



## Identifying ITS Opportunities for the HA Pilots Newsletter: September 2009

### ■ ITS RADAR INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

This project is providing intelligence for the Highways Agency on ITS developments in Europe and around the world. It is carried out by TRL and AECOM on behalf of the HA. The project summarises key information for decision makers and practitioners on activities related to Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS). The project covers specific areas of key interest to the HA.

Regular newsletters are being produced, covering information which is in the public domain. For more information about the project and the services provided, the web site can be reached at: [www.highways.gov.uk/itsradar](http://www.highways.gov.uk/itsradar).

To contact us and let us know what you would like this project to deliver please email us at: [ITSRadarInternational@trl.co.uk](mailto:ITSRadarInternational@trl.co.uk)

### ■ ABOUT PILOTS

Developments in innovative pilot projects for ITS technologies and services from around the world are monitored and reported here.

These pilots are used to test and assess the potential and impacts of newly developed services before they are deployed for widespread use by the travelling public and those who manage the transport system.

Intelligence on such pilots supports the development of new systems and services in the Highways Agency and on the road network.

Note that pilots and demonstrations which are part of European Research Programmes can be found in the European Research Newsletter.

### ■ PROJECTS

#### **Positive feedback for HA technology**

Source: *Traffic Engineering and Control*, July 2009, pg. 305

The Highways Agency was recognised for the excellent performance of its ITS applications for traffic-related services. Traffic Radio was acknowledged as a major achievement at the October 2008 conference in Italy, of the EU's EasyWay programme. The Highways Agency Information Line (HAIL) received a global standard certification from the Customer Contact Association. The

Traffic Camera Service available on the Agency's website was found to be visited up to 100,000 times per hour.

Looking ahead, the Agency is planning to launch a number of trials during which transport authorities, with use of a web-based tool, will be able to visualise the Agency's Datex II feed in their traffic control centres.

Key words: Project, Traffic centre, Traffic information

## ■ NEWS

### **Freight sat-nav plan back on the cards**

Source: Surveyor, 9 July 2009, pg. 8

The Freight Transport Association and the Location and Timing Knowledge Transfer Network organised a workshop to resolve an issue of satellite navigation guidance through inappropriate roads. As a result, freight and technology companies are planning to provide a national advised freight route network for satellite navigation. Graeme Fitton, chair of the County Surveyors' Society transportation committee commented that the implementation of an action plan is a priority, but that it needed national coverage and strong central leadership.

Key words: Freight, geographic information

### **DRUM that is hard to beat**

Source: Surveyor, 2 July 2009, pg. 16

Overnight lane closures make it possible to carry out work when traffic levels are low, but the duration of the 'working window' is short, leading to reduced effective working time in any 24 hour period compared with daytime closures. Consequently, compared with daytime closures, the overall duration of the roadworks is longer and congestion is greater because the reduced speed limit is applied throughout the duration of the roadworks.

The Dynamic Roadspace Utilisation Manager (DRUM) is a combined software and hardware system, developed to identify the optimal length of roadworks windows in order to minimise congestion whilst works take place. Traffic volume data is gathered from portable radar traffic detectors, mounted on solar powered trailers.

Individuals can make informed decisions on the basis of data available from any Internet-connected device about when to close lanes without causing traffic delays. The system also offers "what if" simulation to predict delays for specific road closures.

The implementation of DRUM as a part of the M25 Dartford widening project was so successful that an identical system was used on the M25 in 2008.

For more information visit the [TRL web site](#).

Key words: Monitoring, Project, Traffic management

## The bright side of sitting in traffic: 'Crowdsourcing' road congestion data

Source: [googleblog](#)

Mobile phones are helping drivers to pass on information about traffic conditions in real time. Many GPS-enabled phones can already access the 'Google Maps for mobile' application which displays not only maps and routing information, but traffic on major highways.

A pilot project run by Google in the USA is filling in traffic information from traditional sources with data from Google Maps for mobile users. With the optional "my location" function switched on, the mobile phone transmits data back to Google. This is used to gather traffic information about arterial roads in cities where other sources of information are unavailable. Importantly, such transmission is voluntary and anonymous. When more people participate, the knowledge of live traffic condition from this 'crowdsourced' data is impressive and it is hoped that it could help to reduce congestion by discouraging travel at the busiest times.

In England, the Highways Agency already provide information to Google about their networks, which is available on Google Maps on smartphones. There is currently no information displayed for roads off the HA network.

Key words: Communications, Galileo, Geographic information, Traffic information

## Clean break

Source: ITS International, July/August 2009, pg. 39-41

Amsterdam City Council has decided to install an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system for ensuring that highly polluting goods vehicles do not enter the centre of the city (referred to as the environmental protection zone). The zone was introduced as pollution in the Amsterdam area was found to exceed the European standard. In addition, vehicles will be measured by a virtual loop technology - Loopless Trigger Radar (LTR) system. The contractor guaranteed that at least 95% of registration plates would be recorded by the cameras.

Key words: Enforcement, Environment, Freight, Identification

### ■ GLOSSARY

ANPR	Automatic Number Plate Recognition
DATEX II	DATA EXchange version 2 - standards for exchange of traffic information and traffic data in Europe
DRUM	Dynamic Roadspace Utilisation Manager
HAIL	Highways Agency Information Line
LTR	Loopless Trigger Radar

