



UKTram Newsletter No 6 – August 2007

Appointment of a full-time Project Manager

We are very pleased to announce that Musa Shehu has been appointed to the new full-time post of Project Manager for UKTram Ltd within London Trams. Musa is currently working for Bromley Council as Public Transport Traffic Planner, and will start with us on 10 September. Musa will take over the two part-time roles of Administration Manager and Project Manager currently covered by Bob Muir and Mustafah Ali respectively. There will be a short hand-over period during the rest of September.

Musa will be based in the London Trams office of TfL and will provide full-time support to Phil Hewitt on all UKTram matters.

Latest on ROGS

A number of meetings have taken place recently within the industry and also with the ORR to try to determine the way forward following the UKTram proposal to the ORR in April. The meetings have been constructive and good progress has been made. A further meeting with the ORR has been arranged for 20 September.

Activity Update

Activity 1 Protection and Diversion of Utilities

The industry seminar on 28 June proved very useful in discussing the issues and experiences despite the data collection work (including an industry-wide questionnaire) not being complete - this is now scheduled for completion on 28 September. A tender for the work in Phase 2a (best practice guidelines), 2b (control of scope and cost creep) and Phase 3 (changes required to regulations etc) has just been issued for return by 10 September.

Activity 2 Tram Design Standards and DDA/RVA Issues

The Activity Team has been re-formed and met on 30 August to review the original scope for this workstream and to agree a plan of work up to February 2007. This will be circulated shortly within the Activity Team.

Activity 3 Signing and Highway Interface

A consolidated document from initial questionnaires responses has been compiled and is being reviewed within Centro. The responses from a supplementary questionnaire are being collated. A model highway maintenance agreement is also being developed.

The Activity team are seeking to enlist contacts at Wolverhampton City Council and Sheffield City Council to widen the tram highway signalling debate.

Activity 4 Noise and Vibration

This Activity is nearing completion. The Phase 1a report (peer review of existing and proposed UK schemes) is complete and will be available for sign-off by the Steering Group in September. The Phase 1b report (peer review of existing legislation and standards) has already been completed, has been signed-off by the Steering Group, and will be available on the website shortly. The Phase 2 reports (best practice guidelines) have been circulated in draft format within the Activity team.

Activity 5 Network Rail Interface

A joint UKTram-Network Rail Activity team is being established and will meet in mid-September to launch this workstream with a case study review of Network Rail interface issues within existing schemes. Thereafter this Activity team will focus on two areas, namely, development issues within new schemes, and implementation issues during delivery of new schemes (including guidance on technical standards and tram-train).

Activity 6 Trackform Design

This Activity team has been re-formed and met on 30 August to review the original scope for this workstream and to agree a plan of work up to February 2007. This will be circulated shortly within the Activity team.

Activity 7 Benefits included in the Appraisal Process

A response has been promised very shortly from the DfT to our proposals on the scope of future work on this Activity.

Activity 8 Commercial Structure

Robert Lewin of Investec is re-drafting and expanding the original report to fit into a standard UKTram report format which has been devised recently. The final version is expected by the end of September for sign-off by the Steering Group in October.

Activity 9 Operational Performance Measures

The updated final report is being produced by Andy Steel and Colin Robey. The final version is expected by the end of September for sign-off by the Steering Group in October.

Activity 10 Tender Documentation

Work on the proposed standard tender documentation is ongoing, and the Activity team is expected to be re-formed in the autumn to take this Activity forward.

Activity 11 Wheel / Rail Interface Stage 2.

This ORR study remains on schedule for completion in October.

Activity 12 Traction Power Supplies

Team members have now been identified for this Activity, but the precise scope of work and choice of team leader remains outstanding.

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

The UKTram redraft of this document has been completed and sent to the DfT. Steering Group members will meet Martin Wells of the DfT in a few weeks time to discuss the way forward once Martin has had time to consider our submission in detail.

Meeting with Transport Minister Tom Harris

Phil Hewitt, David Walmsley (CPT) and Harj Dhaliwal (LRTF) met Transport Minister Tom Harris in his office on 4 June to give him a short update on the work of UKTram and to discuss pressing issues in the industry – mainly the future of ROGS. This was a useful meeting and has been followed up by an offer to show the Minister round one of the existing tram operations. We are currently awaiting the Minister’s agreement to a date and location for this.

Landor Conference

UKTram will again be sponsoring the Landor Light Rail Conference and Exhibition which this year is taking place at Canary Wharf on Friday 2 November. The programme includes talks from speakers from France, Sweden, Ireland, and various parts of the UK, and covers a wide range of issues relevant to the future of light rail and tram schemes in the UK.

You can see the full programme and register for the event by visiting www.lightrail.org.uk

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