

## **THE “CONTINUING EVOLUTION” OF UTMC; THE EDINBURGH STORY**

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In an urban context Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) can be viewed as a “tool” that offers Local Authorities (LAs) the opportunity to meet their transport policy goals. English and Scottish transport planning policy and legislation needs to be reviewed to understand the current policy environment and the particular needs of LAs at present for such systems. Within this paper the interaction between transport policy goals will be explored in order to understand the aid that this “tool” can provide in meeting these goals.

The title of the paper alludes to the consideration of some of the practical experiences to the installation and operation of The City of Edinburgh Council’s (CEC) traffic control system. The paper also considers the context for the installation of ITS systems across the whole of the UK from broader Halcrow experience. Given the scarcity of urban ITS in Northern Ireland and Wales this paper will focus on English and Scottish traffic management. However, the conclusions made in this paper relating to best practice can be considered as broadly applicable to the whole of the UK.

ITS cuts across a very broad cross-section of our every-day interaction with the urban environment. It is this breadth that allows these systems to provide such benefits. It can be argued that when Urban Traffic Management and Control (UTMC) systems are well founded and directed by appropriate policies and implemented in an exact and balanced fashion they will produce real benefits and bring about a real change to the quality of life in our urban environments.