

TYNE AND WEAR FREIGHT ACTION PLAN

NEWS
MAY 2007

Recent work has focussed on completion of a number of tasks from the Year 2 Action Plan and initiating a number of exciting projects to be completed during Year 3 (2007/08).

Port of Tyne Signage – Signs Installed



New freight specific signs are currently being installed on the A185 to the Port of Tyne. A number of the signs have already been erected and the remaining signs on the local road network are to be installed during May.

The scheme follows a review of freight signage undertaken for the Freight Partnership across Tyne and Wear. A detailed scheme design was then produced and the plans were approved by Port of Tyne, South Tyneside Council and the Highways Agency. Signs for the Port on the A19 at the junction with the A185 are to be implemented later this financial year.

Driver Rest Facilities Audit

An audit of Driver Rest Facilities in Tyne and Wear has been completed to provide an up-to-date baseline position in relation to the adequacy of lorry parking provision in Tyne and Wear in order to inform future policy. Importantly, the audit took account of the impact of the closure of the NT Newcastle Truckstop, Birtley in January 2007 and provided a 'before' and 'after' position. The facility was an important and popular truckstop, providing good facilities for lorry drivers entering the area. Washington services, now provides the only formal lorry parking facility in the conurbation and is now approaching capacity during the week. Actions are planned for Year 3 to tackle this problem. A copy of the report can be download from the 'News' page of the website.

Rail Freight Report

A review of rail freight across Tyne and Wear has been completed by the Freight Partnership. The purpose of this report is to outline the current position with respect to rail freight in Tyne and Wear in order to provide a context for assessing the potential for increasing the volume of rail freight moved in the conurbation. To date, the majority of work undertaken as part of the action plan has focussed on road freight transport as the local authorities have greater scope to affect change in this area. However, the Partnership consider that it is also important to consider the potential for mode shift from road to rail. This could assist in reducing congestion on the road network, which has increased considerably in recent years and help to enhance air quality. A copy of the report can be downloaded from the 'News' page of the website.

Electronic Information Point

A feasibility study has been completed for the installation of a trial Electronic Information Point (EIP) for lorry drivers. The report sets out a proposed specification for implementation of an EIP, which will provide similar information to the Partnership's website. Much of the feasibility work was carried out under the assumption that the EIP would be installed at NT Newcastle Truckstop - a new location will now have to be sought following closure of the site. One possibility is the Moto services at Washington – this is to be progressed during Year 3. A copy of the report can be downloaded from the 'News' page of the website.

Year 3 (2007/08) Projects

Key projects to be carried out during 2007/08 include:

- Review and update of the Tyne and Wear Freight Map;
- Additional Tailored Freight Destination Maps;
- Implement and Monitor Electronic Information Point (EIP);
- Promoting the provision of Lorry Parking Facilities ;
- Abnormal Loads Route Map;
- Mapping Highway Restrictions;
- Private Sector Parking Reciprocation Pilot; and
- Bridges Shopping Centre Signing (Sunderland).

How Do I Get Involved?

The best way to get involved is to attend the Partnership meetings. The next meeting is to be held on the **7th June (10:30am)** at **Newcastle Civic Centre** (James Dobson Rooms). Your views are important to the success of the partnership and its actions. If you have any queries on the above, or would like more information please contact **Michael Page** by email on michael.page@fabermaunsell.com. Alternatively call Mike on **0191 224 6512**.