

## Understanding the Environmental and Accessibility aspects of the Appraisal Summary Table (AST)

### The AST Easy Guide

Appraisal Summary Tables (ASTs) are important documents as they summarise the performance of proposed transport schemes against a set of five objectives, and are used by Government in helping to decide whether a scheme ought to be developed. These objectives have several sub-objectives that report the overall effects of a proposed scheme.

The AST is just one part of the overall Transport Appraisal process, but is a useful summary and therefore Highways Agency scheme ASTs are published on our website.

This Easy Guide is to help ASTs to be easily interpreted and understood by users of the Highways Agency website. We understand that some of the methods and calculations used for transport appraisal are complicated, and the official guidance documents (available on <http://www.webtag.org.uk>) may be difficult to understand by everyone. The purpose of this guide is to allow those people interested in ASTs to gain a greater understanding of their role and content.

This Easy Guide looks at three of the five Government objectives on transport; the Environment Objective, the Accessibility Objective and the Integration Objective.

### Background to ASTs

An AST provides a one-page summary of how a proposed transport scheme would help to meet Government objectives for transport. These objectives (and their sub-objectives) are set out below:

Objective	Sub-objectives
<b>Environment</b> – to protect the built and natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce noise</li> <li>• To improve local air quality</li> <li>• To reduce greenhouse gases</li> <li>• To protect and enhance the landscape</li> <li>• To protect and enhance the townscape</li> <li>• To protect the heritage of historic resources</li> <li>• To support biodiversity</li> <li>• To protect the water environment</li> <li>• To encourage physical fitness</li> <li>• To improve journey ambience</li> </ul>
<b>Safety</b> – to improve safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce accidents</li> <li>• To improve security</li> </ul>
<b>Economy</b> – to support sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To get good value for money in</li> </ul>

economic activity and get good value for money	<p>relation to impacts on public accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve transport economic efficiency for business users and transport providers</li> <li>• To improve transport economic efficiency for consumer users</li> <li>• To improve reliability</li> <li>• To provide beneficial wider economic impacts</li> </ul>
<b>Accessibility</b> – to improve access to facilities for those without a car and to reduce severance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve access to the transport system</li> <li>• To increase option values</li> <li>• To reduce severance</li> </ul>
<b>Integration</b> – to ensure that all decisions are taken in the context of the Government’s integrated transport policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve transport interchange</li> <li>• To integrate transport policy with land-use policy</li> <li>• To integrate transport policy with other Government policies</li> </ul>

There is only very limited space on the AST to record information about each sub-objective. This is a summary of the information prepared for the scheme worksheet (or table) for each sub-objective, in accordance with the WebTAG guidance. Blank versions of these worksheets are available on [www.webtag.org.uk](http://www.webtag.org.uk).









































































The information for the worksheets is generated by separate environmental, traffic and economic assessments, which are carried out as part of a scheme’s development. Sometimes this may include an Environmental Statement, which is the published report of statutory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

### Information sources used for this Easy Guide

The following reference sources were used for this Easy Guide:

- A New Deal for Trunk Roads in England: Understanding the new approach (issued by the Department for Transport).
- The Highways Agency’s Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB).
- The Department for Transport’s Transport Analysis Guidance Website (WebTAG).

It should be noted that the AST has been in use since 1998 and there have some changes since that time. This Easy Guide refers to the version of the AST on WebTAG at the time of writing (March 2008).

Option 		Description 	Problems 	Present value of costs to public accounts £m 
Objective 	Sub-objective 	Qualitative Impacts 	Quantitative Assessment 	Assessment 
Environment	Noise 			Net population win / lose Net Present Value (NPV) £m 
	Local Air Quality 			Concentrations of pollutants weighted for exposure 
	Greenhouse Gases 			Present Value of Benefits (PCB) £m 
	Landscape 			Score 
	Townscape 			Score 
	Heritage of Historic Resources 			Score 
	Biodiversity 			Score 
	Water Environment 			Score 
	Physical Fitness 			Score 
Journey Ambience 			Score 	
Safety	Accidents			Present Value of Benefits (PVB) £m
	Security			Score
Economy	Public Accounts		Central Government Present Value of Costs (PVC), Local Govt PVC	Present Value of Costs (PVC) £m
	Transport Economic Efficiency: Business Users & Transport Providers		Users Present Value of Benefits (PVB), Transport Providers PVB, Other PVB	PVB £m
	Transport Economic Efficiency: Consumers		Users PVB	PVB £m
	Reliability			Score
	Wider Economic Impacts			Score
Accessibility	Option values 			PVB £m 
	Severance 			Score 
	Access to the Transport System 			Score 
Integration	Transport Interchange 			Score 
	Land-Use Policy 			Score 
	Other Government Policies 			Score 