



The Royal Academy
of Engineering

From the Chief Executive
Philip Greenish CBE CEng FIET

Giada Covallero
Consultation Co-ordinator
Department for Transport
Zone 2/25 Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR

The Royal Academy
of Engineering
3 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5DG

Tel +44 (0) 20 7766 0600
Fax +44 (0) 20 7930 1549
www.raeng.org.uk

Direct tel +44 (0) 20 7766 0609
Direct fax +44 (0) 20 7930 0508
philip.greenish@raeng.org.uk

10 December 2010

Dear Ms Covallero

Revising the strategic national corridors

I am writing in response to the Department for Transport's consultation on *Revising the strategic national corridors*. The Royal Academy of Engineering welcomes this consultation which sought views on plans to improve transport links between the capitals of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. While we cannot comment on all parts of the consultation the Academy would like to make a couple of general points on carbon reduction and modal shift in transport.

With the enactment of the Climate Change Bill on 26 November 2008, the UK committed itself to at least 80% reductions of greenhouse gases by 2050. The Academy studied the implications of this commitment in its *Generating the future* report in 2009. In each of the scenarios considered in that report it was clear that a dramatic reduction in carbon emissions from transport would be necessary. One of the most likely routes to such reductions was thought to be electrification of vehicles and a subsequent study *Electric Vehicles: charged with potential* examined the engineering implications of wide-scale adoption of this technology. I have enclosed copies of both reports.

The report showed that the most difficult sector to convert to electric propulsion is intercity road transport, which includes routes under consideration in your consultation. Thus, to meet the objectives of the Climate Change Act, the key strategies would need to be to encourage modal shift from road to rail (particularly for freight) and to discourage growth in total traffic everywhere, including between the capital cities.

Several of the Academy's Fellows are experts in this area and would be willing to meet with the Department for Transport to discuss these issues further. Should you require more information please do not hesitate to contact Katherine MacGregor, Policy Advisor, at the Academy on 020 7766 0623 or katherine.macgregor@raeng.org.uk.

Yours sincerely
Philip Greenish



The Royal Academy of Engineering
promotes excellence in the science,
art and practice of engineering.
Registered charity number 293074