

## **UKTram Newsletter No 5 – May 2007**

### **UKTram makes a proposal to the ORR re ROGS and tramways**

On 3 April UKTram sent a letter to the ORR setting out our concerns about the application of ROGS to the tram industry and making proposals for the future arrangements. The letter can be viewed on the UKTram website under “Latest News”, but in essence our concerns are :

- Potential conflict of interest of Competent Persons
- Difficulty of finding Competent Persons with “whole industry” experience
- Absence of a legal mechanism for vehicle and infrastructure related approvals relating to operation on the public highway
- Potential cost and scope of liability insurance for promoters, operators and Competent Persons
- Doubts about the ability of Competent Persons to gain and maintain the necessary competences and respect of all parties

Our main proposal is that the transitional period of operation of ROTS should be extended until the adoption of the EU Urban Rail Directive which it is intended to cover tramways. Failing that being acceptable to the Government we are proposing :

- A planned migration of the more straightforward highway related requirements into the highway regulatory and technical provisions
- Retention of a statutory approvals role of some kind to sanction use of vehicles on the public highway
- Separately identify a tramway approval role and possibly align this with other highway infrastructure / road vehicle approvals

Phil Hewitt, Chair of UKTram met Linda Williams, Chief Inspector of Railways at the ORR on 12 April and discussed with her the way forward. It was suggested that a meeting be set up to develop these proposals further once the ORR had had time to consider their response to our letter. We believe this will be the most appropriate means of developing a consensual agreement between the industry and the regulator which can then be presented to the DfT. We hope that progress can be made quickly with a view to making recommendations to the Government in the summer.

## **Activity Update**

### **Activity 1 Protection and Diversion of Utilities**

The DfT have now confirmed their element of funding for this Activity to completion in March 2008. The scoping study and "Guide to dealing with Utilities and their Apparatus" is complete and consultants have commenced the data collection phase of this workstream through questionnaires and interviews with promoters/operators in the UK and continental Europe and with utility companies. An industry-wide seminar is to take place on 28 June (see separate article below) to discuss the findings of this work.

### **Activity 2 Tram Design Standards and DDA/RVA Issues**

Discussions are continuing with the DfT re funding for this Activity in 2007/8. A business case is being developed for the work and this should be complete by the end of June.

### **Activity 3 Signing and Highway Interface**

A combined document from initial questionnaires responses is being compiled together with a supplementary questionnaire, a model highway agreement (based on Croydon) and collation of information received from continental Europe.

### **Activity 4 Noise and Vibration**

The DfT have now confirmed their element of funding for this Activity to completion in June 2007.

A very useful seminar was held in London in March to discuss the output of this Activity to date, and a few amendments have since been made to the reports on Phases 1a and 1b. ERM have been asked to comment on these updated reports, and once this is complete guidelines will be written for establishing best practice in noise and vibration design and management for tramways with particular emphasis on noise and vibration acceptability levels and the evaluation, monitoring and mitigation of long and short-term noise emissions.

### **Activity 5 Network Rail Interface**

This Activity team has been sub-divided into 2 distinct workstreams, namely a Development Group which deals with the development of new schemes where there is a Network Rail involvement and an Implementation Group which deals with the implementation of new projects (including tram/train).

There is currently slow progress with this Activity due to organisational issues within Network Rail and other work commitments of Activity team members. However, discussions relating to the initial scope of these workstreams will

commence shortly with a view to holding an industry-wide workshop (mid-late June) to further develop the scope.

### **Activity 6 Trackform Design**

Discussions are continuing with the DfT re funding for this Activity in 2007/8. A business case is being prepared for the work and this should be complete by the end of June.

As part of this Activity a questionnaire will shortly be sent to UK operators on behalf of the UITP who are coordinating sub-project 5 of the Urban Track Project. For further information about the Urban Track Project please refer to [www.urbantrack.eu](http://www.urbantrack.eu)

### **Activity 7 Benefits included in the Appraisal Process**

A scoping report has now been produced, and a response from the DfT economists is now awaited.

### **Activity 8 Commercial Structure**

The report for this Activity will be re-written shortly in a standard UKTram format, which is currently being developed.

### **Activity 9 Operational Performance Measures**

Andy Steel and Colin Robey have been commissioned to complete this study, and take on board a few outstanding comments. It is expected that the final report will be available by the end of July at the latest.

### **Activity 10 Tender Documentation**

A skeleton document is currently being drafted in order to feed the outputs of all UKTram Activity teams within the framework of a "standard tender documentation".

### **Activity 11 Wheel / Rail Interface Stage 2.**

The study is now underway following the appointment of a consultant. The commission is being undertaken by Dr Simon Iwnicki of Manchester Metropolitan University for the ORR. The study is expected to be completed by mid October.

### **Activity 12 Traction Power Supplies**

We are hoping to have a scoping document for this Activity agreed by the end of July.

## **DfT consultation on their “Guidance for Promoters considering a Light Rail Scheme”**

UKTram submitted various detailed comments on the DfT Guidance Note, but we remain concerned about the tone of the document which we believe is unnecessarily “anti-tram”. We have therefore undertaken to redraft 8 sections of the note and to send this to the DfT in a “track changes” form by the end of May. Both UKTram and the DfT are now expressing some doubts over the potential value of this document to the industry, and it is our intention to review this once we have completed the current drafting revisions.

### **Activity 1 Seminar – Thursday 28 June – BOOK NOW**

Arrangements have been made to hold an industry-wide seminar into the work of Activity 1 Protection and Diversion of Utilities at Broadway House, St James’s Park, Victoria, London on Thursday 28 June, 1300 to 1530. The purpose of this seminar is to present the work to date, and outline proposed future work on this Activity. All interested professionals in this field are invited to attend and make their contributions.

To book your place now please email Mustafah Ali (UKTram Project Manager) at [mustafah.ali@jacobs.com](mailto:mustafah.ali@jacobs.com)

### **Meeting with Minister Tom Harris**

Arrangements have been made for members of UKTram to meet Transport Minister Tom Harris in London on Monday 4 June. This will be an opportunity to personally update the Minister on the work we are undertaking, and to discuss other issues of concern in the industry. A report on this meeting will be put on the UKTram website.

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