

STAR Newsletter

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STAR Train to Gain

Our work in recent years has highlighted that local authority staff are continually being asked to achieve more with fewer financial resources. At the same time, staff numbers are falling and budgets often do not stretch to employing external assistance to plug gaps in technical knowledge and expertise.

In response to this issue, STAR can now offer tailored training packages to upskill your staff, providing them with the tools to confidently undertake high quality work, in-house, in the future. This provides a continuing saving over the years, allows you to train your staff effectively and enables you to closely control your transport operations and planning, only bringing in external assistance when absolutely necessary!

We at STAR are able to draw upon over 35 years of research and consultancy expertise in the transport industry, as well as practical teaching experience. Norman has been a Visiting Lecturer within the Civil Engineering Department of Loughborough University since 2007.

Key topic areas where STAR can be of assistance include:

- ★ Developing transport networks at minimum cost
- ★ Evaluating transport schemes and projects
- ★ Setting-up brokerage schemes
- ★ Developing fruitful partnerships across the sectors

- ★ Engaging with private industry / bus operators
- ★ Developing cost-effective SEN and mainstream school transport services
- ★ Developing smarter choices schemes
- ★ Managing transport projects, including LSTF schemes

We can customise a training package to meet the particular requirements of your staff, training up to eight individuals at one time, either on your own premises or externally. We offer highly competitive rates for this training—contact us for a quote.



Business As Usual

In addition to offering training, we are always available to undertake more traditional transport consultancy work.

To find out how STAR can help you to achieve your research or service delivery needs at very reasonable prices, contact Norman James on 07917 692443 or email norman@startransport.co.uk

Our major areas of expertise are:

- * Public transport policies and schemes
- * Transport and regeneration
- * Rural transport
- * Education transport
- * Bid preparation and project management
- * Stakeholder and user consultation

For more information or to talk through your research requirements, contact one of the STAR team

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The Flying Trapeze and other feats of dexterity!

During 2011, STAR was tasked with using scheduling software to provide more cost-effective home to school and college transport for pupils with Special Educational Needs. Working with scheduling staff within the Travel and Transport Services department of Nottinghamshire County Council, STAR was able to assist in making the software ready for use, ultimately leading to significant savings in the tendering round. STAR had previously drawn up the Transport Transformation Programme for the same department of the County Council, which allowed them to plan for savings in over 30 separate areas of transport operation.

STAR has also worked recently with Rutland County Council to develop a costing and operational model for the establishment of a social enterprise to provide community transport and other transport services within and beyond the county boundary.

Just a reminder about STAR's successful management of the Access Alliance Programme which saw investment of £1m in over 60 sustainable transport schemes in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire to link local people with jobs and training. A paper on the project has recently been published in the 'Journal of Research in Transport Business Management'. Contact STAR for a copy.

STAR is Seven

Despite the ongoing challenging economic climate, we are excited that this autumn, STAR reaches the grand old age of seven. Since 2005, we have worked with more than 50 different clients from local authorities to voluntary bodies, from educational establishments to government departments and other agencies. We are delighted that our reputation for excellent customer service and project delivery has enabled us to reach our seventh birthday and we look forward to being of assistance to existing and new clients over the next seven years and beyond.

