areas. GMPTE has always built these measures into our basic scheme, and this is one of the reasons that Metrolink is seen as good for the environment and is generally welcomed by local communities. The EIA process is documented and an Environmental Statement (ES) produced which is examined at a Public Inquiry. Everyone with an interest in a scheme is allowed to participate.

We have Environmental Statements available for the following Metrolink schemes:

- Rochdale via Oldham, including Rochdale and Oldham town centres
- Ashton
- Manchester Airport including a loop through Wythenshawe
- East Didsbury
- Lowry Centre Spur
- Part of a route to Trafford Park
- Salford Quays to Eccles (this route is operational)

In addition, we have an ES available for the Leigh Salford Manchester Busway - a proposed seven-kilometre route largely on a former railway.

Unfortunately these are only currently available in paper form. Please contact Peter Black (0161 244 1268 or [Peter.Black@gmpte.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.Black@gmpte.gov.uk)) to make an appointment to see these at our head office near Manchester Piccadilly Station at any reasonable time. We can send out extracts if this is preferred.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

In much the same way EIA works for individual projects, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) evaluates the cumulative environmental effects of our plans and policies. The attached presentation (<http://gmpte.intranet/enviro/sea.pdf>) outlines:

1. What is SEA?
2. The SEA directive
3. Outline of SEA procedure
4. Guidance

We completed a SEA for the second Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan in 2006 (<http://www.gmltp.co.uk/localTransportPlanDocs.asp>).

We have also commissioned a SEA for completion in July 2007 to accompany a Greater Manchester bid for funding under the Government Transport

Infrastructure Fund (<http://www.gmfuturetransport.co.uk>). This could bring large amounts of public transport investment into Greater Manchester, and it is important to understand the effects, particularly on climate change gas emissions and local air pollutants, although other issues such as noise may well be important.

If you need any further information on Strategic Environmental Assessment Please contact Peter Black (0161 244 1268 or [Peter.Black@gmpte.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.Black@gmpte.gov.uk))