



Newsletter

Issue No. 3 Autumn 2006

Project part financed
by the European Union

CTAI secures funding for Community Transport Training Network

THE COMMUNITY Transport Association of Ireland (CTAI) has secured a grant of - €50,000 under The Wheel's Training Links Programme, which is funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment. This funding will match the funding for training received under the INTERREG IIIA Ireland/Northern Ireland Programme for the Community Transport Advice & Information Service.

The main aim of the Community Transport Training Network is to provide capacity building for its members through certified training for trainers programmes, such as the MIDAS Driver Assessor Trainer and the PATS Passenger Assistant Trainer courses; and the Social Audit Technician course accredited by the Institute of Social Auditing of Ireland. Training will be targeted at both members of staff and management committees. It will enable network members, most of which are small groups, to access training in a more cost effective



manner than they would be able to do on their own. Training materials, some of which will be "localised" for conditions in Ireland, will be designed specifically for community transport organisations.

The successful application was based on a training needs review of 20 organisations in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland undertaken by CTAIS staff earlier in 2006. The training



network has now been extended to cover 40 members of the CTAI and 7 of the Rural Community Transport Partnerships in NI. A Training Plan is being prepared by the CTAI and will be submitted to The Wheel by 22 September for delivery from October 2006 to June 2007. Details of the training included in the Plan will be available from the CTAIS office and on the website www.communitytransport.ie ■

EASILIFT & RANT to deliver full D Licence Training Programme

FOLLOWING ON from their very successful and much appreciated North/South Driver Training Programme, Easilift, the rural community transport provider for the Strabane area, and Raphoe Area Networking Together (RANT), Co. Donegal, have recently been awarded funding to implement a further driver training programme to assist 30 trainees (15 from NI and 15 from the RoI) to obtain the full D Licence to drive buses with more than 16 passenger seats. Funding for this programme will be provided by the EU INTERREG IIIA Programme Ireland/Northern Ireland and training is due to start in the next few weeks. **Ashley Wray** will be the Co-ordinator for the programme and trainees are currently being selected. ■

Contact details:

Stradone Community Centre,
Stradone, Co. Cavan.

Tel/fax: (+353) (0)49 432 3849

www.communitytransport.ie

E-mails:

advice@communitytransport.ie

Graham@communitytransport.ie

Damien@communitytransport.ie

Events

Launch of CTAIS website

www.communitytransport.ie

Tuesday, 26 September 2006

Communities Moving Forward 2006

Tuesday-Thursday, 10-12 October

G-Mex, Manchester

See back page for details

CTANI Annual Conference

Tuesday, 14 November 2006

Venue to be confirmed

See back page for details

Legal matters

This issue we highlight a couple of changes to legislation which will affect drivers in the Republic of Ireland.

Penalty Points for committing a Mobile Phone offence

FROM FRIDAY, 1st September a driver who is detected committing a mobile phone offence will have the option to pay a fixed charge of €60 within 28 days from date of issue by the Gardaí of the Fixed Charge Notice, or €90 if paid within the next 28 day period and incur 2 penalty points instead of being prosecuted in Court. A driver who is convicted in Court of a mobile phone offence will have 4 penalty points endorsed on his or her driving licence record and will be liable to a fine of up to €2,000.



Section 3 of the Road Traffic Act 2006 makes it an offence to drive a vehicle while holding a mobile phone. An offence is committed by holding a mobile phone while driving and matters such as whether or not the phone was being used or switched on at the time are not relevant.

"Bluetooth" and other hands-free devices do not come within the scope of the prohibition.

The definition of 'holding a mobile phone' covers holding it by hand or supporting it with some other part of the body. The definition prohibits the practice of cradling a mobile phone in the nook of the neck and shoulder.

The Act recognised that there may be situations where a driver must contact the emergency services and it provides a defence for the use of a hand-held mobile phone in such circumstances. The defence relates to calls made to the emergency services on the national emergency telephone numbers only, namely, 999 and 112. The Gardaí, fire service, ambulance service, coast guard service and mountain rescue service may be contacted on these numbers.

New Regulations for the wearing of Safety Belts and Child Restraint Systems in Coaches and Minibuses

Taken from SI 240/2006 European Communities (Compulsory Use of Safety Belts and Child Restraint Systems in Motor Vehicles) Regulations 2006.

1. The Regulation applies to all Coaches and Minibuses to the use of a seat which is fitted with a safety belt.
2. Subject to exemptions every adult and every child of 3 years of age or more occupying a seat shall wear a safety belt or an appropriate child restraint system.
3. A person (other than a person under 14 years of age) who fails to comply with this Regulation commits an offence.
4. The driver of a large public service vehicle is not obliged to carry a passenger who without showing reasonable just cause fails to comply with this Regulation.
5. This Regulation applies to coaches and minibuses which are fitted with safety belts on one or more of the passenger seats.
6. The owner of a vehicle shall ensure that passengers are informed of the requirement to wear safety belts while they are seated and while the bus is in motion unless the passenger is subject to an exemption.
7. Passengers shall be deemed to have been informed of the requirement to wear a Safety Belt provided they have been alerted to the presence of safety belts by at least one of the following methods:
 - 7.1. an announcement by the driver or the conductor of the vehicle;
 - 7.2. where the passengers comprise entirely of a single group or assembly an announcement by the courier, escort, group leader or supervisor, as the case may be, accompanying the group or assembly or by the driver;
 - 7.3. an audio-visual presentation (e.g. video);
 - 7.4. a sign prominently displayed at each seating position for which a safety belt is provided;
 - 7.5. a pictogram (see right) prominently displayed at each seating position for which a safety belt is provided.
8. Subject to 9 below, a person who fails to comply with this Regulation commits an offence.
9. The owner of a vehicle does not commit an offence for a failure to comply with 7.3 to 7.5 if it can be shown that the failure was as a result of damage caused by users of the vehicle and the rectification of the damage was not reasonably practicable for the owner in the circumstances.





Above: L-R – Erin Cotter, Rural Transport Co-ordinator, Pobal; Pat “The Cope” Gallagher TD, Minister of State for Transport; Camilla Smyth, Sligo LEADER Partnership & CTAIS Cross Border CT Forum; Damien O Neill, Project Assistant, CTAIS

Progressing Rural Public Transport in Ireland

THE MINISTER OF STATE in the Department of Transport, Pat “The Cope” Gallagher TD, launched the Consultation on Progressing Rural Public Transport in Ireland on Wednesday, 23 August in Gweedore, Co. Donegal.

A discussion paper *Progressing Rural Public Transport in Ireland* has been published by the Department of Transport to facilitate the consultation process. The discussion paper is available on the Department of Transport website at: <http://www.transport.ie> or may be obtained in hard copy by request to 01 604 1644. Comments should be submitted, in hard copy or electronically, no later than 22 September 2006. A covering note, which indicates suggested issues for consideration when preparing comments for submission, has also been provided.

The CTAI will be preparing a response to the discussion paper and will circulate it

to its members prior to submission to the Department of Transport.

The discussion paper, which was prepared by Fitzpatrick Associates and UK consultants, Steer Davies Gleave, provides a background to rural transport in Ireland, outlines the demographic and service context, the policy and institutional context and experience of the Rural Transport Initiative to date. It sets out a number of options for progressing rural transport under three broad headings and contains an annex on the experience of rural transport in Britain.

Three options for consideration:

Option 1

Existing RTI schemes developing with a continued focus on the present target group of older people and people with disabilities.

Option 2

Extending the target groups to cover a broader social inclusion remit and

provide more scope for scheduled services.

Option 3

A comprehensive rural transport service to include services for all potential users of rural public transport, including, for example, for work purposes.

A set of “next steps” is also included in the discussion paper. These set out areas of responsibility for the Department of Transport and Pobal, increasing resources for Pobal to be able to administer and co-ordinate the new programme, establishing inter-departmental structures to progress and monitor the new programme, auditing of the capacity of existing RTI groups to ascertain their ability to deliver the new programme, identifying potential stakeholders to deliver the new programme in parts of the country not currently served by existing RTI groups and the undertaking of a national survey to update the earlier Rural Transport Audit undertaken in 2001/2. ■

Communities Moving Forward 2006

G-Mex, Manchester, 10-12 October



Communities Moving Forward 2006 is the only event which is organised for all third sector organisations which provide passenger transport. Communities Moving Forward 2006 includes a major exhibition, conference and three days of learning and will be held at G-Mex in Manchester from the 10th – 12th October.

The exhibition – entry to which is free – provides an opportunity for all those involved or with an interest in voluntary and community transport to view the latest accessible vehicles, products and services from the UK's leading manufacturers and suppliers all under one roof.

In addition, to the exhibition, there is a one-day conference - **Is public transport a public service?** Issues in the spotlight include government policy, public service delivery, social enterprise, accessibility and social inclusion. Speakers will include leading figures from central, regional and local government and the third sector.

Communities Moving Forward 2006 also includes **three days of learning with a diverse range of topical seminars, workshops and practical training.** Many new areas are featured this year, ranging from workshops on local area agreements to full cost recovery and from community interest companies to winning public service delivery contracts.

Places for the conference and learning programme have to be pre-booked.

The Community Transport Advice & Information Service (CTAIS) is able to provide a limited number of bursaries to members of the Community Transport Association of Ireland (CTAI) towards the cost of the delegate fees to attend Communities Moving Forward 2006.

Please contact CTAIS at 049 432 3849 or e-mail advice@communitytransport.ie to take up this offer.

The Community Transport Association UK (CTAUK) promotes excellence through providing training, advice, publications, events and project support for voluntary, community and accessible transport. CTAI is working together with the CTAUK to manage the Community Transport Advice & Information Service.



CTA NI Conference, 10am – 4pm, 14 November 2006, Venue to be confirmed.

'Innovation in Local Transport Co-ordination in Northern Ireland'

CTA is hosting a conference to present the benefits and challenges of co-ordinating local transport across Northern Ireland. There are many examples of good practice where local communities have found appropriate solutions to their transport problems by working in partnership with a number of organisations.

The conference will showcase initiatives where coordination has provided more transport opportunities for people to go about their daily lives, for work and for leisure. A new Good Practice guide featuring many of these innovative services will be launched at the conference.

Contact CTA NI office on 028 (048) 9040 3535. Attendance is free of charge.