

# national transport awards

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009**

### **INSPIRING TRANSPORT PROJECTS REWARDED AT NATIONAL CEREMONY**

The people making a real difference to transport across the country were recognised at the prestigious National Transport Awards in London last night with Devon County Council picking up the top prize of Transport Local Authority of the Year whilst Thurrock Council won the Most Improved Transport Local Authority of the Year. Scottish transport companies First ScotRail and Stagecoach Bluebird took home the awards for Public Transport Operators of the Year for Rail and Bus. Brian Smith from Cambridgeshire County Council was honoured for his lifetime achievement to local transport.

Hosted by writer, broadcaster and television presenter Hardeep Singh Kohli, the awards drew over 700 transport professionals to the ceremony at the Grosvenor House Hotel.

Winners of the Transport local authority of the year Devon County Council made travel easier, safer and greener in Devon. The £42 million Barnstaple Western Bypass has dramatically cut traffic in the town centre. The Exeter-to-Newton Abbot bus service has new, low-floor double-deck buses. There are 11 Fare Car schemes – the bookable taxi service at bus prices serving rural areas. Travel plans are in place at 89% of Devon's schools and in Exeter, 20% of secondary-school children cycle to school compared with 2% nationally. Devon is also to get the country's first laser-guided bus

Stagecoach Bluebird was named as best bus operator of the year. It now carries 12 million passengers a year, up 3.11% on the previous year. It operates 99.85% of all its services, with 95% running to time or within five minutes of the scheduled time. And its buses keep getting younger – they're now on average just 7.4 years old compared with 7.8 years old in 2005/6. Two thirds of its engines meet Euro 2, Euro 3 or Euro 4 emission standards and many are Euro5 compliant.

FirstScotRail took away the award for best rail operator of the year achieving the highest punctuality and reliability Public Performance Measure - 94.2% -since 1999, and is now consistently above 90%. Customer satisfaction is 90%. There are more Sunday services and trains between Edinburgh and Glasgow; delays are down 50%; and there has been a 9% decline in crime and assaults on rail staff. And it makes a profit, too – some £26.4m in 2008, up from £16.5m in 2007.

Most improved transport local authority of the year, Thurrock Council undertook a thorough review of its transport planning function with remarkable results. It is now the first authority in the country to have travel plans adopted by all its schools; a million more bus journeys taken in 2007/08; cycle trips up by 19%; and station platforms to be lengthened to take 12-car trains.

Matthew Lugg was given the award for outstanding contribution to local transport. Chair of the UK Roads Board, second Vice President of CSS and Chair of the CSS Engineering Committee, and former Chair of the Highway Maintenance Sub-Group and the Highway Asset Management Sub-Group, Matthew has played a major role in the development of Highway Asset Management in the UK in leading projects to produce national guidance, and has made a real difference at Leicestershire during his time there

This year's winner of the Lifetime contribution to local transport award Brian Smith, Cambridgeshire County Council, has provided inspired leadership, drive and commitment to his county council for the past 16 years. Without him, many of the positive initiatives and ratings that his authority has received would not have happened.

The National Transport Awards, in association with *Transport Times* magazine, are supported by the Department for Transport and the Local Transport Planning Network. The awards were judged by *Transport Times* publisher Professor David Begg, Baroness Ros Scott, Andy Southern, managing director for transport planning at consultant Atkins and Nick Bisson, director of regional and local transport policy, Department for Transport.

Opening address was from **Paul Clark MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport:**

"Local transport is fundamental to our everyday lives - whether it be getting to work or school, or visiting friends and family. It also plays a central role in supporting local economies, linking businesses with markets, and people with jobs. Which is why we are spending £4 billion until 2011 so that local authorities can modernise and provide the best possible transport.

"The National Transport Awards is one of the very few ceremonies that unites the whole transport sector, and celebrates the many local authorities and businesses who have made a real difference to transport over the past year. It also illustrates the extraordinary stories behind the individuals who are prepared to go the extra mile."

The full list of award winners and those who were highly commended is as follows:

Road Safety, Traffic Management & Enforcement – sponsored by FirstGroup  
Southwark Council and Project Centre – winners. Norfolk County Council - commended

Improvements to Bus Services - Sponsored by Transdev  
NEXUS – winners. Translink and Worcestershire County Council - commended

Cycling Improvements - Sponsored by Department for Transport  
Lancashire County Council – winners. London Borough of Hackney - commended

Walking & Public Realm - Sponsored by Department for Transport  
Leicester City Council – winners. Liverpool City Council - commended

Dedication to Access for All

Essex County Council – winners. Berwickshire Wheels Community Transport - commended

Contribution to Sustainable Transport - Sponsored by Highways Agency  
AECOM – winners. Southern, Bombardier & Network Rail - commended

Travel Information & Marketing

Amey – winners. London Underground and Northern Rail – commended

Most Innovative Transport Project - Sponsored by Transport Times  
Highways Agency – winners. Travel Master operated by South Yorkshire Passenger  
Transport Executive - commended

Technology

South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive & Partners – winners. Nottingham City  
Council - commended

Transport Team/Partnership of the Year

London Underground, Tube Lines and Alstom – winners. Heathrow area transport  
partnership and Network Rail (and Bechtel) - commended

Integrated Transport Authority of the Year

Centro - winner

Rail Station of the Year

Southern - Mitcham Eastfields Station – winners. National Express East Anglia -  
commended

Most Improved Transport Local Authority - Sponsored by ACIS

Thurrock Council – winner

Frontline Employee of the Year

Martin Jones, Bus Driver, First Cymru - winner

Yvonne Allan, School Crossing Patrol, Leicestershire County Council - commended

Jeff Ashton, Bus Station Supervisor, GMPTE - commended

Marion Bainbridge, Northern Rail - commended

Andy Butler & Peter Hall, Station Supervisors, London Underground - commended

John Corder, Operational Supervisor, First Essex - commended

Jan Pratt, Customer Sales Assistant, Uckfield Station, Southern - commended

Leon Wells, Bus Driver, First Eastern Counties Buses - commended

Transport Journalist of the Year - Sponsored by SERCO

Tom Symonds, BBC - winner

Outstanding contribution to Local Transport

Matthew Lugg, Leicestershire County Council - winner

Outstanding contribution to National Transport

Tim O'Toole - winner

Lifetime Contribution to Local Transport Award  
Brian Smith, Cambridgeshire County Council - winner

Chris Moyes Award for Public Transport Operator of the Year (Bus)  
Stagecoach Bluebird – winners. First UK Bus - First Devon & Cornwall - commended

Chris Moyes Award for Public Transport Operator of the Year (Rail)  
First ScotRail – winner. Chiltern Railways and First UK Devon and Cornwall and Chiltern Railways - commended

Transport Local Authority of the Year - Sponsored by Department for transport  
Devon County Council – winner. Leicestershire County Council and Nottingham City Council commended

### Commendations

Road Safety - Norfolk County Council  
Cycling Improvements - London Borough of Hackney  
Improvements to Bus Services - Translink, Worcestershire County Council  
Walking & Public Realm - Liverpool city council  
Dedication to Access for All - Berwickshire Wheels  
Contribution to Sustainable Transport - Southern, Bombardier & Network Rail  
Travel Information & Marketing - London Underground, Northern Rail Most Innovative Transport Project - Travel Master operated by South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive  
Technology - Nottingham City Council  
Transport Team/Partnership of the Year - Heathrow area transport partnership, Network Rail (and Bechtel)  
Rail Station of the Year - Wymondham Station

For further information contact: Transport Times Events on 0131 556 1500.

Photos of the event/winners are available via Simply Photography  
[www.simply-photography.co.uk](http://www.simply-photography.co.uk)

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