

TMfS Newsletter – December 2007

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Welcome to the second newsletter for the Transport Model for Scotland (TMfS). Over the remaining years of the commission, Transport Scotland, MVA Consultancy and David Simmonds Consultancy (DSC) will be releasing newsletters on a quarterly basis, providing an update on the progress of the commission

This newsletter reviews the milestones and developments in the commission from late September through until Christmas 2007.

User Engagement

2 October User Group Day

The third User Group Day of the TMfS commission was held on 2 October in the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh. We would like to extend our thanks to all the delegates who attended. Your input is vital in ensuring the on-going success of TMfS. Around 100 delegates attended from Transport Scotland, Scottish Government, Regional Transport Partnerships, Local Authorities, consultants and other interested parties.

The day itself had a strong focus on planning issues, which included presentations on TELMoS, the SPP17 Review and the mid-Census population forecasts from GROS. Feedback from the event gained from the 'Exit Questionnaire' returns was both useful and illuminating. Almost all delegates found the day to be either 'Quite Useful' or 'Very Useful' and the event was particularly well received by the planning fraternity. A [summary of the results](#) from the questionnaires can be found on the TMfS website.

In terms of future User Group Days, we aim to hold smaller events perhaps based along regional lines and will confirm the format for these events early in 2008, with a view to holding further events in the Spring.

Annual Report

The [first Annual Report](#) has now been published on both the TMfS and [Transport Scotland](#) websites. The report details the performance of the TMfS commission throughout its inaugural year and investigates key milestones and the value for money of TMfS. We would encourage you to read this document – or at least the Executive Summary for further information.



Other User Documentation

In the previous newsletter, we indicated that we would be publishing three additional documents relating to the use of the model:

- a 'Non-Technical Guide to TMfS';
- a 'Protocol for the Use of TMfS Report'; and
- a 'TMfS User Manual' (an update to the TMfS:05 document for TMfS:05A).

We will publish these documents in early 2008.

Model Development

TMfS:05a

At the time of publication of the last newsletter, we noted a new standard release version of TMfS, TMfS:05a would be released in Autumn 2007. TMfS:05a provides a representation of the transport network (including ferry services) in previously non-modelled areas of TMfS, most notably the Highlands and Argyll and Bute. The new model release also provides a number of 'quick win' benefits for all users, such as an enhanced accessibility modelling.

Should you be interested in using TMfS and/or its outputs for a suitable application, the [TMfS Model Request Form](#) is available on the TMfS Website.

TMfS:07 Development

The development of TMfS:07 commenced shortly after the User Group Day. TMfS:07 will represent a step change in the quality of data input to model development and a more significant change in the hierarchy of modelling capabilities with a national model being prepared that will be the basis for future, more detailed, regional models.

TMfS:07 national model will be based on the Voyager software platform and will incorporate a number of enhancements, including links to Traveline data, geo-rectification of the transport network and inclusion of a substantial amount of new travel data. For more information on enhancements throughout the TMfS commission, the [TMfS Enhancement Report Summary](#) document is available from the TMfS Library on the Website.

Data Collection

Data Collection Contract

Transport Scotland has commissioned an extensive data collection programme to inform the development of TMfS:07.

A number of data collection tasks have already been undertaken, including a number of new RSIs and bus surveys. The data collection programme will be continued over the coming months where additional data, including Park and Ride surveys will be undertaken.

Approved Planning Policy Inputs (APPI) Data Collection

David Simmonds Consultancy (DSC) are currently collecting updated planning data to feed into TELMoS:07. All Local Authorities/Structure Plan teams have had meetings with DSC throughout November and December 2007 and it is hoped that required planning data will be sent to the TMfS Team during January 2008.

Data from User Group Members

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who contributed data during our summer collection programme. We have had a varied, but still significant response for our request for transport and travel information to feed into the development of TMfS:07. We are currently cataloguing and checking these data to establish what data can provided added value to TMfS:07.

We would like to once again request that any organisation that has collected data in recent months to inform the TMfS Support Team. There are many opportunities for potential data sharing and synergies in data collection between TMfS and other studies.

Model Applications

A wide range of model applications are currently being undertaken using TMfS. TMfS is also being used more widely in planning circles as well as in its core transport field.

We would once again hope to have case studies of TMfS applications presented at forthcoming User Group Days.

In all, there is an increasing range and quantity of TMfS applications being undertaken and it is hoped that, as the model is developed through increasing application, the pool of users will continue to widen and the model will continue to evolve and improve.

Audit

The [audit of TELMoS:05](#) has now been completed – please refer to the audit document in the library section of the TMfS Website.

The audit of TMfS:05a is currently underway by Transport Scotland's Traffic and Transportation Advisor and Auditor (TTAA).

TMfS Website

The TMfS Website is undergoing continuing development and we would encourage you to visit the website regularly to check for new documentation that has been added.

The Website also contains a satisfaction questionnaire and we would appreciate if you could take a few moments to fill this in as it will assist in future development of this facility.

Commission Name Change

In light of comments from the User Group Day, we are currently considering a potential name change for the commission to make it more inclusive. Further discussions on this will take place in early 2008.

Any Other Queries?

If you have any other queries, please do not hesitate to contact the TMfS Support Team at TMfSupport@mvaconsultancy.com