

TMfS Newsletter – October 2008

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Welcome to the fifth newsletter for the Transport Model for Scotland (TMfS). These newsletters are published on a quarterly basis, providing an update on the progress of the Commission.

This newsletter reviews the milestones and developments in the Commission between July and October 2008.

User Engagement

5th TMfS User Group Day – 6 November 2008

The 5th TMfS User Group Day will be held on 6 November in the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh. The aim of this User Group Day will be threefold:

- to introduce an important evolution in the focus of the TMfS Commission;
- to present the updated Transport and Land Use modelling capability (TMfS:07 and TELMoS:07); and
- to discuss the modernisation of the planning agenda.

Invitations to the day have recently been issued and we would like to take this opportunity to remind you about the event. The proposed speakers for the day are as follows:

Morning Plenary

- **David Anderson / Hugh Gillies (Transport Scotland):** Introduction and Welcome
- **Kevin Lumsden (MVA Consultancy):** Overview of the TMfS Commission and the new TMfS:07 Modelling Capability;
- **David Simmonds (David Simmonds Consultancy):** Improvements in the Land Use Modelling Capability – TELMoS:07
- **Boris Johansson (SIAS):** Audit of TMfS:07 and TELMoS:07

Afternoon Plenary

- **Alison Irvine (Transport Scotland):** Transport Scotland's Role in Development Planning
- **MVA Consultancy Speaker 1 (TBC):** Operational Analysis and Standard Data
- **MVA Consultancy Speaker 2 (TBC):** Environmental and Economic Analysis

- **MVA Consultancy Speaker 3 (TBC):** Regional Models and Data Exchange
- **Jana Haspicova (MVA Consultancy):** Website / Non-Technical Guide walk through
- **Hugh Gillies (Transport Scotland):** Summary and Close

We would strongly encourage you to attend this event as it will provide an important update on the development of TMfS and the direction of transport and planning in Scotland more generally.

Annual Report

The 2008 Annual Report will be published in the near future. The report assesses how the Commission has performed against its twin aims of **customer engagement** and **technical excellence**. In addition, this key document reflects on how far TMfS has contributed towards delivering the overarching **Purpose of the Scottish Government**. Areas covered include user engagement, project management, data collection and model applications. The report also attempts to qualitatively and quantitatively value TMfS related developments during 2008.

Headline outcomes from the Annual Report will be discussed at the User Group Day on 6 November.

Non-Technical Guide for the Use of TMfS / TELMoS

The Non Technical Guide for the Use of TMfS / TELMoS was recently published on the TMfS Website and can be found [here](#). The Guide provides a simplified introduction to transport modelling and the capabilities of TMfS/TELMoS and can potentially assist both first time and more regular users of the modelling capability.

A walkthrough of the Non-Technical Guide will be provided at the User Group Day.

Protocol for the use of TMfS Report

The Protocol for the use of TMfS Report will be published immediately after the forthcoming User Group Day. The report will explain how to apply for the use of TMfS and outline the protocols that should be followed when using the model and/or its data.

Model Development

The new national transport and land-use modelling suite (TMfS:07 / TELMoS:07) was completed in Autumn 2008. The modelling suite is now being calibrated and validated and will be introduced at the 6 November User Group Day. Thereafter, it will become the standard release version of TMfS.

The Forth Regional Model is also progressing and is expected to be complete in mid-Autumn 2008.

Model Applications

A range of TMfS applications are ongoing and, as noted in the previous newsletter, there is an encouraging trend of TMfS becoming involved in a wider range of policy areas. The TMfS Team is very keen to encourage the expanding use of the model as it is a unique tool that can make important contributions to a variety of studies.

The expanding focus of the Commission will be discussed in more detail at the User Group Day.

Data Collection

The Data Collection Consultants are set to embark upon the next phase of data collection. The focus of this wave of collection will be on obtaining additional validation data for TMfS:07 and exploring new areas of collection, such as collecting robust ferry data.

TMfS Website

The TMfS Website will be undergoing a general refresh over the next month in line with wider developments in the Commission. Important improvements will include an updated GIS section and the publication of the Protocol Report.

TMfS Wider Use

A concerted effort has been made to market the capabilities of TMfS more widely, 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:

- ongoing support for the modernisation of the planning agenda;
- working with Local Authorities, Structure Plan Teams and Scottish Water to coordinate the sharing of planning data;
- ongoing support for the Scottish Government in developing its climate change work;
- a meeting with key agencies to discuss the means by which TMfS can support policy in their area; and
- ongoing liaisons with the General Register Office for Scotland with regards to population and demographic forecasting.

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 [here](#).

Any Other Queries?

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