



BRT-UK News release

20 November 2006

BRT-UK: Second Site Visit Held; Conference Imminent

The second site visit organised by BRT-UK was held in Edinburgh on 13th October. The visit to see recent transport initiatives was hosted by Sustran, the South East Scotland Transport Partnership, and Lothian Buses. About twenty bus and BRT professionals from both the public and private sectors attended, representing local authorities, PTEs, operators and consultants.

The visit consisted of presentations on transport policy in Edinburgh from Sustran, Transport Initiatives Edinburgh, and Lothian Buses. The focus was on bus rapid transit, and the 'Fastlink' guided busway. The delegates learnt that the guided busway was just part of a series of initiatives along a key cross city bus route to assist in journey time reliability and reduction, which also includes greenways, signal priority and bus lanes. The resulting patronage increases have meant a frequency of up to a bus every three minutes at peak times.

This was followed by a visit to the route 22 corridor, and the guided busway itself, where delegates could see the journey time benefits and appreciate the scale of growth being experienced on the corridor. One of the most interesting and unusual aspects is the way the guided busway has been 'adopted' by locals, who refer to it as 'their' busway.

The visit concluded with the hosts showcasing other initiatives such as two new park and ride sites, and Lothian Buses' new Scania buses used on their express route between the city centre and Edinburgh airport.



Delegates at the BRT-UK visit to Edinburgh, alongside one of Lothian Buses' new 'Scania Omnidekka' vehicles. Original JPGs of the site visit can be obtained from Mark Curran at Faber Maunsell on 0121 262 1948.

Conference Imminent: Bus Rapid Transit - Focussing on Delivery

BRT-UK are holding their Second Annual Conference on 4 and 5 December. Titled 'Bus Rapid Transit: Focussing on Delivery', it features high profile bus rapid transit professionals who are successful at delivering schemes. Key note speeches include David Leeder, Vice Chair of the Commission for Integrated Transport, and Moir Lockheed, Chief Executive of First Group. The theme of the whole conference is moving bus rapid transit in the United Kingdom from concept to scheme delivery. As BRT schemes move from planning to construction and operation, we also feature representatives from the 'ftr' in York, Kent Fastrack, Swansea Metro, and Cambridgeshire Guided Busway.

The conference follows the highly successful overnight format used in 2005, at the conference facilities of the University of Warwick. The start time of 18:00 allows for informal networking in the relaxed environment of the Scarman House Conference Centre, whilst the main conference will take place in a purpose built lecture theatre.

Transportation between Coventry railway station and the Conference will be provided courtesy of Wrightbus Ltd, offering delegates first hand use of one of their recent innovative bus products.

Further details of the conference can be obtained from Helen Marshall at PTRC on 0207 348 1970.

Notes to editors

BRT-UK is a new association dedicated to the sharing of information about evolving bus based rubber tyred rapid transit technology. In November 2005 a wide range of BRT professionals came together from across the country for the first annual BRT conference. The conference closed with the agreement that the creation of a national association would enable the various pieces of experience to be brought together. BRT-UK as formed in January 2006 by a managing committee of local authorities, operators, manufacturers and consultants and was officially launched in March 2006.

Further information on BRT-UK can be obtained from Mark Curran on 0121 262 1948.