

East of England Transport Information

This project investigates how improvements can be made to travel systems in the East of England., in particular how both historic and real time information sources can be used to enhance existing travel-time prediction tools . Improved travel information reduces unnecessary travel time and distance, and therefore also brings fuel and carbon reduction benefits.

There is a need not only to take account of travel start time -- time of day, day of week etc -- but also of known events such as road works and football matches. And predictions need continual updating to take account of weather forecasts and unforeseen incidents.

The project will:

- Take account of a greater range of information than is included in existing tools
- Include real-time information so as continually to improve the accuracy of travel time predictions.
- Create an information-sharing platform to provide a single access point for a wide variety of information.

Main objectives

- Enhance existing predictive tools for future journeys taking account of known events such as road works, weather conditions, historical journey time data. It will continually use real-time information to update the advice.
- Provide better real-time information to traffic managers, including strategic roads outside the Highways Agency network, who can then manage travel conditions .
- Improve the flow of information between those responsible for handling incidents.
- Put in place a demonstrator which will:
 - Be capable of being progressively extended into a regional/national system
 - Use data from the Highways Agency about traffic flows on its roads, from LTAs (such as Real Time Time Passenger Information, SCOOT, ATCs, ANPR etc), from ELGIN about road works, and from sources such as the GPS carried by commercial fleets and satellite navigation systems to give real-time information
 - Include information such as weather, school holidays, unplanned incidents and initiation of diversion routes
 - Synthesise data where they are not available
 - Enhance the Transport Direct predictor tool
 - Help improve the lines of communication that need putting in place when incidents occur
 - Demonstrate potential economic benefits to the freight and SME sectors, and reduce carbon emissions from the transport sector.

Collaborators in the project include the transport authorities in the region, the Highways Agency, EEDA, BT, TrafficLink, the Port of Felixstowe and Isotrak. We also have the support of the Freight Transport Association, the Road Haulage Association and major hauliers, including Turners of Soham and Maritime.

