

# 1 – Open Road Tolling and Physical Removal of Toll Plazas

The Mersey Gateway Project team wishes to use an Open Road Tolling (ORT) system, which would mean using cameras and modern technology to record vehicle details for the collection of tolls for crossing both the new bridge and the Silver Jubilee Bridge.

This would mean that vehicles would still be charged for crossing the river, but there would be no need for toll booths or barriers along the route.

The benefits of this approach would be:

- faster journey times for motorists with no need to carry means of payment at every crossing,
- cost savings during the construction process and in operating the toll collection system, and
- an improved landscaping scheme alongside the main route.

There would be no need to build toll plazas at four different locations in Widnes, which allows us to plan a simpler and quicker route.

The proposals mean that traffic would still access or leave the new bridge via the A562 Speke Road. However, the construction work would stop at the western limit of the slip roads from Ditton Junction.

The existing and proposed links from the Silver Jubilee Bridge into West Bank and along Queensway towards Ditton Junction that were part of the original plans would be retained.

