

Public transport - from pumpkin to gilded carriage?

We offer high quality, independent advice over the whole range of mass transit options based on our experience with schemes that have stood the test of time.

The issue

"There needs to be, in transport terms, something of a cultural revolution. We need to ask how can we improve travel for the motorist and the passenger. Quality of choice matters as much with transport as it does in any other industry. So we need to put customers first."

(Speech by Alistair Darling - Transport Secretary - to the Conference on World Class Public Services January 2003)



Our experience

Public transport service standards must match those of the private car if this 'quality of choice' is to be available. An integrated approach is required and we deliver it through:

- strategic assessments to identify the precise mass transit needs along transport corridors;
- optimising existing public transport networks to match current customer expectations;
- highlighting added value opportunities such as Park & Ride;
- forecasting revenue and reviewing financing arrangements for new infrastructure.

Nottingham Express Transit (NET)

We guided Nottingham Express Transit (NET) through the full appraisal process of NET Line One, which opened in March 2004. The scheme is a fully integrated public transport corridor, with five park and ride facilities, complementary bus services and segregation from/priority over general traffic. All of which contributed to the £200m NET Line One posting results ahead of first year targets - proving Light Rail can be a winner with the right team.

We advised on the appraisal of two route extensions to NET Line One, which will include further considerations of bus integration.

Midland Metro

We advised Centro about two key extensions to Midland Metro Line 1. We prepared the Initial Outline Business Case, which achieved Government approval in principle, successfully supported Centro throughout the Public Inquiries, worked with Centro in order to obtain funding for the schemes, and support them throughout the procurement process.

Following this successful work, we were retained to advise on Phases 2 and 3 of the scheme, consisting of several routes. Our role encompassed transport planning, demand modelling, regeneration impacts, and scheme and financial appraisals.

Fastway

West Sussex County Council commissioned us to explore possible public transport enhancements to cater for existing and new developments in the area around Gatwick Airport. Our work resulted in the Fastway Guided Bus Network, which opened in September 2003. The network provides this part of West Sussex with a high frequency, reliable public transport system linking Gatwick Airport with the nearby towns of Crawley and Horley.

We provided high quality, independent advice throughout the scheme development, including significant input into the feasibility study, scheme appraisal (submitted in part of West Sussex's Local Transport Plan), patronage and revenue forecasting and design recommendations. Subsequently, we conducted a major economic appraisal of the scheme to confirm that it had sufficient benefits to justify public sector funding. This formed the basis of the business case to secure £10m of government funding as well as private investment for this £35m scheme.



Dublin Bus Network Review

In Dublin we undertook a comprehensive Dublin Bus Network Review. We developed a strategy framework to assess various network options. We evaluated each option's operational impacts and the resulting patronage and revenue, using an assessment tool we developed for the study.

We prepared implementation plans for the preferred network option and advised on bus priority measures that could be introduced to enhance Dublin's expanding Quality Bus Corridor Network. We also considered what approaches could be adopted to enhance bus operations throughout Dublin City Centre.

Glasgow Conurbation Public Transport Study

Our Glasgow Conurbation Public Transport Study (for Strathclyde Partnership for Transport) considered the potential contribution of all mass transit modes to the future transport needs of one of the UK's largest cities. This required a detailed understanding of the issues associated with all modes, and a clean-sheet approach to all existing transport provision to make sure that the future network delivered affordable mass transit throughout the conurbation.

Our vision which has helped these and other clients draws on our extensive experience in recent years in the United States, Canada, Dubai, Singapore, China, Vietnam, Croatia and Spain.

