Intelligence in transport
A Local Transport Authority perspective

Ian Drummond - Leicestershire County Council
A Local Transport Authority perspective

- Our role
- Our asset
- Managing that asset
- Pressures
- The way people use our asset
- What do we need from intelligence in transport?
The County of Leicestershire is in the heart of England, in the East Midlands region. The County surrounds the City of Leicester and Rutland lies to the east of Leicestershire. Large towns in Leicestershire include Loughborough, Melton Mowbray, Market Harborough, Lutterworth, Oadby, Wigston, Hinckley and Coalville. There are many small communities as well.
Our role

- Manage our transport asset to ensure that it is as efficient as possible
  - Make best use of available capacity
  - Strike a balance between competing and conflicting demands
- The aim is to move **people** and **stuff**, not vehicles
  - A bus with 50 people on it is a more efficient use of road space than 50 cars
- All this with the intention of supporting the economy and quality of life
A complex and intricate network that serves many functions
  ◦ People live next to it
  ◦ People trade next to it
  ◦ Utilities use it for their equipment
  ◦ … as well as moving people and stuff

So, competing uses
  ◦ Which all interfere with each other
  ◦ We have to find the most efficient balance
The world we work in

- We need an effective network
- Which we manage
- We could expand if we could afford it
  - But we can’t
  - Also, there are limits to what people would tolerate
Use of our network is essentially unregulated
Open to all who pass basic access tests
Each use of the network is an individual choice
  - Which impacts on every other user
People make travel choices with little prior information
  - Quite a lot of information is already available but people rarely access it for routine journeys
These are all individual acts but we have to deal with the cumulative impact
What can intelligence do for us?

- Help people make more informed choices
  - Individual journeys
  - Freight

- Enable us to manage the network better
  - Understanding current demand
  - Regulating and managing competing use

- I have little money but clever technology may be a good investment
  - Requires individuals to buy in as well
  - They have to see the utility
What would I like to see?

- We look to you to describe what’s possible
  - Work to understand your capability

- A few ideas might be
  - Intelligent routing to deal with congested networks
  - Active navigation to car parks with spaces
  - Anything to make bus use easier
  - Information prior to a trip – needs to be automatic
  - Information during a trip
  - Remember that most journeys are routine

What would I like to see?

For the Local Transport Authority

- Connection to traffic control, to deliver intelligent routing
  - This is about me managing the network so as to stretch its capacity
- Better bus information
  - For operators and passengers
- Network usage information
  - For longer term planning
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