Welcome to the December issue of the newsletter for the Tyne and Wear Freight Partnership

The last quarter has seen the organisation of a European freight Conference, being held on February 22nd 2011, the re-launch and translation of the Partnership’s website, the launch of a knowledge network best practice sharing forum, the completion of this year’s suite of maps and news on visits to CIVITAS partners.

If you have not already registered for the FREE conference please do so now at www.tyneandwearfreight.info

We need your help!

As Year 7 of the Partnership approaches we need your views to help shape the future of the programme. A link to a brief questionnaire is shown below and your views on the Partnership’s past and present work and ideas for the future would be greatly appreciated. We need all responses by the 7th of January 2011 so please look at this as soon as possible.

Link to the Questionnaire: http://tyneandweartp-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/twp

CIVITAS

Tyne and Wear European Freight Conference

The conference date has been confirmed as February 22nd 2011. The venue is the Council Chambers at the Civic Centre in Newcastle City Centre.

The conference begins at 10:00 with Brian Simpson the Transport and Tourism Member of European Parliament (MEP) giving the keynote speech, followed by five other speakers, the first from Bremen on their perspective on urban freight then Gothenburg on local freight network in urban planning, TFL on the freight recognition scheme (FORS), Newcastle University on good practice, bad practice
and myths and finally Newcastle City council on Electric vehicle infrastructure and innovation.

Following lunch there are 4 parallel workshops to generate discussion and to aid the search for innovative solutions. To close the conference two site visits are planned finishing at approx 17:30.

Electric vehicles will be on show at the venue for those that cannot travel to the site visit locations. Don’t forget to register for this conference at www.tyneandwearfreight.info to secure your place.

Visit to Utrecht, Holland

In October the Partnership was invited to give a presentation at the workshop on the work of the Tyne and Wear Partnership to the Eurocities conference in Utrecht. Bringing together delegates from all over Europe the conference provided an excellent environment to share ideas and best practice to try to provide solutions to familiar problems faced across Europe. The main themes covered by the conference included consolidation centres, low emission zones, routing and mapping and delivery restrictions.

The conference highlighted the importance of operator engagement by local authorities when considering potential solutions. Many found operators and retailers reluctant to spare the time to get involved.

The workshop was followed with a site visit to see two innovative inner city delivery solutions. The first involved utilisation of an electric vehicle Cargo hopper for parcels to deliver to the hard to reach pedestrian centre of Utrecht and the second was an electric barge used on the canals that allowed delivery to canal side restaurants and bars for the Brewery. The outcomes are reduced CO₂, reduced congestion and safer roads. More information can be found at:

http://www.cargohopper.com/

Site visit to Bremen, Germany

The visit on November 30th began by meeting with Professor Thomas Nobel of the Institute of Shipping Economics and Logistics (ISL); discussed the Freight Village and City Logistics concepts.

The freight village designed to be an intermodal terminal covers an area of 200 hectares with access to rail. The freight village location is shown in orange on the map. The site is occupied by 150 companies employing 8,000 people, the staff are recruited from around the region. The main enterprises are DHL and Kuehne Nagel.

City Logistics

City logistics, a concept implemented by Bremen in 1990, manages the burden of supplying goods to retailers, trade and households in the city. Via provision of loading bays and delivery time windows for pedestrian areas it seeks to make transport both efficient and economic. It also provides advice on emissions and delivers clear criteria to which suppliers must adhere if they wish to deliver into the city.
Car Sharing

The development of the Bremen car share scheme allows anyone access to a car without owning one. The result is a more efficient use of resources, in reducing the energy consumption and CO₂ emissions. The ‘pay-as-you-drive’ system provides an incentive to drive fewer cars and use more environmentally friendly modes of transport.

The locations are well signed in all the relevant areas with a post displaying MOBIL.PUNKT. A contact for online booking is also displayed.

When transport is required a vehicle can be reserved for any length of time and can be picked up in several locations in the City Centre, from a multi-storey car park to dedicated street parking locations.

Emission Zone

In January 2009 a clean air zone for the City Centre highlighted in blue on the map above was introduced to further reduce emissions. Operators entering into the city were required to sign a Fleet Wide agreement that they would assist in the enforcement of, by introducing a vehicle renewal strategy in line with the guidelines.

The programme is phased over 3 years with each vehicle given a badge to classify the level of emissions it produces. There were 3 levels allowed to enter the city, red being the heaviest emissions, yellow with medium emissions and green as the cleanest (euro5 engines).

In January 2009 all three classifications were allowed in the city, in January 2010 only yellow and green will be allowed. By 2011 only the green badge holders will be allowed to deliver in the city.

Mapping

Individual Destination Maps

The update of the maps has been completed. With consultation with the centre management, Eldon Square, the final map has been developed, including the three loading service areas of North East, West and South. The map shows the retail outlets which can be accessed from specific points in each loading area.

Mapping – the Bremen Truck Routing System, version 3

The map has been developed to show the HGV driver the advisory unrestricted routes in Bremen. The advisory routes are marked in Red for the Motorways and the main HGV routes, which are free of cross over junctions, Blue for the main roads advised for HGVs and Yellow for the urban routing.

The map also contains the locations of restricted access due to height and weight restrictions.

Elevated Access Road

Traffic increased in the City centre when the freight village opened for business. To relieve congestion in the City centre, a direct road was built to provide a solution. An elevated road network to the freight village has been constructed at the west side of the city, to ease congestion in the City.
Interactive Maps

Following comments made on the previous mapping system that in some instances the advisory routes in Google were incorrect, other mapping systems were investigated. Following trials the update of the system has taken place using Bing maps as the support system for the mapping. This mapping system also provides added value through details of the advisory route being presented at each junction i.e the user can place the curser over the junction which and text will display the correct direction.

Highways Restriction Maps

The restrictions map has been migrated to the new fast host server. To assist in planning a maintenance programme for the future, a meeting was held on the 15th December at the Newcastle Civic Centre. Representatives from the local authorities agreed that the mapping was an excellent way of standardising the referencing of the restrictions. It was decided that AECOM would be the liaison for the authorities, to manage the database and update the information when required following a structure assessment or resurfacing of the carriageway.

On Line Communication

Website

The website has been given a fresh new look and is even more user friendly with a side bar menu. Events are displayed on the home page and a summary of the latest news. The Partnership DVD is now available in the news section and can be played with subtitles in German and Polish by selecting language of choice. The website can be viewed in two other languages by selecting the language of choice button for German or Polish. A Google search bar is now also available for a quick search of the site.

For anyone wishing to register for the planned European freight conference in February clicking into the events page supplies all the information you will require including accommodation.

A new addition is the knowledge network where operators and other organisations can post information start a new thread by submitting a question or statement or join in a discussion on one particular thread. Anyone can view the threads but the user will need to register to access the system to submit anything.

Truck Information Point (TIP)

Continual reviews of the TIP at Durham services have been carried out to ensure accuracy of the information provided and to check for the satisfactory operation of the systems.

An exciting new development for the TIP is that we have been granted permission to install a TIP on the DFDS Seaways Ferry the King of Scandinavia. The floor standing unit is located in the drivers lounge, initially driven from a hard drive slightly limiting its functionality, until such time as DFDS Seaways are satisfied with the trial of the unit and allow the Partnership to use the ship’s broadband facility. The unit was delivered to the ship and the software was installed on December 8th 2010.
A new look has been given to the home page to match the style of the new website and to minimise the front end information, making it more user friendly. The partnership has supplied a leaflet holder to house the PDF maps.

Promoting the Partnership

The Partnership promotional DVD had received a makeover. The cover sports a new image to make it more appealing and relevant to the freight industry. Two Non-UK languages have been added German and Polish in subtitles. The start up menu on the DVD allows the viewer to select the language of choice.

Anyone wishing to receive a DVD can contact Michael Page at michael.page@aecom.com

Lorry Parking

The Partnership has refocused its review of potential lorry parking facilities back to the location on the Tyne Tunnel Trading Estate. The site is near to the strategic route network (A19), the port and the Tyne Tunnel. The land mass is sufficient to accommodate up to 100 trucks. It has a gated entrance and is fenced all around. The area is partially covered with earth deposits which would require removal. In the site there are two buildings which appear to serve no purpose but could be utilised as a rest room and toilet facilities. There is a café nearby which could provide food for the drivers, dependent of course upon the cafe's agreement to remain open until later.

The site managers DTZ have been asked to respond to a number of questions prior to putting further resource into a more detailed feasibility study.

Freight on Rail

Invitations were sent to nine key organisations to join the workshop. The partnership has received responses and acceptances to attend the workshop, which will be planned for a date convenient for everyone in January. The purpose of the workshop is to decide who should sit on the full partner group, the agenda and the anticipated deliverables.

Get Involved

If you would like to get involved with the partnership you are welcome to come along to the next meeting which is scheduled for March 9th 2011 at Gateshead Civic Centre in the Blaydon Room. Reception is at 10:00 for coffee, tea and biscuits for a 10:30 start.

For more information please contact Michael Page by email on michael.page@aecom.com. Alternatively call Mike on 0191 2246512.