

# Integration in Action



## Conference 2009 Newsletter – December 2009

### Message from the Chairman

UTMC is, without doubt, one of the UK's real success stories in transport technology. We have always focussed on the practical solutions, generated through an honest dialogue between central and local government and the supply industry. This formula has stood the test of time – it's sometimes hard to believe that the first version of the UTMC Technical Specification was published as long ago as 1997!

It's a year now since we evolved into a professional, subscription organisation, and we've consolidated our processes a fair bit in that time. In recognition of this, our membership base has started to grow nicely – about which more below. More excitingly, our national sponsorship is moving from DfT Centre to the Highways Agency at just the time when the Agency has a major review of its network management systems underway.

We stand now at the brink of a major step forward: UTMC has the opportunity to make road operations seamless across the nation. It will take a while to get there, to be sure, and you can hear more about our future plans at the 2009 Annual Conference. UTMC has always been more than just a towns-and-cities concept, as many a shire county will attest; and it's clear that U no longer stands for Urban – but for Unified.

*Simon Beasley*  
Chair, UTMC Development Group

## UDG News

### HA and UTMC

The commitment of the Highways Agency (HA) to UTMC will see it take over, from the Department for Transport, the national funding provided to the UTMC Development Group (UDG) for the management and maintenance of the UTMC technical standards.

Robert Castleman, Divisional Director for Traffic Technology within Network Operations Directorate, explained: "The HA is keen to ensure that in adopting UTMC, it will be exploiting its assets to their maximum and will stay abreast of future technological developments. The role of the UDG is therefore crucial to HA's plan for the future." The HA's Integrated Network Management (INM) Programme is an integral part of the HA's Technology Convergence Programme aimed at developing an open ITS platform, using UTMC technical standards, to integrate all its systems.

### The 2009 Conference

The Annual Conference this year takes place in Bristol, on 10-11 December. The theme is "Wider Integration – The Way Forward", and a key aim of the Conference is to explore the HA's adoption of a UTMC-aligned strategy. The HA will be demonstrating its proof-of-concept prototype of a UTMC Common Database at the South West Regional Control Centre (SW RCC).

We are grateful to the Conference sponsors Mouchel, mxdata and VMS Ltd. They, together with many other companies, will be showing their latest wares at the exhibition.

Conference bookings can be made through the UTMC web site – simply click on the Registration button on the left hand menu and follow the instructions.

### **UDG membership**

We are pleased to say that UDG subscriptions have increased by some 50% over the past quarter. Two free places to the Bristol conference appears to have been a significant incentive! For more information about membership, please visit [www.utmc.uk.com](http://www.utmc.uk.com) where membership documentation, including an application form, can be downloaded.

The Marketing and Membership Services Group (M&MSG) is focused on delivering a host of other benefits to members, including access to members-only resources on the UTMC website.

### **UDG Management Group elections – preliminary notice**

The UDG Management Group is elected annually. The current Group's term of office expires on 31 March 2009, so we will – as in previous years – be calling for nominations early in the new year. Nominations are open to UDG subscribers only.

## **Technical developments**

The core of UTMC is of course its Technical Specification, and we will be continuing the pattern of recent years by launching an update at the 2009 Conference on 10-11 December. The draft update was posted on the UTMC website at <http://www.utmc.uk.com/technical/03.php> in early October and the deadline for feedback is 4 December 2009.

The main changes associated with this update are the inclusion of a new protocol component related to ANPR systems; and the transposition of the data model into an XML schema, which should greatly facilitate the generation of standard XML-based data exchanges.

In a new departure, we are starting to build a library of guidance documentation, which is available to members only.

We are also close to finalising the long-term development plan for UTMC, after extensive discussion within the S&SG, within the Management Group and with the Highways Agency. In the short term we are looking at defining/refining specifications in the areas of environmental, remote monitoring, ramp metering and bus data – the last in cooperation with our colleagues at RTIG. Longer term areas include weather, rail, and enforcement. We will also be reviewing the architecture in light of emerging technology opportunities, and in particular evaluating the potential for adopting elements of the Highways Agency Enterprise Architecture.

A significant element of the work going forward is related to the Joint Chairs commitment to work together towards a coherent UK ITS framework. UTMC will play a large part in this but it will challenge us to review areas such as network modelling, streetworks, and incident handling, where there remain inconsistencies in approach between sectoral frameworks. We will also be keeping an eye on the European and international dimension.

## **News from UTMC practitioners**

### **Medway Council Quality Public Transport Corridors Project**

Medway Council has initiated the Quality Public Transport Corridors Project (QPTC). The project runs from March 2009 to March 2011. A key component is the implementation of a UTMC-based Intelligent Transportation System (ITS). Serco and JMP have been involved in this.

The project incorporates a Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) System with up to 75 new TFT screens at main bus stops; a retrofit of almost 1500 signal lamps with LEDs; the upgrade of

UTC/SCOOT controllers to IP outstations; VMS and a car park guidance system; CCTVs for traffic monitoring; and a network of air quality monitoring locations.

A new Traffic Operation Room will house the central operations, with a UTMC common database including a Public Transport Data Management Facility; a range of information dissemination systems (Website, Portals, information to mobile phones, Train/Bus information systems); and a communications network, primarily based on infrastructure that is fully owned by the Council.

### **Mott MacDonald provides real-time travel information on the iPhone**

Mott MacDonald have developed a UK-wide traffic and travel information website, hop>2 (<http://www.hop2.info>) and in parallel, an iPhone application, iHop>2. iHop>2 uses the iPhone's GPS capability to centre on the user's current location, and is now available in the Apple App Store.

Behind iHop>2 and hop>2 is what Mott MacDonald claim as the UK's first national UTMC common database. It sources traffic and travel data from the Highways Agency, Transport Scotland and local authorities around the UK, presenting events, road works, VMS settings, car park space availability and airport and train station information on a Google-map core.

Mott MacDonald would like to hear from anyone interested in participating. For more information, please contact [fraser.macdonald@mottmac.com](mailto:fraser.macdonald@mottmac.com).

### **Mott MacDonald appointed on Inverness UTMC project**

Mott MacDonald has been appointed to provide an Urban Traffic Management and Control (UTMC) system by the Highland Council of Inverness, Scotland. This new system will enable the co-ordination of a variety of traffic systems and sources of travel information through a single common database, helping to improve the region's interconnectivity with transport services and destinations, supporting greater social inclusion and economic growth.

Elaine Rodgers, Mott MacDonald's project director said, "A high quality database management system will better inform people travelling in the area, enabling them to make smarter travel choices which it is hoped will yield benefits to the environment by reducing congestion as well as improving road safety."

### **UTMC interoperability saves money**

The benefits of UTMC and the interoperability it provides have been demonstrated very clearly in Aberdeen. Aberdeen City Council recently added to their existing VMS network with signs from a different supplier. The fact that the new signs had the same UTMC-compliant interface as the initial deployment meant that the new ones could be quickly added to the GPRS network. In addition, using GPRS routers meant that Aberdeen City Council could test the signs with messages created on the installation in Aberdeen while the new signs were still in the factory!

### **Transport for London joins the SCOOT Steering Group**

In November 2009, Transport for London (TfL) joined the SCOOT Steering Group, alongside TRL, Siemens, and PEEK Traffic. Alan Bristow, Director of Traffic Operations at TfL said, "There is considerable investment in SCOOT on the London road network, and TfL is planning further deployment in future years. TfL is pleased to be able to contribute directly to the ongoing development of the system."

Gavin Jackman, Head of Software at TRL says, "Having representatives of one of the most demanding customers of SCOOT joining the Steering Group allows us to get first hand information and suggestions to the future needs for SCOOT." Roy Johnson of Peek and Mark Bodger of Siemens both value TfL's ability to bringing the latest requirements to the Steering Group's attention. "Traffic managers are always influenced by political considerations and insight into the latest policy thoughts add enhanced knowledge to the team."





### **Hit at 30mph and still working!**

A variable message sign in York was recently hit by a car travelling in excess of 30mph which destroyed the cabinet and most of its contents, tearing data cabling out of the sign completely. Despite this, the communications equipment (a GPRS router supplied by IDT) continued to operate sending fault data back to the UTMC instation.

City of York Council's UTMC Technician, Christian Wood, said "Fortunately no-one was injured although the car made a mess of the sign and cabinet. I was pleased that the GPRS router was able to communicate the fault immediately to our UTMC instation enabling us to respond promptly".

## **The UDG Management Group**

The current UDG Management Group is as follows:

### **Chair**

Simon Beasley, Reading BC

### **Local Authority Members**

Adrian Gray, Hampshire CC (also represents CSS and TSG)  
Hamilton Purdie, Glasgow CC (also represents Scotland)  
Sunil Budhdeo, Notts CC  
John Redmond, Warrington BC  
Sue Westwood, Kent CC

### **Supplier Members**

Glynn Hutton, VMS Ltd  
Dave Stoner, Envitia  
Paul Canning, Atkins

### **Other members**

Spencer Palmer, DfT  
Steve HARRY, Cardiff Council (for Wales)  
Brian Maxwell, Roads Service NI (for NI)  
Andrew Wilson, Highways Agency  
Jennie Martin, ITS(UK)

### **S&SG Chair**

Dave Stoner, Envitia

### **M&MSG Chair**

Elaine Rodgers, Mott Macdonald

The Management Group's next meeting is scheduled for 20 January 2010.

## **UTMC Calendar**

10-11 December 2009 – Annual UTMC Conference, Bristol  
13 January 2010 – Joint workshop with RTIG-INFORM, Maidstone

## **Contributions for future Newsletters**

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)

## **Contact details**

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)