

Newsletter

Winter 2010



Message from the Chairman

“ Approaching the end of a turbulent 2010, there is some good news for investments in road infrastructure projects such as managed motorways, road upgrades and in Merseyside, where this year’s conference is being held, the Gateway Bridge. Not much has been said about investments in the management and control of traffic on existing road networks. However, we can be sure that services will still need to be delivered and continually improved within existing, if not reduced, levels of resources. UTMC has a role to play in assisting authorities exploit the integration facilities it provides to UTMC compliant Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS). More than ever, we need to work together and pool resources to find common solutions that benefit all. The UTMC Development Group (UDG) is ready to play its part, please engage with us to take UTMC forward to meet the challenges ahead. ”

Simon Beasley
Chair, UTMC Development Group

The UDG and the OCA see the bigger picture

UDG and the German OCA representatives met on the 9th November in Reading to discuss the position of these two national ITS fora with respect to ITS specification development and the implications of the EU Urban Mobility Plan and the ITS Action Plan and Directive respectively. It was pleasing to find many areas of common interests and issues faced by the two organisations. Both the UDG and OCA will be represented on the Urban ITS Expert Group which will support the European Commission in its work relating to the Action Plans on ITS and Urban Mobility.

The meeting concluded with the agreement to continue dialogue on a regular basis. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be drafted to formalise the continuing relationship between UDG and OCA. We hope to have the OCA presenting at our annual conference soon!

We need your views

The UDG uses a variety of means for communicating its news and messages to the UTMC and wider ITS Community. Mainly, it does so through its quarterly newsletters, the UTMC website and the annual conference. We do receive and take note and actions following your feedback about the conference and we would like to know what you think about our newsletters and the UTMC website. We plan to seek your views about the newsletter during the conference and we hope to have a good response so that we can review, for example, the newsletter’s content and frequency of publication.

The UTMC website (www.utmc.uk.com) was redesigned in 2006 and we think it’s time we review whether it still provides you with the information you seek in an efficient way. We are developing a questionnaire that looks at various aspects of the website and your input will be of the utmost importance as the website exists to deliver services to you – the UTMC community. We will contact you as soon as we are ready to issue the call for your feedback. We thank you in anticipation.

UTMC Implementations exceed the 100 mark

The UTMC Development Group (UDG) is being tasked to take a greater role in promoting the UTMC ITS framework in Europe, especially in view of the EU Urban Mobility Action Plan and the ITS Action Plan and Directive respectively. UTMC’s big unique selling point is the extent of its adoption in the UK.

In the autumn of 2009, we produced our first “UTMC implementation map” in time for the TRAFFEX exhibition in Birmingham. We proudly announced that 65+ Local Authorities had implemented UTMC compliant Common DataBases (CDB), the core of a typical ITS architecture in UK authorities. A year on, we are as proud to have exceeded the 100 mark. But we are not complacent. Having UTMC compliant Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) that do not get utilised or exploited fully is not a success story. There are valid reasons why this happens in some cases, including the shortage of human and financial resources, skills gap and the ever-present challenge of capital-rich versus revenue-poor scenarios. The current economic climate is likely to lead to even greater challenges of delivering more for less – this year’s conference theme. The open, modular approach of UTMC is ideally placed to assist Authorities with the challenges ahead and the UDG will continue to be UTMC’s communicating and facilitating voice.

The updated “UTMC implementation map” does not purport to represent each and every CDB implementation. However it is worthwhile to mention the implementation of UTMC by the Highways Agency at its East, South East and South West Regional Control Centres and by Traffic Wales, taking UTMC in the realm of inter-urban traffic and network management.

Peek implements UG405

Peek has now qualified the Peek Traffic Management System (TMS) in-station and Chameleon® outstation products for UTMC compliance to meet the ratified version of the UTMC UG405 MIB. Peek previously implemented and will continue to support the UTMC29 standard which also enables highly reliable and low cost communications.

This release, when combined with SCOOT MC3, further enhances the resilience of UTMC communications using IP communications, enabling packet based communication systems to be used. This provides options for a more reliable and cost effective solution to be provided for UTMC in-station to outstation communications.



Siemens UTC introduced by North Lincolnshire

Aimed at reducing congestion in Scunthorpe, the first phase of a new Urban Traffic Control (UTC) system, with wireless communications, has been supplied to North Lincolnshire Council by Siemens in partnership with wireless communications supplier IDT.

The new system includes a PC SCOOT from Siemens driving the latest Siemens UG405 compliant outstations. Initially nine traffic signal locations will be linked to the UTC system over distances of up to 2.4km, using an iMesh communications solution, an open standard wireless network supplied by IDT. Subject to funding availability, the council intends to extend the UTC to monitor other strategic routes and up to 28 junctions as part of its 5 year plan.

According to Richard Gibson of IDT, the installed iMesh system is on a linear line of communication with a built-in robustness to ensure loss of communications is minimal, thus reducing the need for the installation of a backhaul system.

“The performance figures achieved in North Lincolnshire show the viability of iMesh as a replacement for BT multipoint circuits in UTC systems,” he said.

Other news

As part of the Department for Transport spending review, Transport Secretary Philip Hammond has announced a pot of over £600m of funding for local authority transport projects. Local authorities will be invited to bid for this funding over the next few months. Councils will be challenged to consider the cost, scope and possibility of local funding when bidding. The Government believes this competitive process will ensure that the greatest possible number of schemes, with the best value for money, will be able to proceed, facilitating economic growth and providing jobs across the country.

The European ITS Directive, adopted during the summer and mentioned above, is being developed towards implementation and transposition, with the DfT and the devolved administrations looking after UK interests. New material about the work is posted on http://ec.europa.eu/transport/its/road/action_plan/action_plan_en.htm so that's the place to go for up to date documentation. ITS (UK) runs a Directive mailing list. In order to receive regular updates about UK activity regarding the Directive, email: mailbox@its-uk.org.uk

The UDG Management Group

The Management Group composition is currently as follows:

Chair:	Simon Beasley, Reading BC	Other members:	Spencer Palmer, DfT
Local Authority Members:	Hamilton Purdie, Glasgow CC (also represents Scotland)		Paul Thomas, Cardiff County Council (for Wales)
	Richard Sykes, Hampshire CC		Brian Maxwell, Roads Service NI (for NI)
	Sue Westwood, Kent CC		Andrew Wilson, Highways Agency
	Jeremy Coggan, Nottingham CC		Damian Morris, DATEX
Supplier Members:	Gareth Tilley, Atkins		Steve George, TIH
	Dave Stoner, Envitia	S&SG Chair:	Dave Stoner, Envitia
	Elaine Rodgers, Mott MacDonald	M&MSG Chair:	Elaine Rodgers, Mott MacDonald

2010 - 11 UTMC Calendar

7 - 8 December	Annual UTMC Conference, Liverpool
8 December	Urban ITS Expert Group meeting, Brussels
26 January 2011	UDG Management Group meeting, London
2 February 2011	Joint Chairs Group meeting
February 2011	UDG Management Group elections
29 - 31 March 2011	TRAFFEX 2011, Birmingham

Discussions are taking place with ITS (UK) Carbon WG, to organise a workshop in Jan / Feb to explore UTMC as a de-carbonisation platform. We'll keep you posted.

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

For all administrative matters and enquiries please contact the Secretariat at: secretariat@utmc.uk.com

Further information on UTMC activities and resources may be found on our website at: www.utmc.uk.com

STOP PRESS!

Birmingham City Council becomes the latest organisation to join the UDG.

