

# Integration in Action



## Spring 2010 Newsletter

### Message from the Chairman

As I write this, there is a slight air of unreality about the world. There is a General Election coming up, which at any time feels like a held breath. This year, however, we also have (whoever wins) the prospect of dramatic but unclear public expenditure reductions. We also have a political landscape that is less clear than it has been for decades. With this background you might expect us to be a bit nervous about the future of UTMC. So you might be surprised that we are quite optimistic.

Why? Well, for one thing, UTMC is (and always has been) policy neutral. We began under a government of one colour and flourished under a different colour. Our aim is to get things working smoothly together, creating an active and innovative market, and reducing costs and risks: most parties would support that.

Secondly, technology isn't going away: if anything it is more "core" and "business critical" than ever. It offers major potential benefits but changes rapidly. In this context, if UTMC didn't already exist, we'd have to invent it.

Finally, it's practical. We're supported by real users' business requirements, and real suppliers' technical skills, so what comes out of UTMC is genuinely do-able. It's relatively cheap and quick – so we can help kick-start the economy in the next year or two, when major infrastructure projects will still be on the drawing board (physically and financially). And because of the focus on interoperability, it doesn't require one huge national roll-out: it can be built up locally, as needs and funding allow.

So cheer up! The future remains bright.

*Simon Beasley*  
*Chair, UTMC Development Group*

## HA's Support for UTMC

The UDG starts the new financial year with the Highways Agency (HA) taking over the responsibility for government funding of UTMC from DfT. The HA has made it clear, at the past three UTMC conferences, that it wishes to adopt the UTMC framework for its ITS Open Platform – statements that have been overwhelmingly welcomed by the wider UTMC community. DfT remains a supporter of UTMC, of course, and continues to play an active part in the Management Group.

The HA's requirements, however, will provide further challenges for UTMC to meet – the need for real-time command and control systems, larger and more asset databases and communication between traffic control centres spread across the whole of England. Robert Castleman, the Director of HA Traffic Technology Division, is confident that UTMC, which has proven so successful for local authorities, will do the same for the strategic road network. He does not underestimate the challenges ahead for UTMC and the need to both contribute to and align with the EU ITS Action Plan and evolving standards such as DATEX II, and take in new applications such as Cooperative Vehicle Systems (CVS). "The HA is keen to play its full part to make UTMC a "unified" open multi-modal ITS framework and the support for the UDG demonstrates our commitment" says Robert.

## UDG News

We've just elected the Management Group for the new year, and (re-)appointed the chairs of the standing groups. The focus now is back on delivering value to the UTMC community through improving the Specification and, through an active outreach programme, getting it effectively understood and deployed.

The main event in the UTMC calendar, as ever, will be our Annual Conference just before Christmas. In the meantime we will be holding some smaller scale events. The majority of these will be working group meetings on specific technical topics, coordinated by S&SG. However we are also looking to have at least one more accessible workshop, in the summer, on the theme of data sharing, probably in cooperation with Trafficlink. This workshop will be free to UDG members: if you'd like to come along, please let us know.

## The 2010 UTMC Conference – add to your diaries now

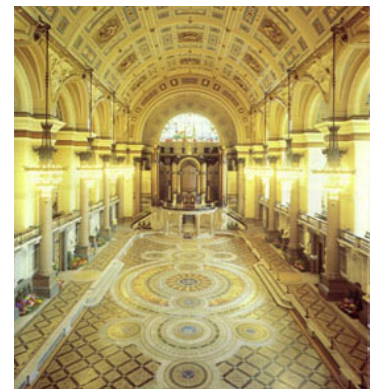
The 2009 conference in Bristol does not seem a long time ago (it was only 4 months ago) and preparations are in place for this year's conference. Following visits and meetings, it can now be confirmed that the 2010 conference will take place on **Tues. 7<sup>th</sup> and Wed. 8<sup>th</sup> December** in Liverpool.



**Concert Hall**

The conference will be held at St George's Hall close to Liverpool Lime Street station. The venue provides excellent facilities in an amazing setting as pictures of the Concert Hall (main conference) and the Great Hall (exhibition) show. Conference dinner will be at another landmark venue which is the Town Hall.

To all UTMC existing and future implementers and suppliers: please pencil the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December in your diary. The UDG in association with Liverpool City Council and 2020 Liverpool look forward to welcome you to Liverpool.



**Great Hall**

## Technical developments

The core of UTMC is of course its Technical Specification. The latest version was formally launched at the Conference in December 2009, with a minor update in March 2010. As well as an expansion to include new functionality in ANPR, this update took the major step of presenting a "definitive" XML schema for UTMC data exchange. This is a major step towards alignment with colleagues in other operational contexts. We'd like to thank all those involved in these improvements.

Slightly less technically, we have also launched a series of "Guidance Notes", in the form of the UTMC-TR series of documents. These are at present accessible to UDG members only. The major development here is the completion of the security review project, conducted by Mott Macdonald on our behalf; this is available to members now to work with, and in the fullness of time we expect to adopt it as a TR.

The next round of work is expected to lead to another annual update in December. Ramp metering is a likely inclusion in this. In addition there are a number of other activities being kicked off which are unlikely to deliver in time for this year: a Working Group on tunnel control systems, an initiative on environmental data (perhaps building on the MESSAGE project), and a more focussed piece of work on public transport integration.

Separately, but potentially equally importantly, we are looking more strategically at the UTMC technical framework. The rapidly-strengthening link with the Highways Agency will be invaluable here, as we seek to ensure that UTMC aligns with projects like INM (Integrated Network Management) and the HA Enterprise Architecture, HA-LA links and the DLOA process, and links to European frameworks (especially DATEX II). We are in active discussion with the Agency about these aspects.

## UTMC and the TIH

UTMC has its history in the urban and local context, from its origin as a DfT research programme. The history of the Travel Information Highway (TIH) is in the interurban and wider context of business-to-business transport data exchange; beginning about the same time as UTMC, it has a large community of interest and has been active in facilitating links between the Highways Agency and local authorities.

It has been clear for several years that the worlds of UTMC and TIH overlap considerably. After extensive multilateral discussions, the UDG Management Group has agreed to take the next logical step, with the aim of moving the two operations towards a single combined management structure. This will enable a more coherent and wide ranging service to be provided to the UK transport community, as well as providing a stronger voice to engage in international activity.

While this move is agreed in principle by the management groups of both UTMC and TIH, and supported by central and devolved Government, there is inevitably detailed work to be done to achieve a smooth merger. For the current business year, therefore, UTMC and TIH will remain separate bodies, though with strong mutual representation. A unified constitution and membership structure will be agreed, as well as a streamlined programme of work and service offerings. The target date for the formal unification is 1 April 2011.

This will of course need the formal approval of members, and assuming that preparations go well during the year, a vote with supporting paper will be put to members at AGM in March 2011. In the meantime, tactical steps are being taken to exploit the closer cooperation. Specifically, the TIH Chair has been invited to participate in UDG outreach activities, including planning for the Annual Conference; conversely, at the technical level, the forum brought together under TIH to represent UK links with the European DATEX II project and standards has been taken into the UDG's Specifications and Standards Group, and it is anticipated that a technical workshop will be set up shortly for this forum.

## News from UTMC practitioners

### **Mott MacDonald is currently delivering a new UTMC system in Inverness for the Highland Council**

Inverness, like all growing cities, faces problems of increasing traffic volumes and congestion. In order to address this, the Highland Council have decided to adopt UTMC and, specifically Mott MacDonald's UTMC solution, **cdmf** (Common Data Management Facility). Implementing **cdmf** will also help address many of the Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) objectives in reducing congestion, improving journey times and supporting modal shift.

The Highland **cdmf** will comprise a rich set of management and control functionality accessed through the map-based **cdmf** client, the Common Data Viewer (CDV). Using the CDV, Highland Council operators will be able to manage assets, events and faults; to monitor equipment status, traffic conditions and car park status; and to establish strategies to react automatically to specific traffic conditions.

The Highland **cdmf** will integrate with the existing UTC and RMS systems, providing a single point of entry for network management. The UTMC system will also take a feed of RTP1 data via a SIRI interface and use this as a source of journey time information for presentation on the CDV.

In order to address HITRANS objectives, a key requirement of this UTMC system is to disseminate traffic and travel information to other organisations and the general public. The system addresses this in two ways.

Firstly, a data export utility will be provided. This will allow other organisations to easily access data collated by the **cdmf** over the internet in real-time, including incidents, accidents and car park spaces. Secondly, a traffic and travel information web site, utilising Google maps for geographic presentation of data, will be provided. The website will have **cdmf** at its core and will present both static and dynamic data to assist the travelling public. Initially the highland traffic and travel web site aims to present information on:

- Key incident, accident, roadworks and events
- Latest travel news
- Car park information
- Bus stops and bus departure information
- Journey planner
- Links to other key travel web sites

Dissemination of accurate information will allow smarter travel choices to be made and in turn yield benefits to the environment, reduce congestion and improve road safety.

## The UDG Management Group

The annual election for the UDG Management Group took place during February-March 2010. At its first working meeting on 21 April 2010, in accordance with its Constitution, the MG elected its chair and agreed other attendance. The MG composition is currently as follows:

### Chair

Simon Beasley, Reading BC

### Local Authority Members

Hamilton Purdie, Glasgow CC (also represents Scotland)  
Richard Sykes, Hampshire CC  
Sue Westwood, Kent CC  
Sunil Budhdeo, Nottingham CC  
John Redmond, Warrington BC

### Supplier Members

Gareth Tilley, Atkins  
Dave Stoner, Envitia  
Elaine Rodgers, Mott Macdonald

### Other members

Spencer Palmer, DfT  
Paul Thomas, Cardiff County Council (for Wales)  
Brian Maxwell, Roads Service NI (for NI)  
Andrew Wilson, Highways Agency  
Damian Morris, DATEX  
Steve George, TIH

### S&SG Chair

Dave Stoner, Envitia

### M&MSG Chair

Elaine Rodgers, Mott Macdonald

The Management Group's next meeting is scheduled for 14 July 2010.

## 2010 UTMC Calendar

25-27 May - RTIC 2010  
2 June - Joint Chairs Group  
9 June - UDG S&SG (teleconference)  
early July - Workshop – data exchange  
14 July - UDG Management Group  
7-8 December - Annual UTMC Conference, Liverpool

## Contact details

All UTMC related news are welcome for inclusion in future Newsletters. Please send your news to Jennie Martin at ITS United Kingdom, [utmc@its-uk.org.uk](mailto:utmc@its-uk.org.uk)

For all administrative matters and enquiries please contact the Secretariat at [secretariat@utmc.uk.com](mailto:secretariat@utmc.uk.com)

Further information on UTMC activities and resources may be found on our website at [www.utmc.uk.com](http://www.utmc.uk.com)