Notes of Discussion

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

Purpose: Partnership Meeting  
Date held: 07.06.07

Held at: Newcastle Civic Centre  
Made by: M Page

Present: Malcolm Dodds  
Martin Gibson  
Susan Darroch  
Stuart Corker  
Trevor Male  
Martin Murphy  
Andy Jameson  
John Robertson  
Colin Engleby  
Margaret Robinson  
Richard McKenzie  
Dave West  
Paul Middleton  
Rachael Elliott  
Jennifer Dunne  
James Firth  
John Bourn  
Jonathan James  
David Arthur  
Mike Page  

Apologies: Mark Wilson  
Nigel Cook  
Martin Pellew  
Udo Jeorges  

Distribution: All

No. Item Action By

1 Introduction  
JB chaired the meeting in the absence of MW and welcomed all the attendees.  
DA provided an overview of the agenda.

2 Minutes of Last Meeting  
JB discussed the minutes of the last meeting, which were agreed with no amendments.

3 Action Plan Year 3  
DA presented the Tyne and Wear Action Plan for Year 3. This includes the following actions:

1. Operator Interviews and Visits - the purpose of this is to consult with operators on the work carried out to date in order to inform future work.  
40 telephone interviews will be carried out, with 15 follow-up site visits.  
Aim to achieve 75% of the interviews with operators outside of Tyne and Wear.

2. Facilitation of Quarterly Meetings - to maintain the present format and
to encourage more operators to attend the meetings.

3. **Newsletter** - This will be sent out after each quarterly meeting to the wider correspondence group. The newsletter will be consistent with the 'News' tab of the website.

4. **Website Maintenance and Development** – all quarterly meeting minutes and the newsletter to be posted on the website. Also includes uploading a revised version of the Tyne and Wear map with the additional tailored maps. Any comments received in the feedback will be considered and added, if appropriate. The number of hits to date for the website since December 13th launch is now at **32,565**, from **5,599** individual users.

5. **Review of the Freight Map** – includes updating the map with respect to additional key destinations, preferred routes, highway restrictions and contact details.

6. **Tailored Maps** - individual tailored freight destination maps are to be produced for Portobello Industrial Estate, Tyne Tunnel Trading Estate, Rainton Bridge Industrial Estate, Silverlink, Cobalt and Middle Engine Lane. A map is also to be produced for Team Valley, which will require 2 maps (Kingsway North and South). The map to be produce for Washington will require 5 individual maps. In addition, 3 further detailed maps will be produced for East Gateshead, Northumberland Street and Port of Tyne.

7. **Implementation of Electronic Information Point (EIP)** – involves the installation and monitoring of a trial electronic information point, possibly at Washington services. It was reported that MOTO Services have been approached regarding the possibility, but feedback is awaited from their Marketing department. RE stated that the Highways Agency have completed a study for EIP’s on ferries and will supply information on the technicalities.

8. **Driver Rest Facilities** – task involves work targeted at promoting the provision of lorry parking facilities, following the closure of the NT Newcastle truckstop at Birtley. DA explained that further to the last meeting, a letter has been sent to the DfT from Mark Wilson to explain the position in Tyne and Wear. The recent driver rest facilities audit was attached to the letter, which also included an offer to participate in any national initiatives targeted at improving provision.

9. **Abnormal Loads Route Map** – involves the production of a preferred map for abnormal loads for Tyne and Wear. To be used in conjunction with the highway restrictions map.

10. **Mapping Highway Restrictions** – production of a standardised highway restrictions map for Tyne and Wear.

11. **Spread coverage and Value of the Tyne and Wear Freight Map** – work focussed on developing opportunities for extending the Tyne and Wear Freight map to other areas, particularly the North East. Northumberland have completed an equivalent map, but there would be value in producing equivalent mapping to other neighbouring areas. JF offered to provide a list of the FQP’s to support this project.

12. **Private Sector Truck Parking Reciprocation Pilot** – involves developing a facility targeted at allowing operators to buy or sell lorry parking facilities at their sites. To be run in conjunction with the operator questionnaire to ascertain the level of interest and availability of space.

13. **Promoting the Partnership** – work focussed at promoting the work of the Partnership at a national level through presentation of papers at conferences, applying for awards, press releases and the production of a
glossy brochure on the work of the Partnership.

14. **Sunderland Inner Ring Road** – involves the provision of freight signing to The Bridges Shopping Centre and reviewing existing signage on the Inner Ring Road.

More information on the plan can be found on the action plan tab of the website. [www.tyneandwearfreight.info](http://www.tyneandwearfreight.info)

4 **Port of Tyne Signing**
DA presented a slideshow showing the signs installed in April/May by South Tyneside Council for the Port of Tyne. DA explained that the Highways Agency has been contacted regarding the installation of signs on the A19 – this is scheduled to be completed by the end of August.

MP provided an overview of the Port of Tyne Impact 2007 presentation, which was held by the Port on the 23rd May 2007 at the Baltic Tower Riverside rooms. This highlighted the growth and projected growth of the port up to 2015.

5 **A19/A191 Signage (North Tyneside)**
The sign design strategy to encourage traffic for the Silverlink area to use the junction with the A191 has been completed and the finalised version sent to North Tyneside Council for confirmation and acceptance. FM to send the plans to the HA following approval from North Tyneside.

MP explained that implementation of the signs may be slowed until there is a resolution on a proposed scheme to signalise the junction and install pedestrian facilities.

6 **Signing The Bridges Shopping Centre (Sunderland Inner Ring Road)**
An initial outline of the sign and design to the Bridges Shopping Centre from the Inner Ring road has been sent to Sunderland City Council. A meeting is currently being arranged to discuss the strategy and the impact that the Southern Radial route may have on the signing. Feedback on this will be available at the next meeting.

7 **Progress of Mapping Work**
MP presented the recent progress regarding a number of mapping related tasks to be carried out during Year 3.

- The Tyne and Wear Freight map is being reviewed and updated with respect to additional key destinations, preferred routes, highway restrictions and contact details. The local authorities are being consulted at present in relation to this. A number of additional destinations have been suggested – some of the smaller freight generators may have to be excluded depending on space available on the map.
- With respect to the individual tailored freight destination maps, it was explained that a significant amount of preparatory work has been carried out in developing these.
- The Abnormal Loads Route Map feasibility study has been completed and the report submitted the Partnership. Meetings are now taking place with the local authorities to obtain their reference map. Categorised routes for High, Wide and Heavy routes will then be plotted on a Tyne and Wear wide map. It is possible that the approved will be posted on the website to make it visible to all
enquirers.

- The highways restrictions map will plot the restrictions electronically across Tyne and Wear. The map will provide a reference tool to identify the restrictions on the structures quickly and easily and to standardise the format currently being used by the authorities. A number of the individual restrictions maps for individual local authorities have now been obtained.

FM to provide a further update on progression of these tasks at the next meeting.  

8 Rail Freight Baseline Report
Copies of the completed Rail Freight Baseline report were circulated at the meeting. DA presented a summary of the report, which included rail movements through the Tyne Yard by industry type and timetabled paths. The report identified capacity on the East Coast Mainline as a constraint to future growth, although there is some spare capacity. The completed Network Rail Route Utilisation Strategy identified re-opening East Bolton Curve as a key recommendation addressing capacity issues as it would enable trains from the port to be routed down the Durham coast line and avoid a congested section of the ECML. The Port of Tyne is increasing the coal imports in the next year and will require extra paths. The RUS considered that reopening of the Leamside line could not be justified just on the basis of rail freight, particularly under the current growth projections. However, a case for the scheme could potentially be made with respect to benefits resulting from passenger services.

MM to arrange for a representative from Network Rail to attend the September meeting to give an overview from their perspective.

9 Other
JB reported that the Priority Lanes report has been received and the recommendations are being reviewed. The Partnership will be updated once the recommendations have been approved.

Smoking ban at work information was supplied by the RHA - this highlighted the smoking ban in HGV cabs. More information can be found on their website. VOSA test fess, were also included.

10 A.O.B.
None

11 Date of Next Meeting
The next meeting is to be held at Faber Maunsell, Trinity Gardens, Quayside, Newcastle on 13th September 2007 at 10:30am. Further details on the venue to follow.