

**North East Freight Partnership****Date Held** **7th December 2016****Venue** **One Trinity Green, South Shields****List of Attendees and Organisation**

Mike Page	AECOM
Paul Davison	AECOM
Ann Wilson	Tees Valley Unlimited
Martin Murphy	NECTAR
Tony Walker	NECTAR
Stuart Smiles	Independent
Kim Farrage	North East Combined Authority
Gordon Carr	CILT
Alun Chapman	Nissan
David Pentland	South Tyneside Council
Marin Marinov	Newrail, Newcastle University
Graeme Heron	Newcastle University

Apologies

Kate Cairns	See Me Save Me
James Turnbull	Durham County Council
Tom Zunder	New Rail
Chris Mackenzie	James Burrell
Bruno Porter	HSE
Ian Radley	Highways England
Steve Green	Greggs
John Cram	North Tyneside
Malcolm Bingham	FTA
John Bourn	NECA
David Bargh	Co-Op

Item Agenda 2: Minutes of last meeting

If anyone had any amendments please forward them onto either John Bourn or Kim Farrage who will incorporate them in the draft minutes.

Item Agenda 3: Changes in skills requirements in the transport sector in the short, medium and long term- automation, IT and robotics.

Marin Marinov from New Rail based at Newcastle University gave a presentation. He stated that they are currently working on an EU project entitled SKILLFUL which started 2 months ago. The concept of the project is identify the skills and competences needed and define the training methods and tools to meet them.

It was stated that, in the EU, employment in the freight sector is split in the proportions shown in the attached pie chart (*appended at end of these minutes*).

The structure of the project is complex and there are a lot of packages and sub packages and tasks. There are 5 steps which the project will follow from start to finish.

The first step has included a survey which was launched to investigate paradigm shifters and game changers in the industry. It was stated that this would be circulated around the FQP for their participation. Within the questionnaire is a list of new market forces and needs which could change the industry. Participants are asked to rank those which they deem to be the most important. The consultation closes just before Christmas.

It was suggested that that some of the wording may be amended within the consultation as the list of market forces could be open to interpretation. It was advised that the coordinator would be contacted to discuss this feedback from the Group.

It was also noted that this survey had been produced after reading various EU policy papers as well as discussing the survey with EU colleagues.

It was stated that Rail Newcastle will not be held in Newcastle in 2017 but will be based in Brazil. There will be 40 participants and the event will run for 5 days.

Two students at New Rail have published articles in Urban Rail Transit on two theoretical studies regarding the Metro which they have been researching into; one into the feasibility of Metro based freight transportation in the region and one into the possibility of a newly designed baggage transfer system.

Agenda Item 4: The case for freight operator recognition schemes as 'business readiness' quality management tools for the Northern Transport Strategy and the Northern Powerhouse narrative.

Graeme Heron from Newcastle University gave a presentation on freight operation recognition schemes and the research that he and Dr Erica Ballantyne from Sheffield University are undertaking into how fleet compliance schemes like FORS can be used as business ready quality management tools. He stated that freight is very high on the Northern Powerhouse agenda and that a Transport for the North Freight Report was published in 2016.

It was advised that there are two main freight operator recognition schemes- these being FORS and Eco Stars. FORS was launched in 2008 by TfL and was central to major civil engineering contracts and does have a cost to be part of the scheme. Eco Stars which is a free scheme was launched in South Yorkshire. These two schemes are the most relevant to the research.

It was stated that Total Quality Management is a process based analysis with a customer centric approach, emphasises education and is inclusive to all colleagues. Graeme also discussed FORS in more detail and its activity within the NPH and how it was progressing.

It was noted that a survey will be launched in the New Year and will run for 6 weeks. This survey has been developed with support from Aecom and ask numerous questions including why a lot of companies stay at Bronze, how the scheme could become more attractive and the barriers which companies face. If anyone would like more information or be interviewed by Graeme please contact him.

It was queried whether parcel deliveries are involved in the scheme as they were in the early days. It was

suggested however that the current model for parcel delivery companies is unsustainable and over the next 18 months we may see a decrease in free deliveries which will have a direct consequence on these companies - the delivery model will need to change too.

Graeme was thanked for his presentation and welcomed the independent review of FORS.

Item Agenda 5: The work of the HSE in relation to the freight sector

Bruno Porter was unable to attend the meeting so Paul Davison went through the presentation. However Bruno will attend the meeting in March for further discussion and to answer any queries from the Group. His presentation to the March meeting will be added to the website.

Agenda Item 6: Task update

It was stated that 10 tasks are ran each year which include mapping and other bespoke items. Regarding FORS, the NEFQP have supported it for 5 years which has seen the scheme grow. There has been a doubling of bronze and we now have 3 golds. However, a few companies have now left the scheme citing the fact that it is no longer free. General haulage is still prominent in the scheme and construction is punching above its weight.

There are FORS workshops which are sponsored by the FQP which are held at various locations around the region and are free of charge. It was stated that there have been various changes to the FORS standards. It was advised that Mike Page is currently updating the mapping for drivers. There are 33 maps covering all of the region which includes weight and height restrictions.

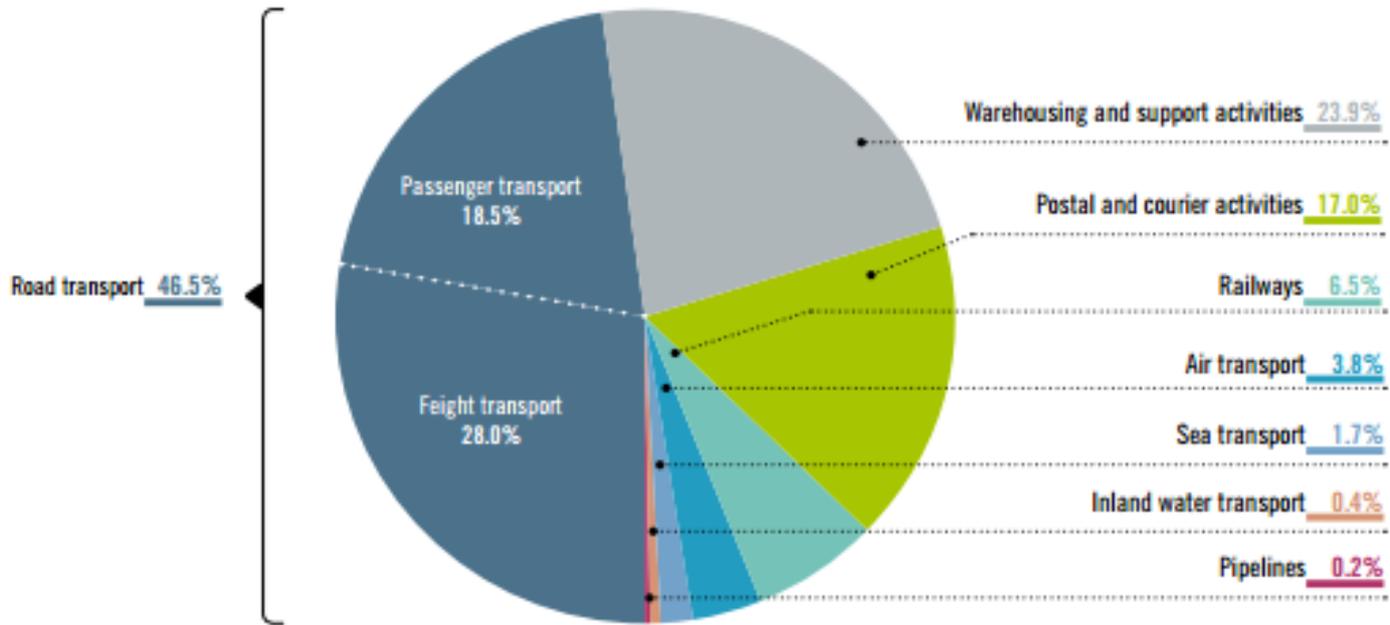
Six Safe Urban Driving Courses have been delivered which practically gets drivers to get a sense of a cyclist's vulnerability on the road. It was stated that a lot of drivers who attended this course found it extremely useful.

Any other Business

No other business was discussed.

Date and Time of next meeting

8th March Gateshead Civic Centre



DRAFT