Notes of Discussion

Project: Tyne and Wear Freight Action Plan Y3
Job No/Ref: 53854/12

Purpose: Partnership Meeting
Date held: 13.12.2007

Held at: Faber Maunsell, Newcastle
Made by: Michael Page

Present: Steve Forgham (SF) Highways Agency
Kyle Maynard (KM) Highways Agency
Lynne Biddles (LB) Highways Agency
Martin Murphy (MM) NECTAR
Nigel Cooke (NC) Elddis Transport
Gordon Carr (GC) CILT
Stuart Corker (SC) Gateshead Council
Paul Middleton (PM) Durham Council
Martin Gibson (MG) GONE
Mark Wilson (MW) T&W LTP Team
John Bourn (JB) T&W LTP Team
David Arthur (DA) Faber Maunsell
Michael Page (MP) Faber Maunsell
All

Apologies: James Firth FTA
Susan Darroch North Tyneside
Martin Peliew PD Ports
Margaret Robinson Northumberland County Council
Richard McKenzie Northumberland County Council
Martin Macray Amundsen And Smith
Trevor Male South Tyneside Council
Eric Adams Duncan Adams
Stuart Hall TNT
Jennifer Dunn Port of Tyne
Dave West Port of Tyne
Colin Englbe Co-op CRL
Andy Jameson Sunderland City Council
Bob Brown Robert Horne
Dennis Smith Wincanton
Eric Short Eric Short Haulage
Greame Mason Newcastle International
Steve Howard Crawford Transport
Brian Fothergill Newcastle City Council

No. Item Action By

1 Introduction
MW welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2 Minutes from Last Meeting
The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed by MW. The revised version incorporated amendments received from John Edwards.

3 Severe Weather Alert Status and Fresnel Lenses
A talk was given by Steve Forgham of the Highways Agency (HA) on the Severe Weather Warning Alert Status, which went live on 1st October.
The alert status was set up in part to address problems relating to HGVs jacknifing in bad weather conditions. Most of the vehicles affected are empty curtain sided vehicles - consequently the networks are closed for substantial periods of time. The height of some UK vehicles which are running empty can also cause a problem.

The system operates on the basis of a dual alert. An Amber alert provides an initial warning of severe weather which has potential to cause problems. A Red alert advises drivers to park up and wait until severe weather passes. The main communication channels are through the HA dab radio station, BBC website and the RHA and FTA. The RHA and FTA would alert their members who would then in turn alert their drivers. 100,000 leaflets have already been distributed through the RHA, the FTA and truck stops.

A Fresnel lens is a piece of plastic that refracts images on the blind side of the vehicle. The lens is placed on the passenger side of the cab and this reflects images of vehicles at the side of the vehicle that cannot be seen by the driver. This reduces the number of side swipes because of the blind spot.

The Highways Agency have had 90,000 lenses made and distributed them to ports to hand out to foreign drivers coming into the UK. The launch of the lenses took place at Ashford Truck Stop on 5th December by a Minister. In Tyne and Wear the lenses are being handed out by DFDS at the Port of Tyne.

4 Promoting the Partnership

A draft version of the Tyne and Wear Freight Partnership leaflet was presented at the last meeting. Amendments were made on the basis of the comments received and the final version sent to print – 500 copies were printed. These have been distributed to 134 individual locations.

FM have submitted an application to the Sustainable City Awards on 3rd December under the ‘Sustainable Travel and Transport’ category. This has been accepted and notification will be received in mid to late January. FM are also compiling applications to the IHT and Transport Times for submission in February 2008. It is intended that the Partnership will apply for the CILT awards (submission in May 2008). NC suggested that the Partnership could apply for the Motor Transport awards.

The website is proving very popular and that is borne out by the total number of hits to the site. Since the site was launched on 13th December 2006 it has received 65,925 hits by 13,170 different users. Since 11th September there has been 15,668 hits by 3,504 different users.

5 Progress of Mapping Work

MP explained that the update of the Tyne and Wear Freight Map is now nearing completion. The revised version was sent out to the local authorities and members of the partnership for external review and comments. The map is currently being amended and will be re-circulated before the end of the year for final comments. It is anticipated that the map will be sent to print in mid January.

Individual destination maps have been produced in draft form and reviewed internally for comments. These comments have been actioned and the amended maps will be sent to the relevant local authorities for review and comments. MP explained that the Washington map needed to be divided into four sections and Team Valley in to two
Further detailed maps are under development to identify company locations in East Gateshead, Northumberland Street and Team Valley. A CAD drawing of the Port of Tyne has been received and will be converted to Illustrator (a design package). FM to issue draft versions of the maps to the local authorities for comments after the internal reviews have been completed.

The Abnormal Loads Route Map is now in the process of being converted to Illustrator. This will remove most of the detail of the OS mapping and highlight the relevant routes for abnormal loads by number. There will be landmarks on the map for reference points and guide. The draft map will be circulated to the local authority representatives for review and comment. The map will be posted on the website after relevant amendments have been made.

A draft version of the Highways Restrictions Map has been circulated to the structures representatives at each of the local authorities. FM are now waiting for feedback – the map will then be amended accordingly and re-circulated for final comments.

### 6 Electronic Information Point (EIP)

At the last meeting it was agreed to contact Durham Services regarding the potential to install an Electronic Information Point at the services. DA explained that a successful meeting has been held and authorisation has been obtained to install the EIP in the reception area. FM are now working on adapting the website to operate on the EIP on a touchscreen basis – it will be simplified and made more user friendly. It is anticipated that the EIP will be installed by late January. FM to liaise with PM (Durham County Council) regarding incorporation of the Durham Freight Map, which is currently being produced.

### 7 Operator Interviews

MP reported the findings of the operator interviews which have been carried out over recent months to review the work of the Partnership and inform future direction. 40 telephone interviews have been carried out in total (75% outside Tyne and Wear). A written report of the results will be made available in advance of the next meeting.

### 8 Port of Tyne Signage

LB confirmed that the HA are to install signs to the Port of Tyne on the A19 this week. These will complement the signs installed on the A185 by South Tyneside in April. The HA are to send photographs of the signs to FM, which will be incorporated in the January newsletter.

### 9 Priority Lanes

MW explained that an agreement has been reached with regard to priority lanes. Firstly, all lanes will be switched to a standard 24 hour operation. There will be two types of priority lane – the first type will be a bus lane, which may permit use by cycles and/or taxis. The second will be a No-car lane inclusive of buses, taxis, cyclists, vans and HGV’s. If a coloured surface it to be used it was agreed that it should be red. A process of exemptions from these regulations has been put in place. MW explained that each local authority has been asked to provide costs for converting all existing priority lanes to the standard 24 hour operation.
MW explained that WSP have been commissioned to undertake a feasibility study for a Freight Consolidation Centre for Eldon Square Shopping Centre, which is currently being re-developed. Capita Shopping Centre will part fund the study to investigate less routing kilometres and the cost and benefits to operators and retailers. It was agreed that a representative from the study would report to the Partnership at an appropriate point.

11 Date and Time of Next Meeting
The next meeting is planned for **10:00am on 13th March 2008** at **Newcastle Civic Centre**.