

City of Bristol December 2007

Freight fleet efficiency and driver training

Context

Bristol is the largest urban area in the south west region of the UK with a population of some 400,000 people. Bristol acts as a regional centre for industry, commerce, education and culture and has a long established history as an important centre for trade. The city also serves as a major transport hub providing a gateway to the south west.

Objectives

In introducing measures, which seek to improve the efficiency and reduce the impact of delivery vehicles, it is important to work with freight operators, and to use incentives rather than just seeking to restrict access. Utilising the Local Freight Network START will provide support tools for the freight sector to encourage more efficient practices which themselves can provide operational benefits.

Description of the action

In Bristol, measures will focus upon improving the efficiency of 5-10 freight fleets through a package of support, technical guidance and training tools. These will include initiatives to promote the availability and encourage take-up of techniques to improve the efficiency of lorry fleets embracing the vehicle (operation and maintenance considerations), the driver (safe and efficient driver training for 50 people) and the management of operations to reduce mileage and increase load factors.

UK Road Safety (www.uk-roadsafety.co.uk) have been selected as the contractor for this element of work and will provide all training and support required for fleets and drivers in Bristol.

The training itself is carried out on 2:1 basis and incorporates presentations, vehicle checks, driver debriefs, demo drive, initial and assessed drives, knowledge test and final debrief. The progress of participants is

recorded and each driver receives a written driver assessment and certificate on course completion.

So far the fleet/drivers from the Bristol Consolidation Centre (see fact sheet on consolidation centre) and the City Councils Meals service have participated with a number of commercial fleets set to be involved soon.



Further planning and expected results

Through actively monitoring and managing the fuel used by vehicles a fleets fuel consumption can typically be reduced by 10% leading to an equivalent reduction in costs. The use of safe and efficient driving techniques as part of fleet efficiency management will make a major contribution to this fuel saving.

Before and after fuel monitoring by the participating fleet will evaluate the effects of the training and any fuel savings made. Initial findings for the Consolidation Centre fleet show an encouraging MPG saving of 9%.

Local partners

- Bristol City Council
- UK Road Safety

Contact

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