

LONDON BOROUGH CUTS CONGESTION WITH RAILPLANNER

Submitted by: MCC International Ltd

Monday, 29 April 2002

Local Authority Selects Travel InfoSystems' Bespoke Journey Planning Software to Help Ease Congestion in London

Travel InfoSystems, the travel planning software specialists, today announced the signing of an agreement with the London Borough of Brent, to supply the local authority with UK rail and tube journey planning information as a Web service. In a bid to encourage the use of alternative transport, staff and citizens will be able to access the journey planning service through the Council's internet website. The move is aimed at combating the growing problems of traffic congestion and air pollution, caused by over dependence on the car.

"Accurate and accessible journey planning and timetable information is a vital part of improving the public transport system. If users are able to accurately plan their journey, estimate the time it will take and find the connections they need to make in advance, they will have more confidence in using public transport and hopefully be more likely to use it," explains Adam Bows, Sustainable Transport Officer at Brent. "We also asked Travel InfoSystems to tailor the Web journey planner to Brent by building in a drop-down menu facility allowing the planning of journeys to and from places of interest in Brent, such as one-stop shops, Libraries and town centres. We feel this is of particular help to our citizens who can only access Council services by public transport, especially as Brent has significantly lower car ownership and therefore access to a car than the national average,"

Environmental Services at Brent decided to implement Web journey planner for two reasons. Firstly, to provide high quality, accurate and reliable public transport information on-line to the general public, residents and workers of Brent. It is a key objective of the Council to reduce overall volumes of motor vehicles on the borough's roads, cutting traffic congestion and reducing exhaust related emissions, which present a significant threat to human health. They see the use of public transport as an important alternative to the car. The promotion and simplification of using rail, tube and bus forms a key component of Brent's transport strategy to reduce car dependency and reprioritise the motor vehicle in the transport hierarchy.

Secondly, Brent needed to provide up-to-date and reliable transport information to the staff as part of the Corporate travel plan, which aims to cut staff car-bourne journeys to work by 10% by 2006. Currently 70% of Council staff drive to work, and innovative ways of providing information to make public transport less uncertain and easier to use were required to tackle this target. Commissioning the on-line journey planner solved both of these requirements.

"One of the key objectives of the Transportation Unit is to promote sustainable transport, such as public transport, cycling, walking and car sharing. We selected Travel InfoSystems' journey planning software because of its functionality and bespoke nature. We wanted the system to be personalised to the needs of Brent and we were not aware of any other organisation which could provide a comparable product," concludes Bows.

Staff and citizens of Brent will be able to access the free service through the Corporate website

www.brent.gov.uk, under the 'maps and property' menu. The package also incorporates a mapping facility, allowing users to download and print station location maps, making their overall journey by public transport easier. In the near future, bus timetable data will be added to the system allowing the integration of connections by bus into the journey planner.

About Travel InfoSystems:

Travel InfoSystems are a leading provider of interactive travel planning solutions to commercial and public sector organisations. They are the producers of RailPlanner, the UK's top-selling rail journey planning software and the power behind the travel software on thetube.com. They are strategic partners with Hacon GmbH, and Value Added Resellers of HAFAS, Europe's premier journey planner search engine, which is currently in use in ten countries by over 30 transport companies and authorities.

Travel InfoSystems' portfolio of products and services include new media solutions for the Web and WAP, software for PCs and handheld devices, and real-time solutions. They are experts in the provision of bespoke single-mode and multi-modal travel planning solutions that can handle data for any type of transport, (including rail, bus, coach, ferry, flight and taxi data) delivered to the desired specification, schedule and budget. Their CityPlanner system is one of the few available that can deliver true multi-modal functionality, making it an ideal solution for call centres and passenger information Web sites. Travel InfoSystems also have extensive experience in timetable data processing, geo-coding and the provision of address management solutions for door-to-door planning systems.

For further information call: 020 7428 1288;
Email: enquiries@travelinfosystems.com;
Or check the web site at: www.travelinfosystems.com

Editorial Contacts

Review copies, photography and additional interviews are available from Richard Bennett or Tamsin Keynton at MCC International Ltd.

Richard Bennett,
Tamsin Keynton,
MCC International Ltd,
Tel: 01962 888100,
richard.bennett@mccint.com,
tamsin.keynton@mccint.com