



New Technology for Transport

INTRODUCTION

This leaflet is one of a series of documents from the ITS Assist Project, and introduces the project. ITS Assist is a Department for Transport (DfT) initiative that aims to encourage and promote the use of ITS solutions to achieve Local Transport Policy Objectives.

The Project provides advice, guidance and information to local authorities on development and deployment of Intelligent Transport System solutions. As part of this process, a series of Advisory Leaflets and Notes as well as Technical Papers have been produced. The documents will be available via the Internet, and on request from the DfT or the ITS Assist Team.





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BACKGROUND

Although significant investment has already been made into the research and development of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) at the local level, their deployment within the UK remains disappointingly low. Use of new technology could help local authorities deliver benefits in the form of improved quality, safety and efficiency of their local transport networks.

ITS Assist addresses this issue by taking a pro-active role in encouraging UK local authorities to investigate the use of ITS solutions.

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

Typically, Intelligent Transport Systems combine data collection, processing and storage modules to provide travel information and traffic management services from one or more organisations. The services can be provided through stand-alone systems or as part of a package of measures (including traditional traffic management techniques) to implement transport strategies or treat specific problems.

Examples of ITS frequently deployed on local roads in towns and cities include:

- Urban Traffic Control – a system to better manage use of the road network by co-ordinated traffic signal timings
- Car Park Management – the use of electronic roadside signs to help drivers find vacant parking spaces quickly which helps to reduce traffic congestion
- Bus Priority – a method to reduce the journey time of late running buses by changing traffic signals in their favour
- Travel Information – providing the public with accurate information to help them plan their journeys, or alter their plans should an incident occur.

The deployment and effective operation of such services enable local authorities to support delivery of a wide range of local transport policies.

ITS AND TRANSPORT POLICY

The Department for Transport's "Transport 2010; The 10 Year Plan" states, - "Our vision for

transport in this country is for a modern, safe, high quality network that better meets people's needs and offers more choice to individuals, families, communities and businesses.

This vision will be achieved in partnership with local authorities and the private sector. It will result in transport strategies that tackle issues of safety, congestion and pollution, and by improving the quality and choice available for all modes of transport. These strategies will also include the provision of integrated transport solutions and make better use of existing transport infrastructure."

Intelligent Transport Systems represent a set of tools that can help achieve the above aims and the 10 Year Plan emphasises DfT's commitment to encouraging the exploitation of emerging transport technologies, including ITS solutions. Whilst ITS Assist is focused on local authorities, DfT carries out a wide range of policy and deployment work to support its transport technology aims more generally. You can find out more from the DfT contact point at the end of this leaflet.



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provided in understanding the key issues for:

- developing local implementations
- institutional and organisational requirements for ongoing operations
- funding and partnerships, and
- integration with existing equipment.

The ITS Assist project is also holding regional events to allow local authority decision makers and technical experts to meet and discuss common issues and to spread good practice. The project is also working hand-in-hand with the DfT's Urban Traffic Management and Control (UTMC) programme providing a conduit for disseminating the findings of the UTMC demonstration projects.

In addition, authorities can request visits from members of the project team for either an informal meeting to discuss ITS in relation to the Authority's transport objectives, or for the team to provide a more formal seminar/workshop tailored to the requirements of the Authority.

SUPPORT PROVIDED BY ITS ASSIST

ITS assist can help authorities identify appropriate ITS solutions to their problems and help them address such practical issues as integration of new and existing systems and methods of procurement. This is being achieved by collecting and disseminating information and guidance about ITS. The information is based on current research and emerging good practice, and on the experience and knowledge of other authorities that have deployed ITS. A proactive approach has been adopted that readily enables authorities new to ITS to gain from that knowledge base.

Authorities can access information from:

- Leaflets
- A web site (www.its-assist.org.uk)
- An e-mail newswire service
- A help desk, and
- Seminars

This is the first of a series of leaflets providing information about various aspects of ITS deployment, as well as the technology itself, in an easily understood format.

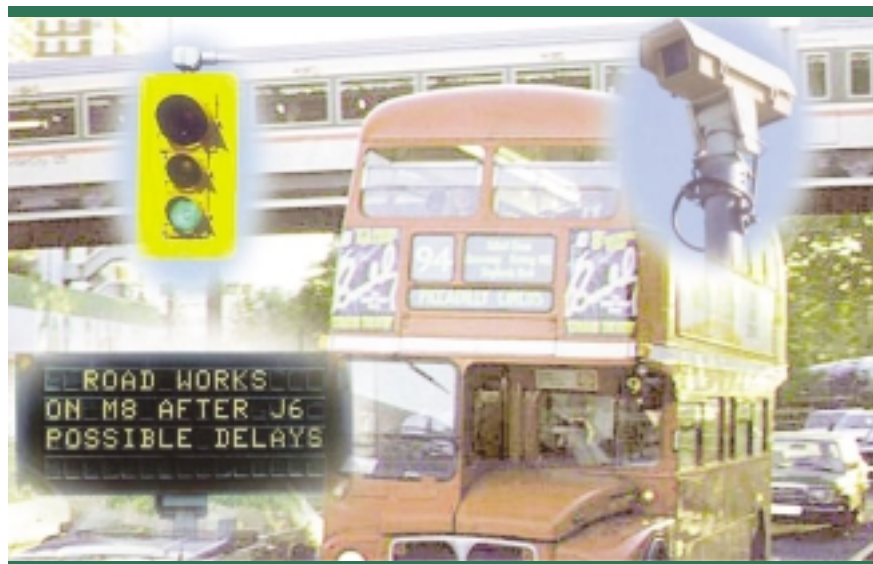
The web site provides a wealth of information about ITS as well an extensive library of links to other ITS related sites.

Anyone can register for the newswire service via the web site (click on the news button on the home page) or by contacting the help desk – contact details are given at the end of this leaflet.

The help desk provides simple, structured support and guidance on a wide range of topics in non-technical language. Help can be



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CONSULTATION

The Project Team has closely consulted with a number of organisations including:

CSS (www.cssnet.org.uk)

Institution of Highways & Transportation (www.iht.org)

ITS-United Kingdom (www.its-focus.org.uk).

We gratefully acknowledge their contribution and advice. We also thank the many local authority officers and others who have contributed their time and experience to the project.

REFERENCES

Transport 2010; The 10 Year Plan.
The Department of Transport Local Government and the Regions, July 2000.

CONTACTS

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Fax: 0121 262 1999
Email: assist.info@fabermaunsell.com

www.its-assist.org.uk

To find out more about the wide range of ITS-related initiatives and projects supported by DfT, and the development of ITS policies to encourage and promote greater deployment of ITS, please contact the Department for Transport at: its@dft.gsi.gov.uk

DfT WEBSITE www.dft.gov.uk

Details of Traffic Advisory Leaflets available on the DfT website can be accessed as follows:

From the DfT homepage, click on the Local Transport icon and then on Traffic Advisory Leaflets.
Lastly, click on one of the themes to view material.

The Department for Transport sponsors a wide range of research into traffic management issues. The results published in Traffic Advisory Leaflets are applicable to England, Wales and Scotland. Attention is drawn to variations in statutory provisions or administrative practices between the countries.

The Traffic Advisory Unit (TAU) is a multi-disciplinary group working within the Department for Transport. The TAU seeks to promote the most effective traffic management and parking techniques for the benefit, safety and convenience of all road users.

Department for Transport

Requests for unpriced TAU publications to:
Charging and Local Transport Division,
Zone 3/23, Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DR.
Telephone 020 7944 2478
e-mail: tal@dotditm3.demon.co.uk

Scottish Executive

Within Scotland enquiries should be made to:
Neil Weston, Scottish Executive, Development
Department, Transport Division 3, Zone 2-F,
Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ,
Telephone 0131 244 0847
e-mail: neil.weston@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Llywodrath Cynulliad Cymru Welsh Assembly Government

Within Wales, enquiries should be made to:
Welsh Assembly Government,
Transport Directorate, 2nd Floor, Cathays Park,
Cardiff, CF10 3NQ
Telephone 029 2082 5111
e-mail: cone@wales.gsi.gov.uk



Cycling



Traffic
Management



Walking



Bus Priority
Systems



Parking



Signs and
Signals



Intelligent
Transport Systems