



Newsletter

Issue No. 2 Summer 2006

EASILIFT & RANT pick up Cross Border Achievement Award

EASILIFT, the rural community transport provider for the Strabane area and Raphoe Area Networking Together (RANT), Co. Donegal, were presented with a Cross Border Achievement Award in the Slieve Russell Hotel, Co. Cavan on Friday 3rd March 2006, by Bairbre de Brun MEP. The award was presented in recognition for the impact in the border region of the Cross Border Driver Training Programme, which has been running since March 2005 and is funded by the EU INTERREG IIIA Programme Ireland/Northern Ireland.

The programme was established through a partnership between Easilift in Strabane, and Raphoe Area Networking Together (RANT), to address an identified skills shortage in the Transport Sector in the Border region. The Programme involved 60 participants (30 North and 30 South) training towards the D1 International Minibus Licence and related courses in Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS), Minibus Emergency Evacuation Procedures (MEEPs), Passenger Assistant Training Scheme (PATs), Child Protection, Basic First Aid, Basic Vehicle Maintenance. ■



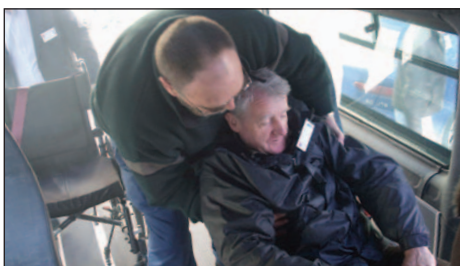
L to R: Tony McDaid (RANT), John McCrossan (St. Johnston & Carrigans Family Resource Centre), Ashley Wray (Training Co-ordinator), Paddy McEldowney (Easilift Transport Co-ordinator), Bairbre de Bruin MEP, Noel Burt (Easilift Chairperson), John Wallace & Tony Duffy (Driver Training Project Participants), Mary Crossan (St. Johnston & Carrigans Family Resource Centre).

Training Day Success Anniversary Dinner

OVER 40 DELEGATES attended the Community Transport Training Day held on 10 March at the City West Hotel. The event coincided with this year's Access & Mobility Exhibition at the same venue. The workshops on Fire and emergency evacuation, Risk management and Manual handling were fully booked, whilst there was good attendance at the Vehicle brokerage workshop. The afternoon seminars on Mainstreaming rural transport, Social auditing for CT groups and Biofuels were informative and these topics will feature in this and subsequent newsletters over the next few months. ■



ANDY CULLEN, (left) Assistant Secretary at the Department of Transport, was the guest speaker at the CTAI's 5th Anniversary Dinner, which was held on 9 March at the City West Hotel. In his speech Andy covered a range of topics, including Transport 21, the future of the Rural Transport Initiative, the development of policy on rural public transport and route licensing. He also invited submissions from the CTAI on matters of concern to its members. ■



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Events

NI Mobility Exhibition 06

Friday/Saturday 19/20 May

The Odyssey Arena in Belfast

See back page for details of

CTAIS & CTAUK Training sessions

Training Day –

Managing a Community Bus

Wednesday, 21 June 1100-1745

Cavan Crystal Hotel, Cavan.

See back page for details

Community Transport Week NI

26-30 June

at various venues.

www.communitytransport-ni.com

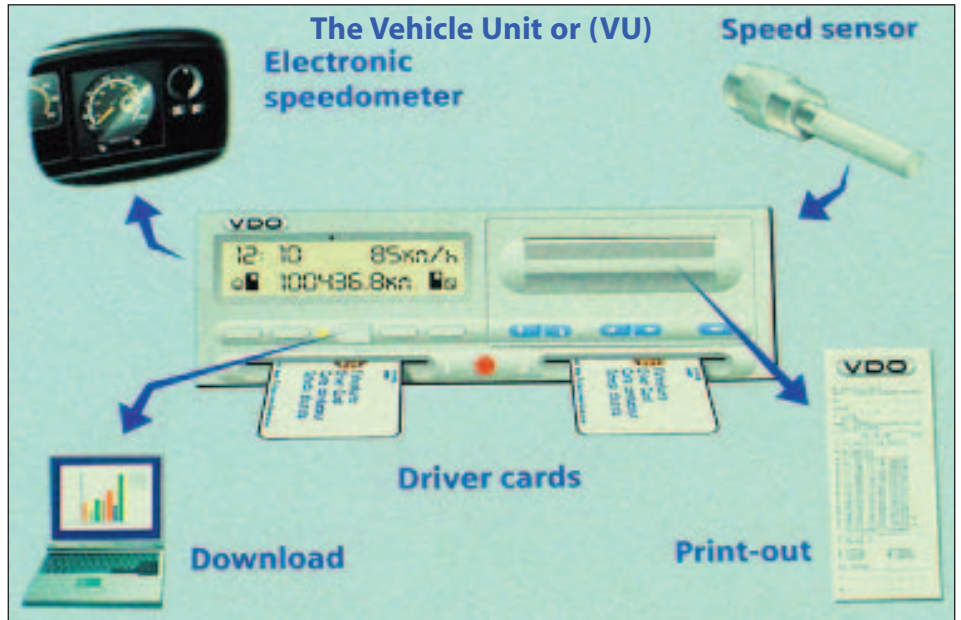
for further details.

Digital tachographs

THE INTRODUCTION OF digital tachograph technology to replace the existing analogue recording devices in new commercial lorries and buses will become mandatory within the EU from May 2006. It is highly likely that, before that date, some new vehicles will be fitted with Digital Tachographs in advance of the deadline.

The legal basis for the introduction of the digital tachograph is *Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3821/85 as amended by Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2135/98 and its Annex 1360/02* relating to the installation and use of vehicle recording equipment for the enforcement of driving hours of professional drivers.

A digital tachograph is an electronic system for recording driving and rest times for drivers and co-drivers of commercial vehicles. Vehicle speed, distance travelled and other system-



related parameters are also logged. Data is stored in a memory (*mass memory*) inside the unit and on driver-specific smart cards (*driver cards*). Central to the introduction of digital tachograph technology is the provision of smart cards for use by *drivers, companies,*

calibration workshops and enforcement officers.

In the Republic of Ireland, the *Department of Transport* is the legal body responsible for issuing these cards. Applications for workshop and company cards can be made by post to the address below.

PUBLIC OFFICE: Block 43, Park West Business Park, Nangor Road, Dublin 12.

The opening hours are Monday Friday. Mornings 10.00 to 12.30 and afternoons 2.30 to 4.30.

Contact Details

Tel. No. 01-604 0505,
Fax. No. 01-604 0599
Email: digitaltach@transport.ie

In Northern Ireland the *Department of the Environment* is the legal body responsible. DVLNI, Digital Tachograph Section, Driver Licensing Division, Coleraine BT51 3TD is responsible for processing applications for Digital Tachograph cards for customers in Northern Ireland. ■

Useful links

European Legislation

<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/index.html>

Monitoring of Implementation of Digital Tachograph

<http://www.Eu-digitaltachograph.org>

Siemens VDO Autommotive AG is a German company that manufactures digital tachographs.

[http:// www.siemensvdo.com/dtco](http://www.siemensvdo.com/dtco)

DT Manufacturer - Stoneridge Electronics Ltd

Stoneridge Electronics Ltd is a UK-based company that manufactures digital tachographs.

<http://www.stoneridgeelectronics.co.uk>

Organisations - International Road Transport Union (IRU)

The International Road Transport Union (IRU) assists bus and coach as well as taxi and truck operators throughout the world and briefs them on developments affecting their business. Through its national associations on every continent, the IRU speaks for the entire road transport industry.

<http://www.iru.org>

For detailed information contact CTAIS for our fact sheet on Digital Tachographs.

Social auditing for community transport organisations

THE CTAIS is developing a social auditing handbook for community transport organisations, which will be launched on 27 June at The Patrician Community & Arts Centre, Carrickmore, Co. Tyrone, during Community Transport Week in Northern Ireland.

Social auditing is an important tool because it 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. It sets out the social, economic and environmental impact of an organisation and allows for independent verification.

This process comprises an evaluation to review both qualitative and quantitative benefits of the CT

Organisation's activities. A social audit can look at the other benefits achieved by those involved with the project; the social, community, and environmental accomplishments of the project, and help guide the project for future growth.

A social audit typically involves members of the Board or Committee, staff, service users, transport operators (where contracted); community groups and local agencies. It would include:

- An evaluation day for Board/Committee Members
- Survey of Staff
- Users Forum Discussion Group and/or survey
- Discussion group and/or survey of transport operators under contract
- Focus Groups for Community Groups and Local Agencies

- Review and appraisal by Board/Committee Members
- Verification by independent person or panel

As part of the process of developing the handbook, the CTAIS has been undertaking social audits with a number of CT groups in the border area and elsewhere in the Republic. These include SW Cavan RTI, Rural LIFT, Easilift, West Coast Wexford and Clare Accessible Transport.

Contact has also been made with the Institute of Social Auditing of Ireland with a view to its reviewing the draft of the CTAIS handbook and in order to organise training for CTAI and CTANI members in social auditing techniques based on the material contained in the handbook. ■

New Executive Committee for CTAI

The following people were elected to the Executive Committee of the Community Transport Association of Ireland at its AGM on 9 March:

Brian Bonham, Laois TRIP

Yvonne Brosnan, Duhallow Rural Transport

Pamela Carney, SW Cavan RTI

Cormac Moloney, Vantastic Dial-a-Ride Ltd

Damien Tobin, Avondhu Development Group

They join the following EC members who continue for another year:

Molly Buckley, Irish Wheelchair Association

Gerry O'Brien, Accessible Community Transport Southside

Laura Ward, Clare Accessible Transport

Damien O'Neill, the CTAIS Project Assistant, was elected as Company Secretary.



Training Day Managing a Community Bus



21 June, 1100-1745
Cavan Crystal Hotel, Cavan



The Community Transport Advice & Information Service (CTAIS) is holding its second national training day in conjunction with Pobal (Rural Transport Initiative). It precedes the Rural Transport Initiative national meeting on 22/23 June at the same venue.

Delegate fees:

Free of charge to CTAI Members and RTI groups; €35 for non members.

Fees are inclusive of tea/coffee and light lunch.

Please book in advance with the CTAIS office, 049 432 3849, specifying whether you wish to attend the seminars or the workshop.

1100 – 1130 Registration and tea/coffee

1130 – 1145 Welcome and introductions

1145 – 1300

Operating a community bus – Experience of the RTI

A panel of managers of RTI groups operating their own vehicles will give brief presentations and take questions on their experience.

1300 – 1400 Light lunch

1400 – 1515 Seminar 1

Design & purchase of an accessible minibus

This seminar equips participants with the knowledge and ability to compile a minibus specification which meets their users' needs and to deal confidently with vehicle suppliers. It also looks at legal and technical aspects of minibus design, issues relating to access for wheelchair users and child safety.

1530 – 1700 Seminar 2

Management, operation and maintenance of a community minibus

This seminar will cover a range of topics for the effective, safe and legal operation of a community minibus, including risk assessment, maintenance procedures, driver training and administration.

1400 – 1700 Workshop

Vehicle brokerage

This workshop will cover the issues around the sharing of vehicles owned by organisations with each other and with other groups which do not own a vehicle. It will look at the barriers and benefits and through role play will help participants to overcome the barriers and highlight the benefits on their way to establishing a formal agreement to make their vehicles more widely available, thereby spreading their fixed costs.

Tea/coffee will be served at 1515

1700 – 1745 Plenary

CTAUK & CTAIS Training at NI Mobility Exhibition 06

19/20 May - The Odyssey Arena, Belfast.

The Community Transport Association UK (CTAUK) and the Community Transport Advice & Information Service (CTAIS) are holding the following training sessions at the NI Mobility Exhibition 06.

Free of charge to CTAI Members and RTI groups; £10 per session for non members. Please book in advance with the CTA office, 028/048 9040 3535.

19 May

1000 – 1100

CPC for Drivers

An advice training session on new regulations with reference to vocational drivers requiring Certificates of Professional Competence. This informative session will give all the information required, on whether this new legislation affects CT drivers, what it means, why the legislation is being changed and an idea of the impact of the cost to both individuals and organisations.

1100 – 1230

Design & purchase of an accessible minibus

This seminar equips participants with the knowledge and ability to compile a minibus specification which meets their users' needs and to deal confidently with vehicle suppliers. It also looks at legal and technical aspects of minibus design, issues relating to access for wheelchair users and child safety.

1330 – 1630

Vehicle brokerage

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May 20

1100 – 1400

Passenger assistance

This 3 hour course will train drivers and assistants on vehicles in all the main areas of passenger assistance. It will include the core element of the PATS training, the role of the passenger assistant.

Social Auditing for CT – information session and launch of Handbook

Tuesday, 27 June, 11.00 – 14.00

The Patrician Community & Arts Centre, Carrickmore, Co. Tyrone
Cost: FREE All refreshments will be provided.

Booking details: Contact CTAIS on 00353 49 432 3849;
advice@communitytransport.ie