

Tactran Freight Forum

Minutes of Meeting held at Discovery Point, Dundee on Tuesday 23rd September 2008

Present:

Liam Barn (LB)	Perth & Kinross Council
Emily Dixon (ED)	Stirling & Tayside Timber Transport Group
Iain Duff (ID)	Scottish Council for Development & Industry
Phil Flanders (PF)	Road Haulage Association
Gordon Fleming (GF)	Dundee City Council
Michael Gale (MG)	Scottish Enterprise
Nick Horner (MH)	Perth Harbour
Paul Kyle (PK)	Perth & Kinross Council
John Paterson (JP)	Montrose Port Authority
Frank Roach (FR)	Hitrans
Gavin Roser (GR)	TACTRAN Board Member
Gavin Scott (GS)	Freight Transport Association
Eric Guthrie (EG)	Partnership Director TACTRAN
Michael Cairns (MC)	Strategy Manager TACTRAN
Niall Gardiner (NG)	Projects Manager TACTRAN

Apologies:

Tim Jones	Forth Ports PLC
Joan Aitken	Traffic Commissioner for Scotland
Simon Armstrong	Confor
Nigel Brooks	Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park
Bernadette Dailly	Agility – Dundee
Ewan Gourlay	Dundee City Council
Matt North	Forth Ports
Mark Ridgway	PS Ridgway
Philip Smart	N.E. Scotland Rail Freight Development Group
Pam Stott	Scottish Government - Aviation, Ports, Freight & Inland T
Kay Walls	Freightliner Ltd
Allan Watt	Scottish Enterprise
Nigel Wunsch	Network Rail

1. Introduction, Regional Transport Partnership and Regional Transport Strategy update

EG gave a presentation on the RTP and RTS (PowerPoint slides attached). The RTS had received Ministerial approval on 24 June 2008 and was currently in the process of formal publication. Copies of the published RTS Summary were issued to the meeting.

2. Establishment of the Freight Quality Partnership

MC gave a presentation on the FQP (PowerPoint slides attached). The Partnership Board had approved the establishment of a Regional FQP on 24 June 2008.

GS asked if a response had been received from the Traffic Commissioner. MC replied that she had been unable to attend.

GS stated that movement of agricultural products is significant. EG asked if FTA, RHA, SCDI and other freight sector organisations/bodies could assist in stimulating/encouraging industry sector participation in the FQP. GS, PF and ID agreed to pursue this.

FR asked if the Trunk Road Agencies are involved. EG confirmed that there are regular liaison meetings between Trunk Road agencies and partner Councils. It was agreed that it would be more effective to address any Trunk Road issues arising through the FQP via these existing liaison relationships, or inviting Transport Scotland and/or their agents to FQP meetings as issues required.

3. Development of Freight Action Plan

MC gave a presentation on the Freight Action Plan (Power Point slides attached).

It was agreed that a Steering Group should be established to take forward detailed discussion on the development of a Regional FAP.

GS commented that the Steering Group and Forum meetings are likely to feature the same group of people. EG noted that some key representatives are missing, such as rail freight and Transport Scotland, and it would be important to have their involvement.

GS stated that in establishing their Logistics and Supply Forum FTA have had difficulties identifying and the relevant people to involve.

GR considered that the movement household waste should be considered by the FQP and this was agreed.

FR commented that none of the main rail freight operators is active in the Tactran region.

MC would circulate all invitees after the meeting to gauge interest in involvement in the Steering Group. A date for the first meeting of this would be sought in November, after the next Partnership meeting on 28th October. GS suggested that Eric Guthrie should chair the Forum meetings until they evolve.

4. The Scottish National Multi-Modal Freight Study

MC gave a brief presentation (PowerPoint slides attached). The outcome of the SNMMF study and STPR were still awaited and it was agreed to return to this item at a future meeting.

5. The RTS Delivery Plan – freight related elements

NG gave a presentation on the RTS Delivery Plan (Power-point slides attached). Work was ongoing on the development of a Draft Delivery Plan which would be submitted for approval by the Partnership Board on 28th October, then to partner Councils for formal agreement/comment. This was being developed on the basis of an assumed available Capital Budget of roughly £10.2 million in the first 3 years from 2009/10 – 2011/12, this being equivalent to the former RTP Capital Grant which was now allocated to Councils under the Government/Local Government Concordat. The Draft Delivery Plan also included assumptions about the outcome of the STPR.

GS considered that overnight lorry parking is an issue and asked whether Park and Ride facilities could be used for overnight lorry parking. NG replied that it is not something being done at present and that there may be issues to do with planning permission, etc., but it was agreed that this and other options could be considered for inclusion in the FAP and Delivery Plan.

Other suggested issues to be addressed included shipping and trans-modal opportunities; Supermarkets and night-time servicing; designated freight routes/corridors and priority routes/lanes;

6. Fuel Prices

EG noted that, with the recent drop in oil prices, the fuel price issue may have abated for the time being. It was generally recognised that this was an issue the FQP could lobby Governments on, but there was little direct influence the group could apply in relation to fuel prices.

GS commented that special driver training would help and a review of speed limits. Work FTA has done suggests that fuel economies could be achieved for example by raising the HGV speed limit on the A9 from 40mph to 50mph.

MG stated that fuel prices can account for 30% of costs in some transport businesses and that more work needs to be done in this area. It was agreed to take this forward to the Steering Group.

GR referred to Tesco reviewing its distribution arrangements based on their Livingston warehouse.

7. Date of Next Meeting

EG suggested that the next full FQP meeting should be held in March 2009. A Steering Group Meeting would be programmed for November 2008, to allow for reporting to the Partnership Board meeting on 9th December 2008.