

# TMfS Newsletter – July 2008

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Welcome to the fourth newsletter for the Transport Model for Scotland (TMfS). Over the remaining term 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 during the second quarter of 2008.

## **User Engagement**

### 4<sup>th</sup> TMfS User Group Day – 1 May 2008

The Fourth TMfS User Group Day was held in the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh on 1 May 2008. The event was heavily focused on planning and also provided updates on the development of TMfS:07 – the new national strategic model, due for release in Autumn 2008.

103 delegates attended the event and feedback from the day was very positive, with all delegates finding the event to be either 'Very Useful' or 'Quite Useful'. Importantly, there appears to be a growing awareness of the model and its capabilities in planning and other policy circles.

A new format for the day was also launched, with morning and afternoon plenary sessions coupled with an afternoon breakout session / workshop. The Exit Questionnaire results from the day suggest that this new format was well received by delegates, although there was a general recognition that there was not enough time for questions due to the busy schedule.

Transport Scotland, MVA and DSC are now scoping out options for the next User Group Day. It is anticipated that an event will be held in October 2008 to mark the launch of the new modelling suite, TMfS:07. However, Transport Scotland is looking to supplement this event with perhaps regional or themed days. In addition, we are looking into the possibility of hosting a 'technical' event in late 2008, targeted at those who use the model or may have an interest in using it.

In the meantime, we would be happy to hear any suggestions that you may have for future events.

Non-Technical Guide to TMfS and Protocol Report for TMfS

As part of our commitment to improving customer engagement, we are preparing a Non-Technical Guide to TMfS and Protocol Report for the use for TMfS. The Non-Technical Guide will provide a simplified introduction to transport modelling and the capabilities of TMfS/TELMoS. The document will be broken down into a number of sections and presented in a web based format. The Protocol Report will provide further information for users of TMfS and outline the protocols that should be followed when using the model and/or its data.

These documents are progressing and we plan to publish both of these reports towards the end of August 2008.

**Model Development**

The development of TMfS:07 is ongoing and we anticipate that the model will be released in Autumn 2008. TMfS:07 will have a new zone system that is more commensurate with its position as a national model and will also benefit from a significant package of enhancements, including new data and a geo-rectified network.

As mentioned in the April newsletter, Transport Scotland has commissioned the preparation of a TMfS sub-model for the Forth area to assist in the Replacement Forth Crossing Application of TMfS. A presentation referring to this model was given by Jacobs Consultancy at the User Group Day. Development work and data collection are ongoing and we expect the model to be completed within two months of the completion of TMfS:07.

**Annual Report**

As part of the TMfS user engagement programme, an Annual Report detailing the developments and performance of the TMfS Commission is published at each anniversary of the commission appointment. Work has begun on the Second Annual Report and key themes include:

- the contribution of TMfS towards realising the Scottish Government's Purpose;
- a review of various aspects of the TMfS Commission, including user engagement, project management, model development, data collection and model applications;
- a review of user feedback from year two;
- a qualitative and quantitative valuation of TMfS; and
- the identification of key tasks for the year ahead.

The Second Annual Report will be published in late 2008 after it is approved by the Transport Scotland Board.

**Model Applications**

A key theme running through the Annual Report is the widening range of projects in which TMfS is being used. While the model continues to be applied to a number of transport schemes and policies, such as the Forth Replacement Crossing and Perth Tay Crossing, it is being used more frequently in other areas. For example, TMfS is assuming a more central role in planning policy and has been involved in the assessment of the Lothian Development Plan and Glasgow City Plan II. In addition, the model is also being used in environmental themed applications such as the 50 Year CO<sub>2</sub> projections for the Scottish Government and City of Edinburgh Air Quality Study.

The 'TMfS Wider Use' section of this newsletter explores other policy areas with which a dialogue has been established.

### Data Collection

The April newsletter introduced some of the initial areas of data collection that had been undertaken by the appointed consultants. One new area of data collection since April has been the design, pilot and launch of a stated preference survey investigating people's willingness to car share.

While the window for collecting travel pattern data is now closed until September, we are investigating other areas of data collection that could be undertaken, such as parking audits and infrastructure reviews.

### TMfS Website

A range of documentation has been added to the TMfS Website since the last newsletter was published. This includes a new TMfS Brochure, a Foreword to the Non-Technical Guide to TMfS and the presentations and feedback from the 1 May User Group Day.

A wider review of the structure, layout and content of the website is expected to be carried out in late 2008.

### TMfS Wider Use

A concerted effort has been made to make the capabilities of TMfS more widely known, with a strong focus on how it can contribute to other policy areas. A full review of these commission liaisons will be brought forward in the Annual Report. Nonetheless, it is useful to provide a brief overview in this newsletter. Examples of such commission liaisons include:

- greater engagement with the planning sector, as can be seen by the inclusion of TMfS as a recommended tool for planning assessments in the SPP17 Review;
- initial discussions with the Scottish Government Health and Wellbeing Department to explore potential links between TMfS and property and capital planning within NHS Scotland;
- discussions with the Transport Scotland Concessionary Fares Team regarding joint working on data collection;
- discussions with the General Register Office for Scotland on demographic forecasts and possible joint working; and
- joint working with Scottish Water to investigate the possibility of coordinating planning data collection and processing.

**Model Use**

We would like to remind all prospective model users that a TMfS Model Request Form must be submitted for consideration before the model and/or its data can be released for use. It is also a condition of this process that users fill in a TMfS User Satisfaction Form upon completion of their application. We would like to re-emphasise this point as we are seeking as much feedback as possible to contribute towards the Second Annual Report. A copy of these forms is available for download on the TMfS Website.

**Any Other Queries?**

If you have any other queries, please do not hesitate to contact the TMfS Support Team at [TMfSsupport@mvaconsultancy.com](mailto:TMfSsupport@mvaconsultancy.com)

