



Identifying ITS Opportunities for the HA EC Policy Newsletter: July 2009

■ ITS RADAR INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

This project is providing intelligence for the Highways Agency on ITS developments in Europe and around the world. It is carried out by TRL and AECOM on behalf of the HA. The project summarises key information for decision makers and practitioners on activities related to Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS). The project covers specific areas of key interest to the HA.

Regular newsletters are being produced, covering information which is in the public domain. For more information about the project and the services provided, the web site can be reached at:

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/itsradar>.

To contact us and let us know what you would like this project to deliver please email us at: ITSRadarInternational@trl.co.uk

■ ABOUT EC POLICY

The European Commission area of the project is designed to inform the Highways Agency about activities concerning policies, legislation, regulations and other initiatives that have an impact on ITS in Europe and are relevant to the Highways Agency. The two key Directorates with responsibilities for ITS in the European Commission are DG TREN (Transport and Energy) and DG INFSO (Information Society and Media).

■ MEETINGS

Latest ASECAP meeting summary

Source: [Thinking Highways](#)

The latest European Professional Association of Operators of Tolloed Road Infrastructures (ASECAP) meeting was held in Krakow, Poland. The theme of for the meeting was current economic climate and its effect on the tolling industry in Europe as well as the impact of the new, "greener" European transport policy.

Issues such as the deployment of ITS, interoperability of national charging schemes and the challenges of road safety were discussed along with recent developments in the transport sector in Central and Eastern Europe.

HA recommended to review summary

Keywords: Environment, Payment, Policy, Traffic information, Traffic management, Safety

■ CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

No new calls for proposals

■ HOT TOPICS

Freight traffic to mainland Europe falls by 19%

Source: roadtraffic-technology.com

According to new figures released by the Department for Transport (DfT) the total number of goods vehicles travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe in the first quarter of 2009 has fallen by 19% when compared to the same period last year.

The number of powered vehicles travelling to mainland Europe dropped by 18% compared with last year, while unaccompanied trailers experienced a 22% decrease.

According to the Channel Tunnel operator Eurotunnel, the drop is attributed to the reduced capacity of the tunnel following a fire in September 2008. However, figures showing an increase in traffic usually travelling through the tunnel have placed some doubt on this claim.

Keywords: Freight, Traffic management

High costs of public transport may stop Britain from meeting its carbon emission target

Source: roadtraffic-technology.com

The real cost of public transport has been rising above the rate of inflation. Regulated fares have increased by 6% while unregulated fares have increased by 7%.

Fares on buses and coaches have risen 17% above inflation while the costs of running a car have decreased by 13%. It is expected that the rising costs of public transport may price some people out of using the more environmentally friendly form of transport.

Network Rail chief executive Iain Coucher said: "If we want to reduce our carbon emissions, we need to make the most environmentally friendly forms of transport the choice. ... If we are pricing people away from it, that is probably wrong in the long term".

Keywords: Environment

Norway adopts its first ITS Action Plan

Source: ERTICO

The Norwegian Public Road Administration (NPRA), has adopted an ITS Action Plan for road transport. Norway's road safety record and traffic situation are some of the best in Europe. It is anticipated that the ITS Action Plan will

further reduce the number and the severity of road accidents. The ITS Action Plan is also expected to contribute to reducing the environmental impact of road transport.

Actions forming part of the Action Plan for the first years include:

- The AutoPASS tolling system will become fully automatic and will include both real time travel time measurements and Electronic Toll Services (EETS)
- Ramp metering, bus priority and traffic management systems will be deployed on main arterial routes out of the capital, Oslo
- Traffic management based on environmental criteria will be deployed in the larger cities
- Public road and traffic data will be made readily available to users and service providers
- Further development of the ARKTRANS model for multimodal ITS architecture
- Speed cameras with OCR will also control average speeds
- Large scale demonstrations of lane keeping systems.

ITS Radar International will monitor developments

Keywords: Architecture, Payment, Policy, Safety, Traffic management

EC's Future of Transport Communication adopted

Source: [Rapid\[1\]](#) and [Rapid\[2\]](#)

The European Commission adopted the 'Future of Transport' Communication on 17 June 2009. Adoption of the Communication was the next step taken by the Commission towards establishing a future policy for transport in Europe.

The Communication follows a high level stakeholder conference that was held in March 2009; more details on the conference can be found [in ITS Radar International news](#). It is hoped that the Communication will stimulate further debate that aims to identify concrete policy proposals for the Commission's next Transport White Paper scheduled for 2010. This new policy will aim to determine the future of transport and mobility until 2020.

The Communication identifies six main trends and challenges that will shape the future of transport policies over the coming decades:

- Ageing population – By 2060 it is expected that 30% of the European population will be 65 years old or over. Associated increased demands on public resources for healthcare and nursing may reduce the available funding for public transport and transport infrastructure maintenance.
- Migration and internal mobility – Migration to the EU is likely to increase in future, which could increase the demand for transport links with migrants' countries of origin. The gradual removal of administrative and legal barriers within the EU and the likely further development of the EU internal labour market will also put higher demands on transport between member states.

- Environmental challenges – Reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions from transport is perceived as being key to mitigating climate change. The EU has recently adopted a Climate and Energy package that sets a target of reducing GHG emission in the EU by 20% compared to levels in 1990.
- Availability of energy resources – The ever decreasing levels of oil will present a challenge in the coming years. Oil is likely to become more expensive as low-cost sources are exhausted and at the same time energy security issues are also likely to encourage the move to low-carbon economy and increased reliance on renewable energy. Future transport policies will have to mimic this change and embrace it.
- Urbanisation – With urbanisation comes congestion and currently congestion is estimated to cost the EU approximately 1% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). If the current trend towards increased urbanisation continues, then congestion is likely to carry on increasing.
- Globalisation – Continued growth of world population may have a strong impact on world resources, making the goal of setting up a sustainable transport system even more important. Some estimates suggest that the number of cars in the world could increase from 700 million today to 3 billion by 2050 unless an alternative method of mobility is introduced.

The main conclusions on future transport policy which are set out in the Communication are as follows:

- The European transport policy should aim to ensure that the mobility available to people and businesses can be sustained in the future
- Environmental sustainability, ageing, migration, fossil fuel scarcity, urbanisation, and globalisation are key trends in our society and will pose challenges to our system of mobility
- In order to meet the above challenges, future transport policies should aim to encourage faster development and deployment of new technologies and integrating different modes of transport while ensuring that people's needs and rights are always at the forefront
- It is important to advance the external projection of European Transport Policy, as a way to ensure further integration with neighbouring countries and the promotion of Europe's economic and environmental interests in the global context.

The communication can be viewed in full on the [Europa web site](#).

ITS Radar International will monitor developments

Keywords: Environment, Payment, Policy, Traffic management

■ PROJECTS

No new projects

■ RECENT PUBLICATIONS

No new recent publications

■ GLOSSARY

ASECAP	European Professional Association of Operators of Tolled Road Infrastructures
DfT	UK's Department for Transport
EC	European Commission
EETS	European Electronic Toll Service
EU	European Union
GHG	Green House Gasses
ITS	(Intelligent Transport Systems): "The integration of information and communications technology with transport infrastructure, vehicles and users" [ERTICO]
NPRA	The Norwegian Public Road Administration
OCR	Optical Character Recognition