

Long Distance Traffic

SUMMARY

The LDC Demonstration project 2004 – 2006 has identified quick wins and longer term solutions and defined a number of recommendations for the follow up of long distance traffic projects which shall be implemented in the MIP 2007 – 2013. The project carried out by CENTRICO, STREETWISE and CORVETTE will become a European wide activity linked to the European Studies of the EASYWAY programme.

Introduction

Since 2003 Partners from STREETWISE, CENTRICO and CORVETTE have co-operated in the Long Distance Corridor (LDC) project. In this project quick wins and longer term solutions have been studied and identified for long distance travellers, with a focus on the test-corridor running from the Republic of Ireland towards northern Italy. The results of the LDC project have been received with great interest and have created a strong awareness of the long distance traffic problems in Europe. The LDC project was finalised in December 2006.

Recommendations

The LDC members and representatives from other Euro-regional projects have clearly identified the strong wish to continue addressing long distance travellers, including the following main changes/extensions:

- The activities should be broadened to include all Euro-regional projects.
- The activities should focus on the needs of long distance traffic.
- The activities should give clear recommendations, how the needs of LDT can be converted into relevant services.
- The activities should identify the deficiencies of existing service performances and the service provision.

- The activities should define the framework specifications for necessary services and their technical requirements for local implementation.
- The activities should include the whole of Europe.

The Long Distance Corridors projects (2004 – 2006) focussed on a specific corridor (Ireland – Italy). During the project it became clear that for implementation the focus should not be on a defined area, but on the end-user, i.e. the traffic.

Rationale

Long distance traffic has different characteristics and needs from local traffic. Long distance traffic consists mainly of three categories of traffic:

1. Freight transport
2. Tourists
3. Cross border traffic

They share the same extra problems compared to local traffic, such as:

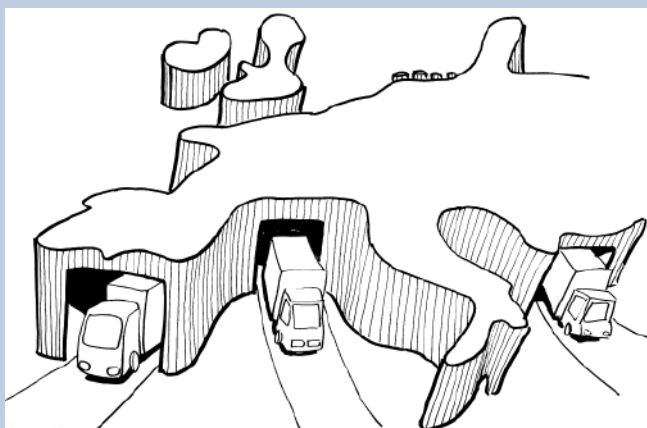
- The language problem.
- Lack of knowledge about sources of information.
- Lack of knowledge of local rules and legislation.
- Unfamiliarity with the road network (including possible alternative routes).
- Unfamiliarity with the normal traffic conditions.

Centrico BRIEFING NOTE

Using ITS to manage Europe's busiest roads

The challenge is to acknowledge these groups as users with specific characteristics and user needs and to support them with adequate service levels in both traffic management as well as traveller information on the TERN. A challenge, because most ITS solutions are implemented locally and benefit regional and local users, rather than long distance traffic.

The specific difficulty to provide the European traveller with consistent information along his journey is among others due to the large number of different road and transport operators, service providers and to the language barrier. Added to that, international travellers are often unfamiliar with their surroundings, foreign legislation and sources of information. For instance: Europe presents large differences in traffic information services, collecting toll, weight restrictions and handling dangerous goods.



For traffic managers, dealing with long distance traffic is extra difficult due to the mentioned problems and because of the discontinuity in the network. Their responsibility and ability to manage traffic stops at the border, which prevents them from managing long distance traffic properly, unless they co-operate with other traffic managers.

So the nature of long distance traffic poses extra problems to freight transport, tourists and cross border traffic as well as to the traffic managers handling both the local and the long distance traffic in their area. The increasing amount of international traffic strongly increases the traffic problems caused by long distance traffic.

Interest Group

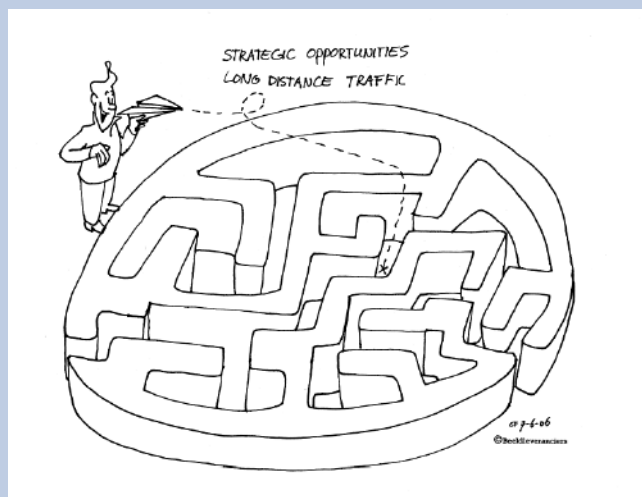
Long distance traffic concerns many other stakeholders than road operators: freight transporters, motoring organisations, service providers, car-industries, etc. A continuous dialogue with those stakeholders is required. It is therefore proposed to set up a Forum, including those stakeholders, that advises the road operators on long distance user needs, possible solutions, etc.

EASYWAY and European Studies

The current EASYWAY proposal includes several lines of activity based on the recommendation on LDT. Two projects deserve special mentioning, because they are direct results of the LDC demonstration project:

ETTIN – Set up of a Europe wide traffic and traveller information service phone number portal. A first working group started in 2006 and expects to reserve a number in 2007.

CSM – Expand the current Co-ordinated Strategy Management project started in Germany to neighbouring countries.



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For further information on other CENTRICO activities visit:

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Supported by the European Commission DG TREN-TEN-T

