October 2012 Newsletter for the Tyne and Wear Freight Partnership

It's been a while since the last newsletter and we're happy to report that the Partnership hasn't been idle over the past few months, with the launch of a new FREE operator recognition scheme (some big benefits to be had by the members), development and launch of a new Multi Modal Carbon Calculator tool and the beginning of a vulnerable road user campaign, looking to address safety concerns affecting cyclists, motorcyclists and HGV drivers around the region.

Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS)

At a well-attended launch event held in Newcastle on Tuesday 19th May, Tyne and Wear officially became the first region outside of London to adopt the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS). The launch, held by the Tyne and Wear Freight Partnership, brought together a host of public and private sector transport operators, current FORS members and technology providers to welcome and show their support for the arrival of this new scheme.

FORS is an accredited scheme for businesses operating van and lorry fleets of all sizes. Free to join, it offers impartial, independent advice and guidance to motivate operators to improve their lawfulness and environmental, social and economic performance. It was successfully established by Transport for London (TfL) in 2008 and now has over 115,000 vehicles within the scheme. Unlike many other schemes, FORS membership gives an edge when bidding for work, as it provides evidence of performance against the many regulatory and environmental requirements facing the industry.

FORS members have access to a range of exclusive member benefits and discounts that offer real competitive advantage.

Operators who deliver in the area and are interested in taking advantage of this free to join scheme, should visit www.fors-online.org.uk or contact Michael Page to provide further details of the scheme.
Multi-Modal Carbon Calculator

A multi-modal carbon calculator has been developed by the Tyne and Wear Freight Partnership offering logistics companies a user-friendly website where they can compare three different modes of transport and their associated carbon emissions for a particular journey. The idea is that the user can then make a decision as to which mode would prove the most beneficial in relation to carbon emissions.

The Carbon Calculator shows the handling capabilities of each port and rail facility and the contact names and numbers of those you need to speak to at each site, so that users can make an informed decision about which port/terminal and which transport mode to use.

The tool can be accessed on the rail section of the Tyne and Wear website at http://www.tyneandwearfreight.info/ by following 3 simple steps. Enter your origin and destination, select your terminal, select your preferred mode (based on the CO₂ emissions calculation) and you will take the first steps towards shifting mode, reducing environmental impact and reducing your costs. There is also the option to include some extra detail regarding your load and operations (fuel usage, load weight etc.) which can help refine the outputs from the tool. The more information you supply the better the estimation!

Try it out to see how it works and feedback your comments to Michael Page at email: michael.page@aecom.com.

Safety of Vulnerable Road Users

The Partnership is starting out on a campaign to promote awareness of dangers that HGVs present to vulnerable road users (bicycles, motor cycles and pedestrians are classed as vulnerable road users).

Every year in this country around 19,000 cyclists are killed or injured in reported road accidents and, in London, around 20% of cyclist fatalities involved an HGV.

Serious cycle accidents in Tyne and Wear are fortunately still rare and there is no evidence of particular problems affecting cyclists and HGVs in this region. Nevertheless, the accident rate based on vehicle miles is the 4th highest in the UK, as the graph shows.
We are conscious that accidents involving cyclists and heavy lorries are a major concern in London. With ambitious plans for cycling growth in Tyne and Wear, we wish to be proactive rather than reactive in addressing the increasing number of cyclists on the regions roads.

With this in mind the Partnership intends to host an awareness event to showcase HGV technology and the cyclist and operator resource pack that we plan to develop. The event will bring together cycling groups, motor cycle groups and HGV operators in a forum to exchange ideas and to see what challenges HGV drivers face and what they are doing to improve the safety of their vehicles.

The suite of maps has been updated following site visits to the 25 locations to check for accuracy. The master area freight map is now available for use on the website.

### Online Communication

#### Website

The website has been continuously updated to include Freight Transport bulletins from Transport for London during the Olympic and Paralympics games. The website also provided routing information and road restrictions before and during the Olympic football games at St James’ Park using a news flash system.

#### Truck Information Point (TIP)

Located in Durham Services, the TIP is still operating efficiently and allows truck driver to access information about Tyne and Wear from the Partnership’s website. The TIP on board the King of Seaways ferry operated by DFDS is operating successfully with no reported problems from DFDS. The database will be updated in September to ensure it is as accurate as possible.

### Mapping

#### Master Area Freight Map

A new innovative mapping system has been developed by the Partnership to bring our suite of maps (area, individual, interactive and highways restriction) together into one all encompassing master area freight map. The map allows drivers and operators to enter origin and destination and then to plot the most appropriate routes for their journey.

The map depicts the location of 71 key freight destinations in the region (such as business parks and retail centres) and contains the 25 individual destination maps which detail exact locations of businesses within the sites (also available in PDF), as well as highlighting the local highways restrictions.
Rail Freight

The last Rail Partner meeting was held at the Sunderland Civic Centre on 10th May 2012, it was well attended with representation from Northumberland County Council (NCC) and the Port of Blyth.

Discussions centred on the opportunities and options available for rail freight on the Ashington, Blyth and Tyne line (ABT) and the Leamside line.

A meeting to discuss the ABT line took place in October 2012 with the Port of Blyth, NCC, and the Partnership representatives.

We intend to contact businesses and freight operators to discuss the opportunities for use of rail in a face to face interview. If you think there is potential for your business to send or receive goods by rail, we would like to hear from you. Contact michael.page@aecom.com if you would like to help.

A new rail freight page has been added to the Partnership website offering up to date information which includes the multi-modal carbon calculator, contact details for the rail freight operators, the Department for Transport multi modal guide publication and minutes of the rail partner meetings. The Partnership is currently developing a page for frequently asked questions to assist operators.

Promoting the Partnership

The Partnership was invited to attend the C-LIEGE 2nd round table workshop on 4th July 2012 at the Mansion House to give a demonstration of the Multi modal Carbon calculator. C-liege is an acronym for: Clean Last mile transport and logistics management for smart and Efficient local Governments in Europe, it is a 30-month European project from June 2011 to December 2013 in which Newcastle City Council is participating.

As part of the C-LIEGE project, a workshop for freight transport planners from across Europe was held on Thursday 4th October at the Sage, Gateshead, to share knowledge and good practice about sustainable freight distribution. The Freight Partnership was represented at the meeting, which was well-attended and attracted many positive comments about our record in promoting safe and sustainable freight movement.

The Partnership was also invited by TT2 to the official opening of the Tyne Tunnel on the 18th July. The Queen made an appearance and started a cycle race and met dignitaries from the region before being driven through the new tunnel.
Get Involved

The Partnership undertakes a variety of projects every year and if you would like to get involved with the Partnership or simply share your ideas, you are welcome to come along to the next meeting which is scheduled for December 5th 2012 at Gateshead Civic Centre. Reception is at 10:00 for teas and coffees, for a 10:30 start.

For more information please contact John Bourn by email on: john.bourn@newcastle.gov.uk or alternatively call John on Tel: 0191 277 8972, or Michael Page by email on: michael.page@aecom.com or by Tel: 0191 224 6500.