



## Better transport through technology

### May 2012 Newsletter

**Welcome** to new Corporate Members [CA Traffic](#) and [Zhejiang SUPCON Ltd](#)

**Thank you to** Corporate Members **Newcastle University** for hosting our Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Working Group, and to Foundation Members **Logica** for hosting the 2012 AGM,

### ITS United Kingdom Calendar

<b>11 June</b>	<b>Smart Environment Interest Group - Updates on ITS and Carbon - Webinar</b>
<b>13 June</b>	<b>Inclusive Mobility Interest Group – ITS(UK), London E1</b>
<b>28 June</b>	<b>Public Transport Interest Group – Centro, Birmingham</b>

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## ITS United Kingdom News

### ITS United Kingdom re-elects Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2012/13

ITS United Kingdom, the Intelligent Transport Systems association for the UK, held its 2012 AGM as the guests of Logica in London on 17 May. Jeremy Evans, recently retired from Transport for London, and Sharon Kindleysides of Kapsch, were re-elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman for the second year of a two year term. The Directors of ITS (UK) for 2012 / 2013 are:

Technical Director . Dr Alan Stevens, TRL

International Director . Richard Harris, Xerox

Membership Director . Joanne Dodds, URS

Communications Director . Brian Fitzpatrick, EC Harris

Prof Eric Sampson of Newcastle University continues as Ambassador for ITS (UK).

Mike Schofield of MSA continues in the post of Immediate Past Chairman.

On being re-elected, Jeremy commented %has been an honour to serve as Chairman for the past year. We intend to continue to promote our capabilities as a source of expert comment and advice on ITS matters.+ Sharon said %am delighted to continue in my role as Vice-Chairman. The ITS industry is operating in increasingly challenging times and we need to continue to demonstrate to Government and Local Authorities that we can deliver Intelligent Mobility, cheaply, efficiently and with far reaching benefits+.



**The ITS (UK) Enforcement Interest Group** met as the guests of Atkins in Epsom and heard an interesting set of talks. Using technology to create more sophisticated and targeted car insurance products is back on the UK agenda and Sandy Dunn of Wunelli gave a talk on what they are doing in this field. Richard Talbott of Star Traq spoke about using the Cloud to deliver enforcement back office solutions, and Stephen Clark of Navtech Radar gave some interesting examples of illegal lane change and tail gating detection which his company is implementing eg. in Sweden. This sparked an email discussion of the possibilities or not of prosecuting tailgaters in various countries, more details about this available from ITS (UK).

Continuing the international theme, Pablo Moreno Gomez visited from Spain to present his enforcement proposal DEINTRA which is receiving good interest from Spanish authorities.

This was Graham Brain's (Serco) first EIG meeting as Honorary Secretary of the Enforcement Interest Group. Graham is hosting the next meeting at Serco in Stockton-on-Tees in July.

**The Local Authority / Urban and Smart Environment Interest Groups** organised a joint meeting at Arup's offices in London. The meeting was chaired by Nick Hodges of Newcastle University and Steve George of SGTI, and heard an interesting set of presentations, from a horizon-scanning talk on the future of urban mobility by Josef Hargrave of Arup, via the triumphs and disasters of a Transport for London trial of using Bluetooth to track pedestrians, to a practical talk on action planning for air quality in the North-East. There were %are you sure?+comments on the Arup vision for the future, and cruel laughter at the mishaps encountered in the Bluetooth trial, and a lively discussion overall. The presentations can be obtained via ITS (UK).

## News from ITS (UK) Members

### Road Safety

#### Highway Code app launched to improve road safety

One of Britain's most iconic publications is undergoing a digital revolution today as Transport Secretary, Justine Greening, marks the Highway Code's 81st year by launching it as an interactive app for smartphones.

The best-seller's technological transformation will make it even easier . . . and more fun . . . for road users to keep up to date with the rules of the road.

Much of the Highway Code's content has changed considerably since its launch in 1931. For example mirrors were not even mentioned in the first edition and drivers were advised to sound their horn when overtaking.

How road users access its content has also moved with the times. It is already free to read online, can be downloaded as an ebook and there are also [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts offering regular topical reminders.

Now a new app for the iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch will make it even easier to keep up to date with the rules of the road through a more intuitive, interactive format.

The new app includes the complete contents of the Highway Code with a search facility making it easy to find rules and information. There are also interactive features like quizzes, a stopping distance calculator and a tool to help users identify road signs.

The Official Highway Code app is available on [iTunes](#) for £3.99. The Highway Code is free to view online at [direct.gov.uk/highwaycode](http://direct.gov.uk/highwaycode).



### Public Transport

#### Eclipse Bus Rapid Transit Network launched

Phase one of the new Eclipse Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) busway, which connects Fareham and Gosport, officially launched on Wednesday 25 April. Serving both residential and business areas in Fareham, Gosport and the Gosport peninsula, the development of the BRT scheme has been designed to ensure that bus journeys are more punctual and reliable, avoiding the problems that can be created by traffic congestion.

The dedicated Eclipse BRT busway has been constructed between Redlands Lane and Tichborne Way using what was a former railway line. Its purpose is to enable buses to bypass normal traffic, travelling quickly and easily through a very congested part of the county.

A fleet of 14 brand new, high specification buses has been specially commissioned and will be operated by local transport provider First. This fleet will provide a dedicated, fast and frequent service on the Eclipse bus rapid transit network. Services E1 and E2 connect Fareham and Gosport providing regular travel opportunities for those wishing to get to and from the thriving shopping areas in each town, while also connecting with rail and ferry services and other bus services in the area, making it easy for people to interchange with other forms of transport. In addition Service 88, an existing bus route connecting the two towns, will also use the busway at peak times, avoiding the traffic congestion that can build up on the A32 approaching Fareham and helping to reduce journey times for peak time commuters.

Where Services E1 and E2 buses leave the dedicated busway and travel on-road, meeting normal traffic, the array of bus priority measures that have been put in place along the routes means that Eclipse buses can easily sail past other vehicles caught in traffic jams. This is particularly notable at the junctions between the A27 and Redlands Lane and the junction between the A32 and Tichborne Way.

The majority of funding for the busway came from a £20 million Government grant.

Bus users in Gosport and Fareham now have access to 14 brand new, specially designed buses, all complete with individual leather seats, wood effect flooring, free Wi-Fi, on-board infotainment screens

providing real time bus information, local train and ferry departures, and both audible and visual next stop bus announcements. More frequent services: buses will run up to every seven minutes along the busway, There are 14 brand new bus stops on the busway, with enhanced facilities for customers. They include large shelters, comfortable seating, plenty of lighting, real time information screens, CCTV for added security and additional measures to improve accessibility for disabled users for example blind and partially sighted bus users in possession of special key fobs (being provided by Hampshire County Council) will be able to access audio announcements at key bus stops on demand.

Secure 24/7 real-time CCTV monitored cycle parking is provided on the busway near the junctions of Redlands Lane, Palmerston Drive, Wych Lane and Tichborne Way, giving customers the option of cycling to and from BRT stops before using the Eclipse buses to complete their journeys. Notably cyclists can also use the busway themselves.

A dedicated website has been created to support the Eclipse BRT. This contains real time bus information for the services operating on the busway. It can be found at: [www.eclipsebus.co.uk](http://www.eclipsebus.co.uk)

### Underground updates added to Google Maps

Google has added real-time Transport for London Underground service alerts to its Maps tool. A person planning journey using Google Maps will now see live alerts and be presented with alternative routes when his or her trip is likely to be affected by problems on the Underground.

Commuters can also choose to view detailed service information for all routes passing through any given Underground station. Details of planned engineering works will also be included.

Travellers have been able to plan journeys using public transport using Google maps Get Directions function since July last year, but until now the data used to provide journey times came from Transport of London timetables. This meant that all estimated journey times were calculated using fixed figures, leaving users blind to delays or line closures affecting their chosen route.



## Traffic Management & UTM

### Government figures showing that by 2030 road use will have grown by 25-30 per cent, there is a pressing need to tackle congestion, pollution and road safety..

A summit on intelligent mobility hosted by the joint government/industry Automotive Council put these problems and the business opportunities at the top of the agenda.

The UK has a good track record in the development of new technologies and world-class specialist businesses and the summit focused on how to exploit this talent.

Automotive manufacturers, fleet operators, IT and communications specialists and infrastructure providers addressed the challenges of how congestion-busting solutions developed in the UK could help attract foreign investment as well as boost the UK economy.

Business Secretary and Co-Chair of the Automotive Council Vince Cable said:

Increasing road capacity while tackling congestion means we will need to be more intelligent in managing the road network and the vehicles that use it. Intelligent mobility could also benefit the economy allowing businesses to be more competitive, reducing logistics costs, giving more predictable journey times and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Achieving an intelligent mobility solution will need different sectors and disciplines working together. Today's summit has started that debate.

The Government is aiming to make the UK the technology hub of Europe. The establishment of the Transport Systems and Future Cities Catapult Centres will enable greater collaboration between world leading UK businesses, innovators and academics.

Transport Secretary Justine Greening said: Technology is changing rapidly and it's vital we move with it to develop an intelligent road transport strategy. Tackling congestion is a priority and technology will play its

part. It's important that individuals are able to tailor their journeys based on up-to-date information, making their journeys easier. Our focus is to support economic growth, reduce environmental impacts, and to

### Siemens - Check out Carlisle

Siemens is pleased to announce a winning order to provide a turnkey solution for the new Sainsbury's store in Carlisle. The Consultancy Services team provided junction designs for transport consultants Savell Bird and Axon which included the latest ELV technology and UTMC communications. The scheme includes the supply and install of two close coupled junctions capable of operating both MOVA and SCOOT.

### County invests in sustainable solution from Siemens

A major programme to upgrade traffic lights at 78 junctions and 100 pedestrian crossings across Norfolk with new energy-saving LED signals from Siemens is due for completion this month. The retrofit project to supply, install and maintain all 178 sites is estimated to provide up to 78% power consumption and carbon savings for Norfolk County Council (NCC). The new contract includes an innovative cost benefit payback solution provided by Siemens Financial Services.

According to NCC's Graham Harbord, Team Manager, Intelligent Transport Systems, all new traffic signal installations in Norfolk are equipped with Siemens Extra Low Voltage (ELV) controllers and the benefits extend beyond energy and carbon savings. Without the need to constantly replace lamps, maintenance costs are reduced and with no mains voltage on site every installation is safer. Overall, Norfolk will achieve significant long-term savings, taking into account the traffic management costs to provide and install the ELV equipment, the power and carbon savings as well as the cost to finance the project. Norfolk County Council worked alongside Siemens in identifying sites suitable for LED retrofit head replacement, the number of heads, the number and type of aspects and grouped the locations within the county so that a more efficient delivery programme could be agreed. This joined up approach will reduce the works period, reduces travel and therefore CO2 emissions while delivering the project, she said.



## TRL Publications

### The latest developments and the use of micro-simulation assessment by S Ball

This is an overview of the latest developments in Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), with a particular focus on applications relevant to micro-simulation, including autonomous/semi-autonomous driving technologies and co-operative systems. Furthermore, there is a review of several examples where micro-simulation has been used to assess the impacts of ITS. Many ITS applications are currently being deployed, or are being sought to be deployed, and some form of verification or testing is required to assess their impact. There are several different approaches for doing this, of which micro-simulation appears to be one of the most powerful methods in some cases. This document is intended to be read in parallel with the accompanying report. The purpose of these two documents is to provide a baseline understanding of the state-of-the-art in ITS and micro-simulation.



### New Publications from TRL

TRF006 Spare a thought for the Minister (2012) (Price £35)

To purchase, contact +44 (0) 1344 328039

## People News

### Easytrip Services Ireland Expands Car Park Sales Team

Easytrip, Ireland's largest provider of electronic tolling services has today announced the appointment of Cyril Escobar as Car Park Commercial Manager.

In his new role, Cyril will be responsible for developing Easytrip's Car Parking Division through acquisition of new car park partners, as well as driving the company's commercial strategy to grow the number of Easytrip tags on the market with the parking service. In addition, an element of his job will include responsibility for sales of Access Control products.

Cyril has been in sales for nine years, with more than five years' experience in the office products industry while working for Lyreco. Cyril spent three years in the parking industry as the Sales Manager for APCOA Parking Ireland, where he was in new business sales for their Private Sites Division. He has the French equivalent of a degree in Hotel Management from University of Blois in France and has been living in Ireland for 14 years.

Commenting on the appointment, Dermot MacEvilly, Chief Executive Officer of Easytrip said, "These are very exciting times for Easytrip. We are expanding the car parking side of our business and we are delighted to have Cyril on board to grow the number of new car parks with the Easytrip service and consequently our customers who use our tag for parking. Cyril's background in the car parking sector gives us a very strong position from which to build on our successes to date," he concluded.



## International News

**Our regular contribution from Professor Jianping Wu – [Update from ITS China](#)  
Contact – [jianpingwu@its-uk.org.uk](mailto:jianpingwu@its-uk.org.uk)**



### Bus Lanes to Ease Traffic Congestion in Ring Roads of Beijing

A number of lanes dedicated to buses will soon be available on urban expressways in Beijing this year, to relieve traffic jam during rush hours, and induce private car owners to choose using public transportation. Liu Xiaoming, Director of Transportation Committee of Beijing, commented on the new service during a radio show interview on May 2.

The third-ring road has long been known for congestion. The situations are very severe at certain sections of the Third Ring Road such as Liuliqiao, Lianhuaqiao and Guomaoqiao. It has been under study for some time to put bus lanes on the third-ring road.

A dedicated bus lane was put into use last May on the Jing-Tong Expressway, which connects the downtown area and Tong Zhou District of Beijing. A before and after comparison study has shown significant improvements on the average speeds of buses from an average 25 km/h increasing to 45 km/h. Liu said that the next dedicated bus lane will first be deployed at the Jing-kai Expressway, in order to improve the traffic from the South East Second Ring and Third Ring Road into the downtown area in order to reduce the travel time of bus users and the number of private cars into the downtown.

Beijing has also announced plans for dedicated bus lanes on the Fourth Ring Road to improve the efficiency of public transport. The Fourth Ring Road takes 2.63 million passengers daily, about 14% of the total bus passenger according to the statistics in Beijing Municipal Commission of Transport's official website.

"It's all about rearranging the road resources to encourage passengers to choose public transport more often," said Mr. Xu Kangming, a transportation expert and municipal government advisor. "It will take a while to take effect, and might lead to more congestion in some narrow road sections on the Ring Roads." Xu also said.

### Our regular contribution from Andrew Pickford – TTC

Update from ITS(UK) Hong Kong correspondent Contact – [andrewpickford@ttc-global.com](mailto:andrewpickford@ttc-global.com)



Overall, the market for ITS-based applications and services is rather buoyant and distributed throughout SE Asia, mainland China and Australia / New Zealand. Rapidly maturing application areas includes managed motorways, electronic toll collection, bus rapid transit schemes, passenger information, restrictive zone / cordon tolls / ERP, traffic control & surveillance, tunnel management and urban traffic control. There are many city-based projects and national ITS fora to ensure that local best practice is shared. Future updates will highlight some of these local initiatives and events.

In Hong Kong, the Traffic and Incident Management (TIM) System is taking shape with tenders invited in early 2013. This system aims to improve the management of traffic incidents and enhance the dissemination of traffic and transport information to the general public. More info at:

[http://www.td.gov.hk/en/transport\\_in\\_hong\\_kong/its/intelligent\\_transport\\_systems\\_strategy\\_review\\_and\\_traffic\\_and\\_incident\\_management\\_system/index.html](http://www.td.gov.hk/en/transport_in_hong_kong/its/intelligent_transport_systems_strategy_review_and_traffic_and_incident_management_system/index.html)

The 12<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific ITS Forum & Exhibition (16-18 April) attracted over 800 delegates, mostly from Malaysia and South East Asia. The event was hosted by range of public and private organisations in Malaysia, including the Ministry of Works, Malaysian Highway Authority and ITS Malaysia. Presentations should be available to download shortly from the conference website <http://www.itsasiapacific2012.com>

ITS Hong Kong is facilitating a local event that brings together Hong Kong government officials, local transport providers, consultants and academics at a seminar and roundtable ~~£~~Collection, Dissemination and Commercialisation of Real-Time Traffic and Public Transport Information on 30-May. More info at <http://www.itshk.org/events.html>. Check out ITS Hong Kong's new website also.

A recent training course in Nanchang (1.5 hours flying time NE of Hong Kong), co-sponsored by the Ministry of Finance, National Development and Reform Commission, the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility was well attended with over 200 delegates. This series of training programmes aims to stimulate urban transport policy development, capacity building and demonstration projects, including congestion charging. I had the opportunity to provide a training session on travel demand management to provincial government officials.

9th China Urban Intelligent Traffic Forum & ITS Expo 2012 (28-29-May) will be held in nearby Shenzhen. The forum will be co-located with the "2012 Shenzhen International Intelligent Transport Exhibition" and will host the "Top 30 China Intelligent Transport" award presentation. More info (in English) from here: <http://www.its-australia.com.au/events/38/the-9th-china-urban-intelligent-traffic-forum-its-expo-2012/>.

### Polish officers start using new camera detection equipment

Brand new photographic equipment which allows the record of many driver infringements has been purchased for Poland's Traffic Police. It allows for



example, taking photos from afar, which show whether the driver is wearing a seat belt or perhaps talking on the phone. It's the first equipment of this type to be used by the Polish Traffic Police. With this kind of devices police officers will be able to change the technique of



service, and move away from using binoculars. Now they'll be able

to sit inside a police car, place the equipment outside the car and record offences using laptop. Polish Police officers drew the idea of a solution based on similar equipment used by police in Norway, where they participated in the officer exchange within the LIFESAVER project. However, because in the Polish market there are no ready-made kits of this type, the last few months have been devoted to matching devices allowing for remote operation with a modern camera and laptop.



Sets are designed primarily to document the distance of non-compliant driver behaviour such as driving without a seat belt, talking on the phone, passing through red lights, transporting children without car seats, driving with no visible licence plate or validation sticker. According to statistics, most of these offences have recently become a real scourge. These documents will be so much easier, now that new equipment allows officers to record movies in high definition, then it's a quick overview to select the frame where the offence can best be seen.

One of the sets has been at work in Cieszyn, with a second in Katowice and a third one shown to the press. These new devices will be put to good use not only by traffic police but also during football matches, to document spectator behaviour. The picture quality is excellent, which greatly facilitates the work of the Police.

Although the ability to take good pictures for a long distance will be limited to days with good visibility, the traffic police plan to use these units in their daily work, at typical distances of between 50 and 150 metres.

With thanks to the TISPOL newsletter [www.tispol.org/](http://www.tispol.org/)



## Bound for the Caribbean



Siemens has been awarded a project to supply, install and commission a small fixed-time UTC system on the Caribbean island of San Andrés, a province of Colombia. Working alongside Siemens Colombia, the UTC system is expected to be installed in June. Siemens Colombia will install the fibre-optic network that will link the central system to the traffic controllers, which were installed along with UTMC OTUs by Siemens last year.



## 2016 ITS World Congress goes to Melbourne, Australia

At its 9 May meeting in Tokyo the ITS World Congress Board of Directors has confirmed that Intelligent Transport Systems Australia (ITS Australia) will host the 23rd ITS World Congress in Melbourne in October 2012.

ITS Australia President Brian Negus said it was a great honour for Australia to be selected as the host country and this will be an important landmark for ITS developments in Australia. "We are particularly pleased with the support shown by our ITS Asia Pacific region colleagues who assessed the World Congress bids and selected Australia at the ITS Asia Pacific World Congress Board Meeting in April 2012," said Brian Negus.

"We are also delighted with the enthusiasm of our World Congress ambassadors from across the globe, which added to our strong bid. We thank Michael Noblett, from the USA, Dr Young-Jun Moon, South Korea, Dr Jason Chang, Taiwan, Dr Hans-Joachim Schade, Germany and Christer Karlsson, Sweden. The advice of our international colleagues will continue to be a key part of our planning.

"The support of the Victorian Government was another critical element of Australia's strong bid. The theme for the 2016 event will be *ITS - enhancing liveable cities and communities*. Between 6,000 and 8,000 ITS professionals from around the world are expected to attend," said Brian Negus.



"Australia organised the successful 2001 ITS World Congress in Sydney. We will build on that experience, and with the collaboration of our international friends, Melbourne will host a 2016 World Congress to help all cities and communities to become more liveable," said Brian Negus.

### Strong warning on Cross Border Enforcement Directive

TISPOL welcomed the recent comments from European Commission Vice President and Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas that countries must uphold the 2013 deadline for implementation of the EU Directive on cross border enforcement.

Member states must uphold the 2013 deadline or risk facing infringement proceedings, Mr Kallas warned. No one is allowed to ignore this Directive.

TISPOL has long recognised the need for a simple, effective system of enforcement that would treat all European citizens equally, whether or not they are in their home country. The police task of enforcement is undermined when national laws are not respected by visitors. Although there are a number of bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements in place, they are frequently unable to deal with the increasingly complex cross-border problems posed by traffic offenders. TISPOL fully supports the Cross Border Enforcement Directive, which they consider to be an essential step to saving lives on Europe's roads and to provide fair treatment for all EU citizens.



### ITS Network Meetings, 26-27 April 2012, Copenhagen, Denmark

The Network of National ITS Associations were recently warmly welcomed by ITS Denmark and the City of Copenhagen for two days of stimulating presentations and discussions.

Several ITS (UK) Members participated. Jennie Martin, Secretary General of ITS (UK), currently chairs the Network.

The Workshop on the first day was very well attended with around 100 participants from Denmark and across Europe. The Workshop was held in the City of Copenhagen premises and consisted of three parallel workshops on:

- Door to Door Traffic - Road Pricing - Urban Traffic Management

Presentations in all sessions were given by speakers from both the private and public sectors. Within the session on Door to Door Traffic, the audience learnt about travel planning in Denmark, seamless mobility in the Czech Republic as well within multi-modal transport systems. In addition examples were given of spontaneous ridesharing and traffic monitoring. Participants in the session on Road Pricing heard about toll collection in the Czech



Republic, GPS truck tolling in Slovakia, the Danish approach to interoperable solutions as well as lessons learnt, issues relating to road pricing such as privacy and security and current trends and guidelines for the future. Finally in the Urban Traffic Management session, there were presentations on interoperability, historic and real time traffic data, Bluetooth data in addition to providing urban mobility solutions, cooperative systems, the view from the EU expert group and a platform for ITS and traffic signals in Copenhagen.

The presentations can be found at:

[http://itsdenmark.dk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=269%3Aafholdt-arsmode-2012&catid=35%3Anyt&Itemid=11&lang=da](http://itsdenmark.dk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=269%3Aafholdt-arsmode-2012&catid=35%3Anyt&Itemid=11&lang=da)

[http://itsdenmark.dk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=269%3Aafholdt-arsmode-2012&catid=35%3Anyt&Itemid=11&lang=da](http://itsdenmark.dk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=269%3Aafholdt-arsmode-2012&catid=35%3Anyt&Itemid=11&lang=da)

The Network Plenary meeting on the second day, also held at the City of Copenhagen premises, was well attended with 15 Network members present. During the meeting, the Chairman, Jennie Martin and Vice

Chairman, Norbert Handke were re-elected for another 2 year term in addition to Reinhard Pfliegl, elected to sit on the Coordination Committee. ITS Lithuania presented itself to the meeting and their membership of the Network was approved. The Network now has 27 members from across Europe. Discussions were held on the subject of potential participation in projects and possible activities to support the ITS Directive and it was agreed to establish a sub-committee to discuss these issues further. The next meeting will take place in Dublin, 8-9 November, kindly hosted by ITS Ireland.

### Additional 6,500 Car Parking Spaces for Easytrip Customers at Dublin Airport

Easytrip, Ireland's leading provider of electronic tolling payment services has announced that its customers can now avail of additional car parking spaces at QuickPark, Dublin Airport. Easytrip customers can drive into the QuickPark Dublin Airport facility from this month and avail of a "7euro per day parking rate.



Conveniently located right next to Dublin Airport, QuickPark operate a free 24 hour shuttle service that runs every five minutes, with a journey time of five minutes, direct to airport terminal buildings. Both short term and long term parking is available.

The introduction of these additional spaces at this great daily parking rate, can only be good news for our customers and potential customers alike, said Ciara O'Brien, general manager, Easytrip Services. Our tag holders do not need to pre book but simply drive up to the QuickPark Dublin Airport facility press the button to pay with their tag and park with ease in a secure, safe environment.

All other motorists who wish to add the parking service to their tag, even if it is not an Easytrip tag, can do so by checking out [www.easytrip.ie](http://www.easytrip.ie)

### One day courses at Newcastle University



**Traffic Interventions for Environmental Management**, 12 June 2012 - Fee £185  
(Discount: Book two places and get one half price)

**Air Quality and Health**, 13th June 2012 - Fee £185 (Discount: Book two places and get one half price)

The Air Quality related short courses are certified by the Institute of Air Quality Management and the material presented is right up-to-date and of top quality, as delegates at previous Air Quality courses have indicated in their feedback.

*"Excellent day; whilst very full, I felt that I enjoyed throughout and found it interesting and understandable"*

*"Really enjoyed the course. Presenters and content both excellent"*

*"The use of application to studies carried out by the University are helpful. It helps to see some of the concepts in practice"*

*"Very enjoyable, well delivered course and great accompanying materials"*

The training is delivered by Professor Margaret Bell and Dr Anil Namdeo, both experienced lecturers with academic and industrial experience. The courses offer a good mix of theoretical background with practical application of the theory, along with the hands-on experience of using some of the most advanced tools and techniques.

Booking and further information at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/cegs.cpd/transport/>

**For more information about any of the items in this Newsletter**

Contact [mailbox@its-uk.org.uk](mailto:mailbox@its-uk.org.uk)

**News from Members for inclusion in the June issue should be sent to**

[newsletter@its-uk.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@its-uk.org.uk)

## ITS to Support Blind Travellers

### Disability Bus Travel an App to Improve Journeying

By Robert Wilson-Hinds

I have a memory from my childhood of my parents having a row or at least getting very anxious before making a journey. They were pretty able-bodied but had three small children to cope with. So if able people get high over travelling, how must it be for people with little or no sight, especially if sight loss is new to them?

Moving on more than fifty years, I now run a small company, Screenreader.net which has developed an Android smartphone app to specifically aid nervous public transport users.

The app is currently called Safe & Sound. There are big bright buttons on the screen for those with a little sight and all the buttons can speak when touched. If you want a button to actually do something, you just keep your finger on it as if you had clicked it with the mouse pointer on a PC. So it's easy to use.



So how does it all work? There has rightly been a wish amongst the special needs community to have bus announcements but this is costly and challenging for some bus companies. The modern Android smartphone opens up the possibility for special needs users to have spoken and large print travel information in their hands, even if they can't see or read standard small text and icons.

We are looking for co-operation amongst bus operators and campaigning organisations throughout the UK to promote and support what we have created. Many or most people these days have a smartphone anyway so why not

have one which makes travel a pleasure and not an anxious experience. And from the bus company point of view, why not think about encouraging and promoting a solution which costs far less than installing public audio and visual information on all buses. This is how the travel experience might work:

Before leaving home: Switch on smartphone and alert carer you are on the way by sending a ready-made easy text (see above).

Walk to the bus stop: Knowing the time of the bus and precisely where you are (see right).

Boarding the bus; there is no need to worry the driver by asking him to put you off at a particular stop. Driver is busy and might even forget. The smartphone will keep telling you what stop you are at and you can relax and know when to get off.

Knowing where you are on the bus journey is a huge comfort, especially if you can't see out of the window. You will be reminded as you pass bus stops.

Knowing where to get off is a great relief. You will know when to press the bell prior to your stop. No need for the embarrassment of asking other passengers.

Your carer or family member knows where you are on your journey. At all stages of the journey, she or he knows your position and communication is a single button press away. If your carer has the same app on her Android phone, she



gets a map and the pin tells her exactly where you are (see above).

Knowing when your home bus is due when you have finished your shopping can ease the journey planning process. No need to hang about in the rain anxiously.

As you make your way home, you can be relaxed about where to get off. Good feelings and mental state mean less chance of leaving stuff on the bus etc.

People like me can't even be certain of their home bus stop or the street they are in, however familiar. How reassuring to know you are off at the right place: Even on a dark night for able people too. The best of drivers could unintentionally let you down.

When your carer knows you are safely home that is a double winner. Contact with carer bridges that dreadful gap between independent travel and planned safe journeys. Our families worry about us travelling too.

**An UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL FROM STEPHANIE WHO IS BLIND:**

I used Safe and Sound to tell me the nearest bus stops, and was delighted to find that as I was travelling along on the bus it kept announcing the next stop as I came to it without me having to do a thing+.

For further information Roger Wilson-Hinds can be contacted at [roger@screenreader.net](mailto:roger@screenreader.net)

For more information about the ITS (UK) Interest Group which considers the uses of ITS to support disabled and elderly travellers, the Inclusive Mobility Interest Group, contact [mailbox@its-uk.org.uk](mailto:mailbox@its-uk.org.uk)