

Travel Information is the Focus for the Future

The focus on travel information services in the UK has grown in significance within both the public and private sectors, partly due to the Government's commitment to improving public transport. In addition, technologies such as the internet and text messaging have become increasingly widespread giving more and more people access to instant and up-to-date information.



Transport operators use real-time systems to monitor fleet performance (photo courtesy of ACIS)

a partnership of transport operators and local authorities.

Two of the projects focus on Transport Direct, an internet-based service which will provide travel information for both car drivers and public transport users. In particular, TTR is investigating the factors which

influence demand for services other than journey planning. It will also consider the elements of the service which may make it attractive to car drivers, and which will assist them in making mode choice decisions.

On behalf of Transport Direct Wales, and as part of the ARTS rural transport project, part-funded by the European Commission, TTR

is helping with the development of a telematics solution to rural transport problems in Gwynedd. TTR's role includes assessing the impacts of the application of telematics in rural areas, especially real time passenger information and its realisation through mobile text messages and land line telephone enquiry services.

PLUME focuses on best practice in urban transport and planning

PLUME (Planning Urban Mobility in Europe) is an EC-funded network established to facilitate the exchange of innovative solutions in the field of Land Use and Transport Research

(LUTR) from the research community to end users in the cities of Europe. The project builds on the work of the LUTR cluster in the EC's City of Tomorrow Programme. TTR is the

Project Co-ordinator of PLUME with particular responsibility for assessing the research needs of cities and providing best practice in the field of land use and transport planning.

of expertise and have built a reputation for thoroughness, original thought and value for money. Our expertise lies in the following key areas:

- Transport policy assessment
- Public consultation & travel awareness
- Demand management & special needs
- Local transport plan appraisal
- Multi-modal transport assessment
- Transport, energy & environment
- Public transport assessment
- Transport telematics & information systems
- Market & social research
- European consortium management

TTR offers advice and research to support planning and decision making at all stages of transport system development, from initial concept through to implementation and appraisal.

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For further information on any of these projects or general information about TTR, please contact Cathy Plover at:

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VIVALDI Brings New Transport Solutions to Bristol



VIVALDI is a partnership of 5 European cities: Bristol, Bremen (above), Nantes, Aalborg and Kaunas.



TTR at the Forefront of European Transport Initiatives

Last month saw the start of the European Commission's 6th Framework Programme (FP6) for research and demonstration projects, covering major themes such as transport. FP6 runs until the end of 2006 and will cost • 3.6 billion. Past Framework Programmes have proved their ability to stimulate innovative transport schemes in UK cities and regions.

Since 1991, TTR's record of preparing successful proposals to the Commission on behalf of local authorities and PTEs is second to none. We have external links to a wide range of EU cities and regions and Eastern European partners for consortium formation. Examples of TTR's assistance to local authorities include multi-million euro grants to Bristol City for its VIVALDI (see right), PROGR•SS and CENTAUR initiatives, and to Merseytravel for its JUPITER and CATCH demonstrations.

In FP6 we aim to continue our excellent record, which keeps TTR at the forefront of European transport innovation. For further information, contact Dr Laurie Pickup on 01993 810780.

TTR has had a major success working with Bristol City Council to secure a large £3.5million demonstration project under the European Commission's CIVITAS programme.

The demonstration project, named VIVALDI (VIsionary & Vibrant Actions through Local transport Demonstration Initiatives), is a partnership of five European cities: Bristol, Bremen, Nantes, Aalborg, and Kaunas. Each city is demonstrating a range of innovative measures covering clean and efficient vehicles, access management and control, transport telematics and new mobility services. The Bristol team will be working to develop their city centre Clear Zone, implement

an integrated traffic and travel information centre, and collaborate with First Group to provide clean buses for the city. Bremen will develop a new hybrid tram concept, whilst Nantes will implement a fleet of 150 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses.

VIVALDI is being co-ordinated by Bristol City Council with support from TTR, who are also acting as the project's evaluation manager. The project which began earlier this year is due to run for 4 years. The lessons learnt from the five test sites will be recorded and disseminated to a wide audience.



Bristol's Clear Zone which incorporates The Centre will be further developed through CIVITAS funding

<http://www.ttr-ltd.com>

Helping Keep Young People in Education



Appropriate and good value transport services can help keep young people at their studies

For students aged 16-19 attending 6th form or further education colleges, transport needs to be available at the right times and the right price. While they do not have a great influence on the decision to attend further education courses at the end of compulsory education, convenient and good value services can help reduce the drop-out rate.

A four month study undertaken by TTR for Torbay Council employed interviews, questionnaire surveys, geographical and accessibility analysis to gain a better understanding of the factors that are important in education participation. TTR conducted face to face interviews with approximately 50 young people in Torbay and mailed questionnaires to 1,800. Some of these were in further education, some were in employment or training and some were not settled in any of these.

TTR made several recommendations on public transport routes and timings, student support arrangements and other potential improvements. The project was funded under the DfES Transport Development Pathfinder programme.

Rural Car Clubs on Trial

The Government's Rural White Paper sets targets for improving accessibility and social inclusion for rural communities in the UK. Since providing comprehensive public transport services is often neither very easy nor cost-effective in rural areas, the Countryside Agency is testing the concept of rural car clubs as just one means of reaching these targets.



The Agency has provided funding to develop and test up to 13 schemes across the country. The scheme is being managed by Carplus (the UK car club support network), in partnership with Sustrans and other organisations, and will be evaluated over the next two years by TTR. The study will consider the success of the schemes and their potential for further development. TTR will analyse a range of data including user profiles, travel patterns, operational information and scheme profiles which is currently being collected by Carplus, as well as additional background data (e.g. access to services) and stakeholder views.



Ashburton is home to one of the UK's first rural car clubs

TTR Assesses Support for New Bus Service in Oxfordshire

TTR recently completed a feasibility study on behalf of West Oxon and Vale of White Horse Rural Transport Partnerships for a new bus service to operate between Witney and Abingdon. There is currently no direct bus service operating between these towns to the west of Oxford and limited services for people wanting to travel from the surrounding rural villages into either town. The local community is heavily dependent on the private car, which causes particular problems for groups, such as young people, mothers with

children, older and disabled people.

The need for a public transport link was clearly demonstrated by the desk research and consultation work. The final recommended strategy was based on the provision of a quality service between Abingdon, Witney and the intermediate communities. Special attention was paid to improving the links between the 2 campuses of Abingdon-Witney College and enhancing the service for disadvantaged groups.

B&Q Launches Major Travel Plan Programme



B&Q's new store at Greenwich

TTR continues to expand its portfolio of travel plan clients by working with B&Q, the UK's most successful home improvement retailer, to draw up travel plans for 20 new store developments nationwide. For many years B&Q has been taking action to reduce the environmental impact of its operations and as a result is fully aware of the

need for sustainable development.

This project will involve quantifying the travel of employees to and from work, examining the impacts of these travel patterns and proposing a set of targeted

recommendations to encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport (i.e. walking, cycling, public transport, car sharing, etc). Each travel plan aims to enhance the commercial operation of the company, particularly where staff face car parking restrictions or relocation from an existing store is necessary.

TTR is also responsible for developing procedures to monitor and review the success of each plan over time. Once the travel plans for the new stores are operational, it is hoped that B&Q will continue to implement travel plans across all of its existing UK stores.



B&Q staff are at the centre of the new travel plan programme

INFORM Conference Hears First Results of Transport Direct Research

The introduction of Transport Direct, the government's visionary initiative for an internet-based system for multi-modal information, booking and payment, will be gradual but is achievable. Its success requires local authorities, operators and passenger transport executives to play a full and active role in delivering the vision. It will be their task to establish mechanisms to share and exchange data and to establish collective relationships; co-operation between networks such as INFORM, the Real Time

Information Group, ITS-UK and ITS0 will play an important role in this process.

This was the key message emerging from the 7th Annual INFORM Conference in Liverpool organised by TTR. More than 130 delegates attended the conference, which was hosted by Merseytravel and supported by the Department for Transport. The conference covered a wide range of topics, with sessions dedicated to Transport Direct market research

findings, smartcard developments, real-time information and technical visits.



The first day's discussion panel included (from left) Eric Sampson (DfT), Andy Wren (Hampshire County Council) and Neil Scales (Merseytravel and INFORM Chairman)

Review of Services for Older Drivers



Maintaining mobility is an issue for more and more older people

One of the consequences of the increasing age of the UK population is a rise in the number of older drivers on UK roads. With people living and staying healthier for longer, more and more of us are faced with making the difficult decision about whether it is wise and safe to continue driving.

The Department for Transport has commissioned a review of the information, advice and assessment services available to those making this

decision. The study, which is being carried out by TTR, is investigating how useful and accessible the existing services are to the end users, i.e. older drivers, and also the professionals, such as GPs, who also play a part in the decision-making process. The report will consider the effectiveness of these services in relation to the important principles of traffic safety and inclusive mobility, and users' attitudes towards them.