

UKTram Newsletter No 4 – February 2007

UKTram prepares proposal for alternative to ROGS safety assurance

Following David Humphrey's retirement as a director and team leader of UKTram, Peter Adams of CENTRO has offered to take on the role of finalising UKTram's proposals for an alternative to the ROGS safety assurance scheme for the tram industry. The current intention is that a final version of UKTram's proposal will be signed off by the UKTram Board at our meeting in early May, and that these will then be put to the ORR for their consideration. The new safety regime has to be in place by October 2008, at which time the current interim arrangements are due to expire.

Activity Update

Activity 1 Protection and Diversion of Utilities is now back on track as a new team has been put together comprising Phil Hewitt (leader), David Rumney, Chris Chatfield, Andy Steel, Jim Snowdon, Mark Bain, Tim Ratcliffe and Chris Deas. Unfortunately the Activity is running late, but it is now estimated to be completed by March 2008.

The scope of **Activity 2 Tram Design Standards and DDA/RVA Issues** has been agreed with the Activity Team Leader and work will commence shortly.

Activity 3 Signing and Highway Interface is making progress, with 14 responses now received from 23 questionnaires issued. A report has been collated as to references to tramway signage within existing statutory regulations and a further team review meeting is planned for 2 March 2007.

Activity 4 Noise and Vibration is expected to be completed on schedule and under budget by the end of March. The first report from Delta Rail has been received and will be reviewed by the team early this month. An industry seminar presenting the work to date is planned for 9 March in London.

Activity 5 Network Rail Interface has been split into 2 distinct areas of work – the tram/train concept and the wider issues of the relationship between tram scheme promoters and Network Rail. Ian Ambrose of NR has been invited to the next meeting of the UKTram Steering Group to present the latest NR thinking on tram/train and to discuss collaboration between NR and UKTram.

The scope of **Activity 6 Trackform Design** has been agreed with the Activity Team Leader and work will commence shortly. This work will include a peer group review of the output of the EU sponsored Urban Track Project.

An industry seminar on **Activity 7 Benefits included in the Appraisal Process** was held in December and discussions are continuing with the DfT on the need and scope for further research in this area.

Activity 8 Commercial Structure was completed at the end of last year, and both a summary and more detailed report are available on the UKTram website. The DfT have issued their consultation document "Guidance for Promoters considering a Light Rail Scheme", and the Activity 8 reports are referred to in this document.

A final report on **Activity 9 Operational Performance Measures** will be submitted to the Steering Group at our next meeting on 16 February.

We are pleased to report that following our representations the ORR have decided to proceed with **Activity 11 Wheel / Rail Interface Stage 2**. We understand that this piece of work will be going out to tender very shortly, and we look forward to supporting HMRI in delivering this project.

DfT consultation on their "Guidance for Promoters considering a Light Rail Scheme"

The DfT have now issued their long awaited guidance note and are seeking comments by 9th March. UKTram will be commenting formally of course, but we would also encourage readers of this newsletter to write to the DfT with any points you might wish to make.

Future Activities of UKTram

UKTram is now considering its work programme and budget for 2007/8. If you have any views on new areas of work for UKTram or any views on the work done to date, please let us know by emailing us at uktram@tfl.gov.uk

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