

**North East Freight Partnership****Date Held****7th March 2018****Venue****Tyne Tunnel Offices, Wallsend****List of Attendees and Organisation**

Ron Henderson	TT2 Ltd
Morag White	WSP
Martin Murphy	NECTAR
David Marshall	Sunderland City Council
Jim French	PD Ports
Ian Johnson	PD Ports
Andy Briggs	Dennis Dixon
Andrew Carmichael	SENUG
Keith Taylor	Northumberland County Council
David Pentland	South Tyneside Council
Gordon Carr	CILT
Simon Tate	Northgate Vehicle Hire
John Bourn	North East Combined Authority
Paul Davison	AECOM
Graeme Heron	Newcastle University
Graham Wood	Nixon Hire
John Cram	North Tyneside Council
Sarah Noble	Nissan
Andy Rogers	Alliance Logistics Europe
Peter Walker	NECTAR
Peter Shorter	Nixon Hire
Ann Wilson	Tees Valley Combined Authority

Apologies

Nigel Cook	Elddis Transport
Paul Dixon	Highways England
Mark Goodhall	Highways England
Ron Pawley	Stockton Riverside College
Tony Walker	NECTAR
Malcolm Bingham	Freight Transport Association
Mike Page	AECOM

Item Agenda 2: Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were unavailable for review. John Bourn stated that they would be disseminated in due course.

Item Agenda 3: Tyne Tunnel Overview

Ron Henderson from TT2 presented an overview of the Tyne Tunnels project. This included a summary of the contract structure before outlining the location of the tunnels and some additional contextual information:

- Pedestrian & Cyclist tunnel was constructed in 1951
- First vehicle tunnel was constructed in 1967
- Second vehicle tunnel was constructed in 2011
- Prior to the second vehicle tunnel, the first vehicle tunnel was:
 - The fourth worst traffic hotspot in the UK
 - The only 'A' road on the top ten list
 - Operating at 50% above design capacity

Ron outlined the role that TT2 has in managing the infrastructure, equipment, road space and people before describing the second vehicle tunnel in detail through a step by step process including rare insight into some of the intricacies of a large scale tunnel project. Ron also touched on the current financial recovery model through tolling.

Agenda Item 4: Connecting the Energy Coasts Study

Morag White from WSP delivered a presentation about a project *Connecting the Energy Coasts* commissioned by Transport for the North. Morag began by providing some context to the project such as outlining the Pan-Northern transport objectives which include:

- Transforming economic performance
- Improving opportunities across the North
- Promoting and supporting the built and natural environment
- Increasing efficiency, reliability and resilience of the transport system.

Eight sub-corridors within the region were identified as the key to connecting the Energy Coasts which extend as far north as Workington and Tyne & Wear and as far south as Blackpool and Tees Valley. The three key phases on the project included:

1. Understanding the issues
2. Modelling and appraisal
3. Reporting and planning the next steps.

As part of the first phase, outcomes were identified through consultation including, but not limited to:

- Reliability and capacity is more important than speed
- Network resilience is critical
- Many key routes currently have long sections of single carriageway which reduces capacity
- Better connectivity to the Ports would be beneficial

- Improved rail links to population centres would aid in recruiting a skilled workforce.

Item Agenda 5: Northgate Vehicle Hire and The Future of Mobility

Simon Tate gave an overview of the work that Darlington-based Northgate they do and where they operate. Northgate is the UK's leading provider of light commercial vehicles with a fleet of over 40,000 vehicles operating mainly in the UK, but also in Ireland and Spain. As part of this, Northgate employ various fleet management solutions and telematics and camera products.

Simon then began to describe his view about the how the future will look in the road transport industry with the following key take outs:

- Before 2021, there will be a steady phase out of diesel power vehicles and increase in electric power vehicles
- From 2021 to 2030, semi-autonomous vehicles will be used with increasing popularity and road user charging infrastructure and policies will begin to be implemented
- Beyond 2030, diesel will no longer be the primary fuel. Shared transportation will be increasing and A.I will have a role along with drones. Additionally, all vehicles will be connected through intelligent road infrastructure.

Agenda Item 6: North East Driver and Operator of the Year

Peter Shorter of Nixon Hire was presented with the North East Driver of the Year award.

Peter was described as an exemplary driver, operating a 26T beavertail plant vehicle distributing hire machinery across the North East to the construction industry. Presenting an infectious positive attitude, his vehicle is kept in a superb condition; organised, clean and ancillary equipment is always well maintained.

Using 'Big Change' telematics Nixon Hire analyse driver behaviour traits including idling, over-speeding, harsh acceleration, harsh braking and cornering which are measured out of 10.

Peter's score is consistently over 9.6, one of the best in the company. Peter demonstrates the ability to carry out all aspects of his job in a safe and professional manner from loading and securing, minimising driving infringements and excellent route planning. Courteous with customers going the extra mile to deliver top class service.

With his knowledge and experience of the plant hire industry, Peter is often consulted by Logistics and Training for input into new vehicle specification and establishing best working practice.

A particular project Peter has been involved in was reviewing machine position to minimise risk of overloading axle weights, part of a team that helped to identify the need to increase capacity in future fleet as machine sizes change. His involvement has been invaluable for continuous improvement.

In 2017 Nixon introduced PDAs to facilitate electronic daily vehicle checks and proof of delivery. Peter enthusiastically embraced this process contributing to excellent KPIs at the depot and maximising damage revenue with clear and consistent pictures and assessment of site collections.

Nixon Hire also won the North East Operator of the Year award. The Partnership noted its commitment to safety and attendance and contribution to Partnership events.

Agenda Item 7: Overview of the North East Freight Partnerships Activities 2017-2018

Paul Davison gave a brief overview of the activities of the Partnership, outlining the achievements of the Partnership during 2017-2018.

Any other Business

John Bourn thanked all attendees for their attendance and contribution to the Partnership.

Date and Time of next meeting

The next meeting will occur in June 2017, location TBC.