Freight on Rail

The final draft of the “Freight on Rail” report recommended two main objectives which could take the North East forward in its endeavours to highlight rail freight issues. These were to:

- Invite a range of organisations to a workshop so that the steering group can gauge the levels of interest and develop a final group of stakeholders to sit on the panel
- Suggesting that the possible Lorry Road User Charging scheme be used to fund enhancement to rail freight

It will be important to ensure that any outcomes and future actions are tailored towards the aims set out in the DfT’s “Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS) for Road Rail and Water” report.

The Steering Group will assist in providing any possible contact details for organisations that are interested in taking part in the workshop. Once the workshop has been held, the partnership will review the development of a working group to ensure the most relevant parties take part.

Website

The new web page will go live in the summer, and will be accompanied with a press release. The website will incorporate the new Tyne and Wear partnership branding and have a fresh new look.

Continual reviews are carried out on the website and the Truck Information Point (TIP) to ensure accuracy of the information provided and to check for the satisfactory operation of the systems.

The website has proven to be as popular as ever with 167,089 hits over the last 12 month period. In the last three months there were 33,282 hits viewing the following pages in order of popularity – Lorry parking, Multi Map, Traffic Info, Common Questions, Regional Map and Contact and Links.

The TIP at Durham Services had 1,500 hits in the last three months and the most popular pages viewed were Traffic Info and Lorry Parking. The maps supplied at the services still appear to be very popular with a total of 1,277 maps replenished in the leaflet stand over the last three months in the services. The most popular of the maps taken are – Northumberland Street, MetroCentre, Port of Tyne, Eldon Square, East Gateshead, Team Valley North Washington Crowther and Port of Sunderland.
Mapping

Individual Destination Maps
The review of the individual destination maps is now complete with all the maps in the process of being updated with new company names and any changes in location and are due to be posted on the website. A slight amendment to the key of the maps has taken place to place the properties 'To Let' at the end of the list and not in the alphabetical order. Updates of the maps will encompass inclusion of business located on smaller adjacent estates not previously visited because of size. The maps also now display the new Tyne and Wear partnership branding.

![Map of Pallion Industrial Estate](image)

Additional Maps for Year 6
The Partnership agreed to add another five industrial estates to the current suite of maps. These are:
- Simonside Industrial Estate
- Bede Industrial Estate
- Derwentshough Industrial Estate
- Newburn Business Park and Surrounding area
- Pallion Industrial Estate

Interactive Maps
The new style interactive maps were launched on the website on March 30th 2010. A press release went out to the industry and local papers on the same day to announce the launch. Feedback has been very positive.

From extensive review it was uncovered that some of the maps only took you to a single destination near the location of the company, not directly to the company premises. To identify the precise location of the company on the map, Geo-code coordinates have been given to each individual building to rectify this problem.

Over the next few months five of the current suite of individual destination maps, are due to be converted into interactive maps: These are
- Silverlink
- Washington Pattinson
- East Gateshead
- Northumberland Street
- Rainton Bridge

Highways restriction Maps
The interactive highways restriction map went live on the Local Transport Planning (LTP) website on March 30th 2010. A press release went out to the industry and local papers on the same day to announce the launch.

The next stage of the mapping is to organise a meeting with the engineers to work out how to develop the map to enable standardisation for referencing restrictions. Structures are assessed periodically and the data may need amending. The information transfer process needs to be agreed so that the map remains accurate.

Promoting the Partnership

Award Applications
Transport Times Award
The application the Transport Times in the category of Most Innovative Transport Project did not reach the short list this year.

CILT
The CILT award application in the category of Transport Policy and Planning has been submitted on May 25th.
New Tyne Crossing

The latest meeting was held in East Howdon at the Community Centre announced that the project was still on target for completion. The temporary road on the north side of the river has been removed.

The south side continues to see substantial work. The latest information regarding the closure of the tunnel on June 5th and 6th was sent out by the Partnership in a newsflash. This closure was due to the demolition of the old Howard Street Bridge.

Sign and Design

Contact has been made with Sunderland City Council to organise a meeting to begin discussions regarding the Partnership sign and design project for Sunderland City centre, to direct goods vehicles to the city centre.

It is envisaged that the meeting will be held at the Civic Centre with officers from the Local Authority, LTP team and AECOM.

CIVITAS CATALIST

Partner Search

A number of Cities have been contacted to find a partner to share best practice. The good news is that Bremen has agreed to partner the Tyne and Wear freight Partnership. Further contact is to be made to obtain a more detailed perspective of their aspirations. The Partnership will continue the European search to bring additional partners on board. Groups could be sought through The Government Office and AMEC.

Site Visits

We have requested a convenient time to organise a visit to Bremen for the Partnership in September. Other visits will be organised in the near future to further share best practice.

Freight Conference

After long discussions it was clear that to host the European Freight Conference in November would clash with other conferences. It was decided to defer the date until January or February so that other CIVITAS members could attend. A list of members is published by CIVITAS which would give a good starting point for sending out invitations.

The majority thought that the conference should be kept away from the Friday or Monday to allow easy travel from other European Cities.

The partnership will keep you informed of the developments and send out invitations to attend the free conference.

Port Study

The study at the DFDS Seaways, Port of Tyne will commence on the June 20th and June 28th at Teesport with P&O.

There is one daily sailing from the Port of Tyne seven days a week. The ships operating on this route are a conventional passenger/ freight ferry from North Shields to Amsterdam.
Teesport operates on a 6 days' timetable with one daily sailing to Zeebrugge and three sailings per week to Rotterdam. The ship operating on this route is a roll on roll off trailer ship.

The outcomes of the study will help establish the most common nationality and spoken foreign language. This information will be used to update the Website and Regional freight map and help us target future best practice sharing initiatives.

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 for September 8th 2010 at Sunderland Civic Centre in Committee Room 6, reception for coffee, tea and biscuits from 10:00 for start at 10:30.

The address of the venue is Sunderland City Council, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN. Directions to the venue will be sent out with the agenda, one week prior to the meeting.

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