



Department
for Transport

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Ian Galloway
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Dear Ian

Transport Analysis Guidance - Holiday Centres

Thank you for your query regarding our Transport Analysis Guidance. You asked whether it was correct that traffic modelling cannot include seasonal changes in traffic, mentioning a primary route to the Suffolk holiday cost.

We cannot comment on the specific case, but the Department's Transport Analysis Guidance (TAG) Unit M1.2. paragraph 3.3.6 does indeed state that "Surveys should be carried out during a 'neutral', or representative, month avoiding main and local holiday periods, local school holidays and half terms, and other abnormal traffic periods." This is in the context that, usually, transport models are based on a typical working day so that benefits estimated can be expanded to cover a full day and then a full year (TAG Unit A1.3). For the majority of transport schemes, it may be considered disproportionate to analyse a large number of model runs to reflect seasonal variation in each of the uncertainty assumptions tested, as transport modelling is very resource-intensive and time-consuming.

However, it is possible that the business case for a scheme could depend heavily on seasonal impacts, and in this instance it would be good practice for analysts to seek agreement with assessors about the appropriate analytical approach at an early stage, typically through an Appraisal Specification Report (ASR) in line with the TAG SRO Unit section 1.2.

Yours sincerely

Philip Sumner