

## Escorted DGVs and abnormal loads through the West Tunnel

1. Preparing for escort of single or multiple DGVs or abnormal loads, in each case vehicle height not exceeding 15'9" (4.8m):

- a) Assign a TO unit to escort the convoy through the West Tunnel.
- b) Select release button on relevant FHB and confirm which Tunnel required.
- c) Follow the TMC control panel instructions, taking account of the confirmation boxes for each action taken.
- d) The TMC VMS will automatically show the vehicle escort legend.

2. Positioning the traffic officer vehicle (TOV):

- a) When visual confirmation shows the traffic is held at the west TMC illuminate the appropriate warning lights and variable message panel (VMP) legend (see WI TOV VMP, lighting and vehicle checks).
- b) When traffic has cleared from the TMC and from the DGV exit lane entry point to the main carriageway and barrier West 1 has raised, move into position under Gantry Zone D straddling lanes 1 and 2.
- c) Relevant FHB will also open allowing convoy to exit onto the main carriageway.
- d) Note the last vehicle in the DGV convoy to exit the FHB and, ensure exit signals are set to red and the barrier is lowering prior to the TOV moving off, to prevent late arriving DGVs from following the TOV into the tunnel

3. Releasing traffic from the TMC:

- a) Once the vehicle(s) to be escorted have exited the FHB, close the respective FHB barriers.
- b) Traffic held at the west TMC will automatically be released.

4. Undertaking the escort:

- a) Inform the TOS operator that the escort is underway and confirm the number of vehicles being escorted.
- b) Maintain a position at least 100m behind the last DGV or abnormal load being escorted straddling the white centre lines to prevent vehicles passing.
- c) Once the convoy or abnormal load has exited the tunnel, inform the TOS operator.

5. Returning the crossing to stable state operation:

- a) When CCTV shows that traffic has been re-established in the tunnel clear the TMC VMS legend.

## 6. West Tunnel – Clear tunnel escorts:

### a) For a clear tunnel escort:

- The DGV is not to be released into the West Tunnel until it has been confirmed with CCTV that all other traffic has cleared the tunnel.
- Once the DGV has entered the West Tunnel, the TO unit is to remain straddling the lanes at the West Tunnel entry portal until the DGV has cleared the tunnel as confirmed by CCTV.
- Traffic is to remain held at the west TMC until the DGV has cleared the tunnel as confirmed by CCTV. Traffic is now released for the TOV to lead through the tunnel.

## **Escorted DGVs and abnormal loads through the East Tunnel**

### **1. Preparing for escort of single or multiple DGVs or an abnormal load:**

a) Use of the East Tunnel for this purpose will be required when the West Tunnel is closed or not suitable for the escort due to the height of the vehicle to be escorted i.e. between 15'9" (4.8m) and 16'6" (5m) in height:

- Assign a TO unit to escort the convoy through the East Tunnel.
- Select release button on relevant FHB and confirm which tunnel required.
- Follow the TMC control panel instructions, taking account of the confirmation boxes for each action taken.
- The TMC VMS will automatically show the vehicle escort legend.

### **2. Positioning the TOV:**

a) When visual confirmation shows the traffic is held at the west TMC and east TMC, illuminate the appropriate warning lights,

b) When traffic has cleared from both TMC's and barrier West 1 and relevant crossover barrier has been raised, move TOV into position blocking lanes 1 and 2 at a 45 to 90 degree angle, just north of the relevant FHB exit.

c) If the West Tunnel is closed and coned off, take up position blocking the East TMC.

### **3. Releasing the DGV convoy, single DGV or abnormal load:**

a) When the TO unit is seen as in position ready to escort, raise the relevant FHB escort lane barrier to release the vehicle(s) to be escorted into the East Tunnel.

### **4. Releasing traffic from the TMC:**

a) Once the vehicle(s) to be escorted have exited the FHB, close the respective FHB and crossover barriers.

b) Traffic held at both TMCs will automatically be released unless the West Tunnel is closed.

#### **5. Undertaking the escort:**

a) Inform the TOS operator when the escort is underway and the number of vehicles being escorted.

b) Maintain a position at least 100m behind the last DGV(s) or abnormal load being escorted, straddling the white center lines to prevent vehicles passing.

c) Once the convoy or abnormal load has exited the tunnel, inform the TOS operator.

#### **6. Returning the crossing to stable state operation:**

a) When CCTV shows that traffic has been re-established in the tunnel clear the TMC VMS legend.

#### **7. East Tunnel – Clear tunnel escorts:**

a) For a clear tunnel escort:

- The DGV is not to be released into the East Tunnel until it has been confirmed with CCTV that all other traffic has cleared the tunnel.

- Once the DGV has entered the East Tunnel, the TO unit is to remain straddling the lanes at the East Tunnel entry portal until the DGV has cleared the tunnel as confirmed by CCTV.

- Traffic is to remain held at the east TMC until the DGV has cleared the tunnel. Traffic is now released to the TOV to lead through the tunnel.

#### **8. Releasing the DGV convoy, single DGV or abnormal load:**

a) For vehicle escorts southbound through the East Tunnel in contra-flow due to a bridge closure, follow the equivalent tasks as for northbound escorts through the East Tunnel, except:

- Connect Plus will use the open space at Essex Point as the holding and release point.

- Confirm that no DGV convoys, single DGVs or abnormal loads are running in the West Tunnel, or about to depart the FHB to do so, in order to avoid the simultaneous running of escorts in both tunnels.

- In conjunction with the Connect Plus Crossing Controller use signals to hold traffic at the 'Old Essex Control Point' when an escort is ready to commence or a single DGV is to be allowed through the cleared tunnel.