

A9 Safety Group

Thursday 4th October 2012 at 1000.

Scotland TranServ Office, Broxden House, Lamberkine Drive, Perth

Attendees: Hugh Gillies	Transport Scotland
Paul Reid	Transport Scotland
Steven Little	Transport Scotland
Joanne Seath	Transport Scotland
Jo Blewett	Transport Scotland
Inspector Neil Lumsden	Northern Constabulary
Laura Fisher	Northern Constabulary
Dougie Bennion	Northern Safety Camera Partnership
Sergeant Kerry MacLeod	Tayside Police
Neil McSporrn	Central Scotland Safety Camera Partnership
Michael McDonnell	Road Safety Scotland
Daryl McKeown	Perth & Kinross Council
Hugh Logan	The Highland Council
Phil Flanders	Road Haulage Association
Jeremy Tinsley	Confederation of Passenger Transport
Gus Beveridge	Stagecoach
Robert Hutchings	Stagecoach
Ken MacKenzie	BEAR (Scotland)
Ian MacPhail	Scotland Transerv
John Smith	Scotland Transerv

Apologies: Arron Duncan

Tayside Safety Camera Partnership

Notes of meeting

Hugh Gillies welcomed everybody and gave an overview of the establishment of the Group and its purpose. As the A9 trunk road extends from Dunblane to Thurso representatives from Central Scotland Police and BEAR (Scotland) were now included in the membership. He re-emphasised the public and political interest in the route and the actions of the Group which needs to demonstrate progress on the issues considered. The meeting will deal with actions from the previous meeting and correspondence. Hugh explained that notice had been issued to award the 4th Generation care and maintenance contract for the North West Unit to BEAR (Scotland) from 1st April 2013.

Updates were provided on the current actions;

- Detailed accident analysis had been conducted by Scotland Transerv and was underway at BEAR (Scotland)
- A signing and lining assessment of the North West Unit was underway

- Additional sites for temporary variable message signs (VMS) are being considered
- Journey time reliability has been rolled-out to fixed VMS and is being considered for temporary VMS and a 3-month review report has been commissioned
- Meeting on coordination of road works on 21st October with Amey as they take over the Traffic Scotland contract
- Sightlines and junction visibility to be progressed after signing review
- Technical issues with Average Speed Cameras being discussed with supplier at meeting on 12th October
- Meeting of Communication Sub-group took place on 27th September and proposals presented for strap line
- Communication Sub-group considering web site design
- Stagecoach identified as 'safety champions' and keen to participate
- Work ongoing by Operating Companies to identify low-cost remedial measures

John Smith gave an overview of the detailed accident analysis which had been completed for the North West Unit. Further analysis was requested on accident rates, flows and KSI only. Copies of the presentation to be shared with the Group members.

Hugh Gillies stated that the Road Haulage Association had been in discussion with Transport Scotland on raising the speed limit for HGV's but Transport Scotland have no plans to change the speed limit at this stage.

Neil Lumsden gave a summary of the joint Tayside / Northern Police enforcement initiative which had taken place between 15th and 25th August. Disappointingly the high profile media interest had not reduced the number of offenders. It was agreed to provide accident statistics for the enforcement period compared with previous periods. Dougie Bennion agreed to provide analysis of those detected speeding by the Safety Camera Partnership to ascertain if they were from outwith the Tayside / Northern area and may not have been aware of the initiative.

Phil Flanders is working on identifying road haulage 'safety champions' but any campaign may have to be RHA led to protect and continue the support of any hauliers interested in being involved.

Jeremy Tinsley has obtained the support and commitment of Stagecoach as 'Safety Champions'. Gus Beveridge explained that Stagecoach operate a tracking system in all their vehicles which monitor speeds and movements. Stagecoach are happy to become involved and support the A9 Safety message.

Kerry MacLeod confirmed that Tayside and Northern had different attendance policies for road accidents but this will be rationalised once the new Police Service of Scotland begins on 1st April 2013.

Hugh Gillies stated that the A9 website had to be transparent and include community issues, publish report on actions and outcomes, include ideas from the public, and signing review to show that the issues are being taken seriously.

A review of correspondence received was carried out and comments provided on the individual issues raised. Transport Scotland are to provide responses and it was agreed to share a standard response with the Police and Operating Companies so that the same information would be sent to enquirers.

Jo Blewett reported that planning packages for the dualling schemes would be prepared and ready to proceed as funding become available. The first planned works were for 2015/16 between Dalraddy and Kincaig.

Paul Reid updated the Group on the progress of the Communications Sub-group which had decided on the use of A9Road.info as the web site address with information on speeding offences included. Draft images of the web site front page were shared for comment. It was agreed that the web site would reflect seasonally activity and campaigns. Big Partnership, the media company tasked with drafting a website, have been told to put any further work on hold until resources and finance are agreed.

Hugh Gillies stated that any use of 'Twitter' would require resourcing and asked if any organisation would consider sponsorship or nominate staff to provide resources. Dougie Bennion offered the services of Press Relations officer, Marion Harvie. This offer was gratefully accepted.

Hugh Gillies stated that actions would be driven forward by Transport Scotland with a desire to see a report on the web site within the next 3 months. Feedback on the website proposals were to be fed back through Paul Reid.