

proposed workplace parking levy which will help to fund the tram extensions.

Full story p5

HA voices concern about North West spatial plan
The Highways Agency has voiced concern that the North West Regional Assembly's spatial plan will exacerbate congestion on the region's trunk road network. Three proposed intermodal freight terminals are among the developments concerning the HA.

Full story p4

expanded out of the existing EU emissions trading system, was the UK's 'Carbon price instrument of

an independent body' - the Carbon Committee - work with Government to reduce emissions over

Media monitor: pp. 12-13

Rail bidders told to accommodate smartcard ticketing

Bidders for the new West Midlands, and East Midlands rail franchises were told this week that they must introduce ITSO compliant smartcard ticketing onto their services by 2010.

This is one of the requirements contained in the invitations to tender for the franchises that were published by the DfT this week. The bidders for the West Midlands franchise are Govia; MTR Corporation of Hong Kong; and a joint venture of Serco and NetRailways. The East Midlands franchise bidders are Arriva; First Group; National Express; and Stagecoach. Bidders for the West Midlands

franchise will be asked to price options for the retention of the threatened Walsall - Wolverhampton service as well as extending the existing Bedford-Bletchley line services to Milton Keynes.

The franchise winners will be announced next summer. The franchises will commence in November 2007 and will run until 2015. The DfT also this week published invitation to tender for the Cross Country franchise.

Stakeholder briefing documents on the West Midlands, East Midlands and Cross Country franchises are available at www.ttkonline.co.uk