

Integration in Action



Urban Traffic Management and Control

Summer 2009 Newsletter

Message from the Chairman

Welcome to the Summer 2009 edition of the UTMC Newsletter.

Summer is traditionally supposed to be a quiet time, when people take a couple of weeks' well deserved break to re-energise themselves. Of course those of you who work in tourist towns and cities know it's not always like that! In the UDG too, Summer is a time of lots of activity.

Most notably, this is the time of year when our technical work shifts into high gear, collating new ideas and developments from industry, and turning them into a coherent update for the Technical Specification. You can expect a draft update to appear on the UTMC website towards the end of the summer break.

We're also working hard to put the 2009 Conference together. I know December seems a long way off, but it's always amazing how quickly it comes round. If you haven't got 10-11 December in your diaries yes, put it there now! The piece below gives you a brief peek at what you can expect.

What's more, UDG members have two free delegate places at the Conference, making it an even better value event for them. So if you haven't yet signed up as a member, why not find the few extra bob and take advantage of this?

*Simon Beasley
Chair, UTMC Development Group*

The annual UTMC conference for 2009 – add to your diaries now

UTMC Conference 2009, which will be held in Bristol on 10th and 11th December, is in full preparation. Invited speakers include Edgar Thielmann from EC DG TREN and Dr John Constable from the Renewable Energy Forum. The Highways Agency will present its work on Interurban TMC (I-UTMC) and there will be presentations from the City of York Council, Lancashire, West Midlands and Bristol on their recent achievements and plans using the UTMC framework.

Day 2 of the conference will feature two workshops – the first on “Specifying for Delivery”, followed by “Designing for Impact and Performance Measurement”. Two experienced panels are being assembled to provide insight and share their knowledge and experience. Day 2 will also include site visits.

Suppliers will have the opportunity to exhibit their services and products.

We look forward to see you in Bristol in December.

More information will be available soon on www.utmc.uk.com



UDG News

The UDG operates to guide the development of the UTMC initiative, and to assist users in the deployment of UTMC systems.

As ever, technical developments are led by the Specifications and Standards Group. Dave Stoner of Envitia has been appointed as the new S&SG chair, following on from Derek Renaud (TfL) who steps

down after some six years in the role. Dave will be known to many from his role in Kent County Council, and is therefore an excellent person to bring both public and private sector perspectives. S&SG's principal current task is to launch the next update of the Technical Specification, which will this year take a major step forward by the inclusion of XML protocols. Although XML has been *allowed* for several years, this is the first time that actual specifications have been included. This brings UTMC fully into line with other national and international frameworks, and will offer the potential to greatly simplify the structure of local authority systems.

Following on from this success, we are ramping up our work with colleagues in the Highways Agency, as well as public transport sector through our "sister group" RTIG-INFORM, towards a coherent UK framework. There are some clear priorities for action, including freight management, incident management and of course the urban-interurban boundary. These tasks, and others, will be incorporated into next year's business plan.

We have also launched a project to revise the guidance available to UTMC practitioners on system and operational security. The more integrated systems become, the more important it will be to ensure that they don't collapse when something goes wrong, and aren't open to abuse by hackers etc. This project, contracted to UDG members Mott Macdonald, is expected to report in the Autumn.

But UTMC is about more than just technical work. We have always recognised our responsibility to "spread the word" and to help practitioners in their understanding of the opportunities UTMC affords, through the Conference and (more recently) these newsletters. We have also regularly held topical workshops at which people can share their experiences, warts and all, which "help us to help you". This role is increasingly important, and we have now formalised this by establishing a Marketing and Member Services Group, under the chairmanship of Elaine Rodgers (Mott Macdonald). Elaine took a leading role in coordinating the UTMC presence at Traffex 09, and we are very grateful to her for taking on this task on a standing basis.

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The European agenda

As you may be aware, there are some significant activities happening in Europe at the moment, which will affect ITS across the continent.

There are two key streams of activity. The first is a formal consultation on a Communication from the European Commission on "A Sustainable Future for Transport: Towards an integrated, technology-led and user friendly system". This is a high level paper intended to inform policy development, and includes the following text:

"For promising technologies, the necessary framework conditions to introduce them commercially on the market have to be put in place by policy makers without giving undue advantage to any specific technology. This requires, in particular, setting open standards, ensuring interoperability, increasing R&D expenditures for technologies that are not yet mature for market application, defining a clear legal and regulatory framework – e.g. for liability and privacy issues – and promoting best practice examples."

We will be responding positively to this consultation, and indicating how UTMC can play its part in delivering this.

The second stream of activity is more worrying. The EC is at an advanced stage of drafting an "ITS Directive" which would, if voted in, become European law. This appears to be completely independent of the consultative action mentioned above. The UK Government's position on this – which seems to be shared with a number of other countries – is that legislation is unnecessary and inappropriate. Although this is not the subject of a public consultation, DfT is listening hard to the views of UK stakeholders, and we will ensure that the UTMC perspective is clearly presented and understood.

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Providing travel information: Sheffield workshop

The latest UTMC Workshop (and the first under our new operational structure) was held in Sheffield on 9 July, by courtesy of South Yorkshire PTE and in collaboration with RTIG-INFORM. The theme was "information across the modes".

Holding this workshop as a joint event led to a very lively session. Aside from the usual catch-up on the broader UK activity on ITS, we had presentations Tim Rivett (South Yorkshire PTE) to open the morning session and Darren Capes (City of York) to open up the afternoon session, covering the provision of multimodal information in a PTE context and a Unitary context respectively.

From a modal perspective, we had presentations from Jason Durk (ATOC) on rail passenger information; Gordon Robertson (Leeds) on information to road users; and Jonathan Shewell-Cooper (Atos and Transport Direct) on new challenges and directions for Transport Direct, including cycles. From a more technology focussed perspective we had presentations from Fraser Macdonald (Mott Macdonald) on integrated databases, and from Nigel Dilks and Roger Mathers (RSL) on kiosks. To sum up (inadequately) the many points that arose, there is a great deal of mileage to be achieved by joining up systems intelligently, and institutional barriers are often higher than technical barriers.
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Working Group News

The UTMC **ANPR Working Group** was formed following the ANPR and Journey Time Workshop held in November 2007. The remit was to develop an open protocol for use by ANPR cameras when connecting to UTMC systems as used by numerous authorities across the UK, with the goal of achieving interoperability between suppliers. Although the primary aim has been to provide standardized ANPR data for journey time systems, the scope of the protocol has been extended to include the provision of additional data (for example images) to satisfy Police requirements in the event that Local Authorities and the Police wish to share cameras. The group is focused on the development of data objects for inclusion as part of the UTMC Framework. Workshops have been held during 2009 with suppliers of ANPR equipment, UTMC Common Database Suppliers, integrators and customers to reach agreement on the content of the ANPR objects and determine how the objects are best integrated into the UTMC Framework. The outcome of these workshops has been a final set of documents that were submitted at the end of July to the UDG for inclusion into the UTMC framework. The ANPR protocol is one of the first to move away from the use of SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol) in order embrace the new direction which the UTMC is taking towards the use of XML web services.

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The **XML Working Group** reports that work on a new XML web service interface to the UTMC common database is progressing well and a stable working draft of an XML schema has been available since April. In May a new ANPR camera message was also added, reflecting the work of the ANPR group. XML is a very widely supported technology that is ideally suitable for connecting different systems together in a flexible self-describing - and "future proof" manner. The new UTMC XML interface is being trialled in the Freeflow project and has been based on the new UML model with addition of new objects. The UTMC XML service reuses the CEN SIRI communication framework for real-time web services, already used for real-time bus data; this approach allows suppliers and operators to reduce the cost and complexity of connecting systems together. The XML schema will be available on the UTMC web site shortly for public review, prior to its formal inclusion in the Technical Specification in the autumn.

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News from UTMC practitioners

Mott MacDonald appointed on UTMC study in Tyne and Wear

Mott MacDonald's transport technology services team has been appointed by the Tyne and Wear LTP partners* to help advance the implementation of an Urban Traffic Management and Control (UTMC) system for the Tyne and Wear region.

The UTMC project is the first step in a three-phase programme that will introduce a series of integrated solutions to improve air quality, traffic management, public transport passenger information and reduce congestion in the area covering Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland.

Mott MacDonald has been appointed to develop a vision document and strategic delivery plan for UTMC in the Tyne and Wear region. The scope of the project will also involve considering options to integrate with neighbouring authorities and the Highways Agency.

Colum Crawford, Mott MacDonald's project manager said, "We are delighted to be given the opportunity to continue our work with the Tyne and Wear LTP partners and demonstrate our long-term involvement in and commitment to ITS and UTMC, which can make a real difference to local communities and the environment." UTMC will form an important part of the overall transport strategy for the area, which aims to reduce current levels of congestion in compliance with the Traffic Management Act (2004) and enhance the local environment and community. Phase 1 of the UTMC project is due for completion by the end of August 2009.



Congestion on network links across the Tyne is just one example of the traffic management challenges in the area

** Tyne and Wear LTP partners are: Newcastle City Council, Gateshead Council, North Tyneside Council, South Tyneside Council, Sunderland City Council.*

www.transporttech.mottmac.com

The current UDG Management Group is as follows:

Chair

Simon Beasley, Reading BC

Local Authority Members

Adrian Gray, Hampshire CC (also represents CSS and TSG)
Hamilton Purdie, Glasgow CC (also represents Scotland)
Sunil Budhdeo, Notts CC
John Redmond, Warrington BC
Sue Westwood, Kent CC

Supplier Members

Glynn Hutton, VMS Ltd

Dave Stoner, Envitia

Paul Canning, Atkins

Other members

Spencer Palmer, DfT
Steve Harry, Cardiff Council (for Wales)
Brian Maxwell, Roads Service NI (for NI)
Andrew Wilson, Highways Agency
Jennie Martin, ITS(UK)

S&SG Chair

Dave Stoner, Envitia

M&MSG Chair

Elaine Rodgers, Mott Macdonald

The Management Group's next meeting is scheduled for 14 October 2009.

UTMC Calendar

22-25 September 2009 – UTMC exhibits and papers at the ITS World Congress, Stockholm

10-11 December 2009 – Annual UTMC Conference, Bristol

Contributions for future Newsletters

All UTMC related news are welcome for inclusion in future Newsletters. Please send your news to Jennie Martin at ITS United Kingdom, utmc@its-uk.org.uk

Contact details

For all administrative matters and enquiries please contact the Secretariat at secretariat@utmc.uk.com

Further information on UTMC activities and resources may be found on our website at www.utmc.uk.com

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