

Project:	<b>Tyne and Wear Freight Action Plan Y3</b>	Job No/Ref:	<b>53854/12</b>
Purpose:	<b>Partnership Meeting</b>	Date held:	<b>13.12.2007</b>
Held at:	Faber Maunsell, Newcastle	Made by:	<b>Michael Page</b>
Present:	Steve Forgham (SF) Highways Agency Kyle Maylard (KM) Highways Agency Lynne Biddles (LB) Highways Agency Martin Murphy (MM) NECTAR Nigel Cooke (NC) Eddis 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 Pellew 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 Engleby 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
<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b> MW welcomed attendees to the meeting.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes from Last Meeting</b> The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed by MW. The revised version incorporated amendments received from John Edwards.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Severe Weather Alert Status and Fresnel Lenses</b> A talk was given by Steve Forgham of the Highways Agency (HA) on the Severe Weather Warning Alert Status, which went live on 1 <sup>st</sup> October.	

T 0191 224 6512  
F +44 (0)191 224 6599  
E-mail: michael.page@fabermaunsell.com  
www.fabermaunsell.com

First Floor, One Trinity  
Gardens  
Broad Chare, Quayside  
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE1  
2HF

The alert status was set up in part to address problems relating to HGVs jackknifing 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> December 2006 it has received 65,925 hits by 13,170 different users. Since 11<sup>th</sup> 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

FM

	sections (North Kingsway and South Kingsway).	
	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.	FM
	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.	FM
	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.	FM
<b>6</b>	<b>Electronic Information Point (EIP)</b> 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.	FM
<b>7</b>	<b>Operator Interviews</b> 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.	FM
<b>8</b>	<b>Port of Tyne Signage</b> 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.	FM
<b>9</b>	<b>Priority Lanes</b> 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.	
<b>10</b>	<b>A.O.B.</b>	

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 **13<sup>th</sup> March 2008** at **Newcastle Civic Centre**.