

Scottish Freight and Logistics Advisory Group, Freight Scotland Refresh Sub-Group Meeting Held on 2 April 2012, 11.00am, Buchanan House

Present: Michael Cairns (Tactran)
Peter Cullen (Transport Scotland)
Caz Thomson (IBI Group)
Robert Boyter (Transport Scotland)

Apologies: Phil Flanders (Road Haulage Association)

The purpose of the meeting today was to consider what is needed from the Freight Scotland website.

Peter Cullen

- Opened the meeting giving a background to the Freight Scotland Website. Freight Scotland Website is stand alone website from Traffic Scotland in that it is a specialist website for the freight industry. Traffic Scotland website has moved on with new technology and been updated, whilst Freight Scotland has not. It was intended to update this a couple of years go, but budgetary concerns meant this was put on hold indefinitely.
- The idea of the freight website at inception was industry would take ownership and inform of changes needed or updates. Herein, lies the problem in that this has not been happening so there is a risk unless identified, information could still be on the website that it is out of date.
- Very much the website for Freight – therefore what you need to know and what needs to be included that is not at present. There is also the issue that any data or links that are included on the website need to be accurate and easy to find.
- Highlighted there is a new app available and with this app, there is the option to have freight information included. There is also a radio service available that is website based.
- At present he mentioned they are looking at freight covert alerts about individual incidents into voice. If users had an electronic device such as a smart phone this would alert them to incidents by voice and therefore be safer for drivers as this has been a concern for the freight associations in the past. A demo on this will be available shortly.
- Reported the colour coding for bridges is waiting to be done as well as police caution system. By pulling together live cameras, police advice, radio advice on the one page this would have a greater impact as all the information a driver needs would be in the one place.
- Pam had sent in a paper on timber routes already and he would add these to the website.

Caz Thomson

- The current website is using old javascript and therefore items such as the scrolling text are based on this. The website therefore is not ideal as it is reliant on this.

- Having an app that can work on a phone (web based) the Traffic Scotland app is a web based application that is device blind. Other smart phone apps require an application process to action any updates. By using a web based app means updates can be done easily and be married up relatively easy with other apps.

Michael Cairns

- The Regional Transport Partnership (RTP) maps would be available shortly. Contacts for the RTP's need to be updated and he will forward these details to Peter.
- Need to obtain various freight policy partnerships/forums contacts.
- Lorry route and Freight maps now exist so site should include a link to these?
- Details for drivers of port access routes would be helpful. He gave the example of Dundee port having specific entrances for heavy traffic otherwise this causes problems. He asked if it would be possible to have this available on the site.
- Winter resilience in particular in relation to issues around the strong winds of this winter being an example. Bridges were closed and as a result drivers were being diverted to alternative routes. This then caused the problem of drivers being out of hours and having to park up. This was an issue in the Stirling area. There is a resilience plan for snow, but not for incidents such as high winds. [Pam - thinks resilience plan covers all weather. Suggests that this should be checked with Hugh Gillies].
- Reported Tactran have recently done a survey of drivers. They found that some companies were often sending drivers out with minimal information such as addresses. Therefore these drivers were often using local networks to find out information. It would be beneficial therefore if we can get the information out to those ordinary drivers and not the owners or logistics managers.
- Thought that using the trade associations such as RHA and FTA would be vital in order to getting information out to drivers, but this would only be to those who were members of the associations.
- Suggestion of ScotFLAG would be the ideal forum to raise awareness. Information can be fed through those involved in this group of the app and also the freight Scotland website given this information is not getting through to those on the ground and likewise should anyone have any updates.
- Need to have more content from the freight associations.

Action points

- Get a note to Phil to see if there is anything needs to be amended or indeed added to the website.
- See if Pam has changes needed to the website, app and make contact with Chris Macrae.
- Check with Pam on the timber forum to see who has responsibility for this, to ensure that if there are any changes, these can be notified to Peter.
- Michael will send through contacts he has to Peter for the RTP's and FQP.