

PORTSMOUTH REAL TIME TRAVELLER INFORMATION SYSTEM



"PORTAL"

"The primary aim of the system is to provide timely and accurate bus arrival and departure information for the travelling public at bus stops and remote terminals, to improve confidence and awareness in the public transport services being provided."

Project Aim

PORTAL's main aim is to achieve modal shift from the car to public transport by providing a degree of comfort in public transport services previously unknown in the Portsmouth travel to work area which currently generates over 1.5 million car journeys a week in and out of the city.

In addition the system provides improved schedule adherence information and fleet management for the bus operating companies, together with the opportunity to provide enhanced bus priority facilities.

The project is funded by contributions from the DfT Transport Direct Initiative and LTP funding on a 50/50 basis.

Project Overview and Programme

The system encompasses 4 distinct elements, the Central AVL Server System, the On Bus GPS location system, data/voice Communication System and the at-stop Information Delivery System. Innovative technology has been used throughout the design of the system and comprises GPRS /MEA digital radio technology for the data backbone and new 'Cibeles' stainless steel and glass bus shelters which incorporate LCD RTI display screens together with proven I+ Kiosk technology.



INTERNET TECHNOLOGY DELIVERY SYSTEMS



Integration of the new technologies and delivery on street commenced in September 2003 for the proven I+ Kiosks and in December 2003 for the integrated shelters. Contracts for the GPRS data provision were in place by October 2003.

The system became operational in December 2003 with demonstrator routes covering the city centre and rural services, with a full rollout of all 47 routes in the city to follow as the validation exercise on the data produced takes place.

Innovative Technology

The technology used in the PORTAL system is unique within the United Kingdom or indeed the world. Adopting a digital radio network as the main data backbone within the city is the first rollout of mobile broadband 4G technology for any RTPI system currently being implemented and thus minimises ongoing revenue commitments.

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