



Newsletter

Issue No. 8 Winter 2007

Project part financed
by the European Union

Local Sustainable Transport Event

THIS EVENT WAS part of the delivery and conclusion of the CTAIS Project and was held in the Cavan Crystal Hotel on the 14th of November 2007.

During the opening speech, Ms Lynda Monteith Acting CEO of ICBAN described the work undertaken by the CTAIS during the two year project and added how important it was to community transport groups along the border as well as throughout the country.

The remainder of the day gave an insight into local sustainable transport projects North and South of the Border and covered the following topics:

- Door to Door Accessible Transport
- Community Rail Partnerships
- Car Sharing Studies
- Rural Transport Experiences

The question & answer sessions enabled the delegates to participate after each topic. The delegates consisted of decision makers from North and South, County Councillors as well as representatives from member organisations of the CTAI and CTA Northern Ireland.

The day was wrapped up by announcing the winner of MiDAS All Ireland Driver of the Year 2007. This was the first ever MiDAS All Ireland Driver of the Year Competition. Congratulations to the winner Gerald Calgie from Rural Lift South West Fermanagh and also to the runner up Brendan Dunne from Vantastic, Dublin. Please see page 3 for more on this. ■



Speakers from L to R Back row: Bryan Myles, Director CTA NI, Neil Buxton General Manager ACoRP, Gerry O'Brien – Chairperson CTAI, Noel Tummon – Cork City Council, Cormac Moloney - Manager Vantastic. **Front row:** Philip Igoe – Co-Director Car Plus, Cllr Virginia O Dowd Nenagh Rail Partnership, Kellie Armstrong Support & Development Officer CTA NI and Anita Flanagan Manager Rural Lift for SW Fermanagh. **Missing from Photo:** Jennifer Hennessy - Clann Credo, John Burns – Meath Accessible Transport, Damien O'Neill - CTAI.

Successful project near completion

SINCE OCTOBER 2005, the Community Transport Advice & Information Service Project has been managed by The Community Transport Association of Ireland and The Community Transport Association UK. This service has been based in Stradone, Co. Cavan and was funded by ICBAN – the Irish Central Border Area Network through the EU INTERREG IIIA Programme. The total amount of funding received from ICBAN was €195,861 over the course of the project.

The geographical areas covered by the service are Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, Fermanagh, Omagh, Cookstown, Dungannon & South Tyrone. Services are also provided throughout Ireland.

The principal activities of the project were the provision of advice & information, development & publication of advice notes,

development & publication of training materials, development & implementation of audits & training programmes and improving co-operation across the border.

The project has been a great success and all targets set have been achieved. The CTAI intend to continue to offer this service to all its existing members and non members, and await positive news from other funding sources for a further 2 year project to which application has been made. ■

Contact details:

Stradone Community Centre,
Stradone, Co. Cavan.

Tel/fax: (+353) (0)49 432 3849
www.communitytransport.ie

E-mails:

advice@communitytransport.ie

info@communitytransport.ie

New Regulations regarding the installation of Safety Belts in buses

Taken from Road Safety Authority Guidelines for the Installation of Safety Belts in Buses

THIS REGULATION applies to all vehicles with more than 8 passenger seats and requires all new vehicles being first registered in the country to be equipped with safety belts. The Minister's action will increase the demand in the market place for buses with safety belts fitted. The critical point to note is this – the bus will not pass its annual roadworthiness inspection if it has safety belts fitted which do not accord with these guidelines. The standards apply to every bus and not just buses used to transport children.

The safety belts installation scheme will be implemented by two sets of measures that will be put in place. Firstly, the Department of Transport is making changes to the annual roadworthiness inspection test.

When a vehicle with more than 8 passenger seats – with safety belts fitted to some or all such seats – is presented at an authorised tester's premises for its annual roadworthiness test, the authorised tester will not carry out a test on the vehicle unless it is accompanied by one of the following 3 certificates:

1 A certificate of conformity with the requirements of Directive 76/115/EEC on anchorages for safety belts, For the purposes of this scheme, a certificate of conformity in relation to Directive 76/115/EEC is a printed document, printed on paper protected either by coloured graphics or watermarked with the vehicle manufacturer's identification mark. It can only be issued by the manufacturer or distributor of the vehicle in question. The manufacturer or distributor may only issue the certificate of conformity if they were in possession of a type

approval certificate in force in relation to Directive 76/115/EEC at the time of manufacture.

On the recommendation of the vehicle manufacturer, the Department of Transport may authorise the acceptance of a declaration from the manufacturer or a person authorised by the manufacturer that the anchorages for safety belts fitted at the time of manufacture comply with a standard which is no less stringent than that of Directive 76/115/EEC in lieu of a certificate of conformity.

2 A final inspection certificate, or after a bus has been fitted with safety belts it must be examined by an *authorised person*. The authorised person must be presented with a relevant *Pull Test Certificate* and an *Installer Certificate*. The authorised person will issue a *Final Inspection Certificate* provided that, in their professional opinion, the *Pull Test Certificate* is relevant to the particular vehicle and that all work carried out on the vehicle – with particular reference to the *Pull Test Certificate* - has been executed in a manner that results in a high probability that the vehicle, as presented, would successfully pass the pull test appropriate to the vehicle. A safety belt *Final Inspection Certificate* may only be issued by an authorised person, who is either:

- (a) a chartered engineer, or
- (b) A person authorised by a qualified testing facility to sign safety belt final inspection certificates.

3 A DoT installation pass certificate. This certificate, relates to a particular vehicle and is issued by the HGV Test Centre when they have accepted either

a *Certificate of Conformity* or a *Final Inspection Certificate* and have checked and passed the safety belt installation on that vehicle. It is kept by the owner and produced at each subsequent annual roadworthiness inspection. This Certificate informs the tester, at subsequent tests, that compliance with the required standard has already been verified and that an ordinary functional check is all that is required.

It is the Department's intention to commence the introduction of this requirement in September 2008. ■

Decentralisation of Road Transport Operator Licensing Unit from Parkwest in Dublin

The new offices in Loughrea opened on 21 May 2007, for all postal applications, phone calls and visitors to its Public Office. Contact details and opening times are set out below:

Road Transport Operator Licensing Unit,
Department of Transport,
Clonfert House,
Bride Street,
Loughrea,
Co. Galway.

Public Office

The public office is situated on the second floor of Clonfert House, Loughrea. Public access to the building is from Bride Street. Signs are displayed outside and in the building to direct you to the public office.

Opening hours

Monday to Friday, 9.30 am to 1.00 pm,
and 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm.

And the winner is...

GERALD CALGIE from Rural Lift in South West Fermanagh is the first ever winner of the 2007 All Ireland MiDAS Driver of the Year competition that took place in the Cavan Crystal Hotel on the 14th of November. The adjudicator Ian Mottershead, Training Development Manager CTA UK congratulated the two drivers who reached the final, Gerald and runner-up Brendan Dunne from Vantastic in Dublin.

Both drivers had to go through different heats to get to the final. The heats consisted of both on road and off road assessments. The Northern Ireland MiDAS Driver of the Year final took place in October while the Republic of Ireland Final took place in Cavan on the 30th of May.

Transport Operator Licensing Unit to Loughrea, Co. Galway.

Telephone Lo-call: 1890 443311

Ask for the Road Transport Operator Licensing Unit in Loughrea, and you will be put through. You can also phone 01 6707 444.

Fax: 091 872999.

Faxes are received directly in the Loughrea office.

E-mail: info@transport.ie

E-mails are distributed to the appropriate section.

The Road Transport Operator Licensing Unit of the Department of Transport deals primarily with applications for Road Haulage Operator Licences and Road Passenger Transport Operator Licences, and the addition or removal of vehicles from those licences. Matters such as the issuing of Digital Tachograph Cards and Road Transport Operator Enforcement (Transport Officers and checkpoints) are solely for the Road Safety Authority (RSA) who will also open offices in Loughrea, at a date to be announced.

Another driver from Rural Lift Mr. Roland Livingstone who held the 2006 NI MiDAS Driver of the Year title and who was runner up in the 2007 NI competition proceeded to win the overall UK MiDAS Driver title that took place at the CTA awards ceremony in November.

"Rural Lift is committed to providing a professional and quality community transport service for our community. Through MiDAS, drivers are provided with the skills and knowledge to ensure that passenger and operational needs are met." – Manager of SW Fermanagh, Anita Flanagan.

An overview of MiDAS

MiDAS is the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme, operated by the Community Transport Association of Ireland, which promotes a nationally recognized standard for the assessment and training of minibus drivers. It is a membership based scheme that has been designed to enhance minibus driving standards and promote the safer operation of minibuses.

Drivers who successfully complete the MiDAS assessment and training programme will receive a nationally recognized certificate valid for four years, as well as the option of obtaining the comprehensive "MiDAS Driver's Handbook"

Elements of MiDAS Training:

- Training & Assessing drivers of standard minibuses
- Retesting of drivers of standard minibuses
- Training & Assessing drivers of accessible minibuses (disabled access)
- Retesting of drivers of accessible minibuses (disabled access)

The MiDAS training programme is split into several sections

- Theory Training
- Driving Assessment & Training
- Theory Exam
- Retesting of Drivers of accessible minibus (disabled access)

Drivers must first successfully complete the Certified MiDAS driver course to be able to compete for the title of MiDAS Driver of the Year. The competition is a great way to recognize the commitment and service provided by over 350 drivers in the CTAI member groups in Ireland. They provide a real lifeline to the service users enabling them to access work, health, social and educational appointments. ■



Pictured from left to right: Brendan Dunne (Vantastic, Dublin) Runner-up, Ian Mottershead (Training Development Manager CTA UK) adjudicator and Gerald Calgie (Rural Lift SW Fermanagh) Winner of 2007 All Ireland MiDAS Driver of the Year.

Safety Management System Training offered by CTAI

The Community Transport Association of Ireland can offer the following training. CTAI has a list of accredited trainers who can travel to your organisation to carry out the training wherever suits the organisation. Training can be adapted to suit your organisation's needs.

Audit of Safety Management Systems for Community Transport Organisations to OHSAS 18001 Standard

This internal audit is carried out to assess the systems in place and evaluate their compliance with OHSAS 18001 and other legislative requirements.

The auditor will visit the project to assess your organisation and the safety standards that are in place. An action plan to address outstanding issues and a report for the Organisations Management Committee will be prepared.

A review is carried out six months after the audit to assess the implementation of the action plan. This will ensure that all future training provided brings the project into compliance with OHSAS 18001.

Social Audit

Social auditing enables an organisation to review what it is doing and why; report on its performance and the benefits to the local community; provide the information essential for planning future action and improving performance.

The audit is carried out in your organization and duration will depend on the amount of work needed.



MiDAS

MiDAS (the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme), is a 2-3 day course (depending on numbers) which promotes a nationally recognised standard for the assessment and training of minibus drivers. It is a membership based scheme that has been designed to enhance minibus driving standards and promote the safer operation of minibuses. Minimum 4 participants – Maximum 8 participants on each course.



PATS

PATS (Passenger Assistant Training Scheme), is designed for anyone who has care or supervision of passengers travelling by road - in cars, taxis, minicabs, minibuses or large buses. The aim of PATs is to improve safety standards for people who need assistance, care and supervision on the move. This course takes place over one and a half days. Minimum four participants - Maximum 8 participants on each course.

Minibus Emergency & Evacuation Procedures

This course is run over one day and deals with the issues surrounding evacuation of a passenger-laden minibus, due to fire, accident or breakdown.

There is theory in the morning and a practical demonstration and a role-play evacuation of a minibus in the afternoon. Minimum 4 participants – Maximum 8 participants on each course.

First Aid – Basic & Occupational

Basic First aid course is ideal to equip participants with a basic knowledge of what to do in an emergency situation. This one day course can be tailor-made to satisfy the needs of the participants.

Occupational First Aid is a Health and Safety Authority (HSA) approved course run over 3 days. Occupational first aid training is required by law under The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007.

Manual Handling

Recent health and safety reports show that the most common non-fatal work injuries are injuries involving handling, lifting and carrying - injuries that can be avoided. This course will look at legislation and passenger assistance techniques with and without using items of handling equipment.

For further information please contact:
Community Transport Association of Ireland
Tel: 049 432 3849 email: info@communitytransport.ie