

ESRI Ireland & Cora Systems aid Tyne & Wear in Transport Planning



The Client

Tyne and Wear is a metropolitan county in the North East of England around the mouths of the Rivers Tyne and Wear. The county was created by the Local Government Act 1972 and it is divided into the metropolitan boroughs of South Tyneside, North Tyneside, City of Newcastle upon Tyne, Gateshead and the City of Sunderland.

The Tyne & Wear Local Transport Plan (LTP) is a five year statutory document (covering the period 2001-2006) prepared by all local authorities which set out a strategy for the development of transport in a particular area. This is now to be superseded by LTP2. The plan indicates how money allocated by central government will be spent in order to meet local and national targets and objectives. In most cases more money is made available in a plan area depending upon the quality of its Local Transport Plan.

In Tyne and Wear a joint plan was prepared by the five local authorities; Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Sunderland and the Passenger Transport Executive; Nexus. There were

other stakeholders in the plan - including bus and train companies, the ports and airport, haulage companies, taxi operators, cycling and pedestrian organisations and many more. During the preparation of the plan Tyne and Wear residents were extensively consulted on their views of how the transport system should evolve.

The Challenge

The Local Transport Plan addressed the key transport problems affecting the area and set out appropriate, affordable and acceptable strategies to bring about improvements in local transport systems. Managing this Plan of multiple projects & stakeholders, covering such an extensive area, with inconsistent systems & process proved to be a very arduous challenge for the authorities.

The main problem with the Local Transport Plan was summarised as 'getting the right information, at the right time in the right format'. The key difficulties with five Local Authorities working together on one Program included lack of project visibility, getting information from each local authority

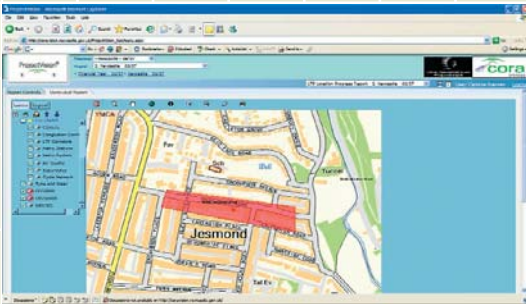
for reports and having a tool that provided both Project Management reports, but also LTP specific reports. In addition visualising that information across the Tyne-and-Wear region to ensure all regions were treated fairly was extremely difficult.

The Technology

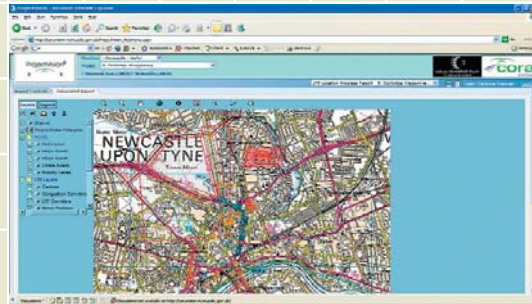
Cora Systems 'ProjectVision', a web-based project/ program management solution, is designed to deliver tangible benefits to customers across industry sectors such as Local Authorities, Pharmaceutical, Manufacturing, Project Management and Software/Product Development. Cora Systems were chosen by the Tyne & Wear LTP core team as a key supplier for this solution because of their experience in the Project Management arena and because of their ability to link to ArcIMS, the GIS solution from ESRI.

The LTP core team required a project management system that would allow them to view essential project status information such as resource management, risk control and changes in requirements. Cora Systems was awarded this contract and

Case study



Displaying information about a project for example - the wards areas covered, costs and committed budget.



Overview of projects in an area of Newcastle Upon Tyne with all the layers switched on.

became the chosen supplier for Newcastle & Wear's project management solution.

ProjectVision is a simple, easy to use, web-based Project management system, which guarantees productivity increases, along with cost & time savings within an organisation and being web based ensures a collaborative platform for inter project interaction. The solution provided a customised managed services approach for the Local Transport Planning process in Newcastle.

Together with Cora Systems, ESRI Ireland designed and developed PV Spatial, an integrated mapping component, based on ESRI's ArcIMS product, which seamlessly sits within the ProjectVision application. ArcIMS is a scalable Internet Map Server and it is widely used for GIS Web Publishing to deliver maps, data, and metadata to many users on the Web. PV Spatial enables Project Managers, Project Teams and IT Managers at Newcastle-Upon-Tyne to spatially manage their work

coherently, sharing project information, scheduling tasks and making updates across several geographical areas.

Solution & Capability Delivered

One of the core elements of Tyne & Wear's strategic transport plan was a higher level organisational strategy tool, which would allow them to take a view of multiple simultaneous projects.

Cora Systems fully integrated Local Transport Plan module has been a great success for the Tyne & Wear team. PV Spatial, the GIS mapping interface powered by ESRI technology enabled the sharing of geospatial information through user friendly interface which ensured there was a high level of buy-in from personnel. Once the system was installed (typically a half day timeline), Cora Systems provided one day system training to the core team and a further one day facilitation.

Gary MacDonald, Tyne and Wear, LTP Core Team Manager commented 'The

importance of having knowledge of various hierarchical levels of any project or group of projects cannot be underestimated. This coupled with the Geographic Information Systems mapping element, has made this application an indispensable tool to us in both current and future planning initiatives'.

Benefits

Gary added 'The local authorities in Tyne and Wear and the PTE (Nexus) have worked together with Cora Systems to develop an excellent system which is tailored to our needs. This followed up with efficient and resourceful support has confirmed that we have made the correct decision. In addition, the integration of ProjectVision with ESRI's ArcIMS technology is another differentiator and the benefits of viewing our projects 'spatially' are becoming more widely recognised and accepted. Our selection of ProjectVision has provided us with a seamless, easy-to-use, flexible system that supports collaboration between all project stakeholders'.