

# Thinking space

**Andy Wiseman and Kevin Borrás** look ahead to the forthcoming Dynamic Highways Think Tank

**M**anaged motorways is a term used throughout the ITS community to describe operational and management regimes where technology is applied to monitor, inform and control traffic in a safe and efficient manner. The concept is often summarised as providing extra capacity on a motorway in times of congestion, such as using the hard shoulder, but that narrow description undersells the concept and lessens the potential to adapt and rollout the proven benefits.

There are also other concepts and terms such as active traffic management, managed lanes, dynamic highways, plus lanes, controlled motorways and many others which are used internationally to describe ways to manage movement using advanced transport systems, providing a suite of operational tools to control traffic flow in accordance with the status of the network in near real-time.

If we consider the overall philosophy to be one of managing space dynamically then the potential to transpose and translate the various concepts into other environments and encompass a wider vision for regional and urban mobility is increased.

If the international ITS community then works collaboratively and shares its broad thinking and unconstrained innovation, the potential is even more powerful and wide-ranging.

There are many good examples of leading-edge technology applied in the transport arena that should be seen as part of this wider vision of managed motorways. So, for example, a system to identify lorries on an incorrect route; a single-lane tolling solution; an on-street rotational parking operation or an enforced bus lane all become intelligent tools in the armoury of an operator who

wants to understand how their network is currently performing and intervene quickly to manage their space effectively. In its broadest sense, the fundamental concept of dynamically managing available road space is technology-independent and non-exclusive; operationally led and outcome-driven. The logical conclusion is that the operational benefits and desired outcomes for the space being managed can be achieved flexibly and dynamically if a broad and integrated range of technology is provided in a consistent and optimised manner regardless of geographic or institutional boundaries.

## COLLECTIVE THINKING

Proactive members of the ITS and highways community can help shape the future of managed motorways by collaborating and sharing their views and ideas on roll-out, policy, strategy, innovation, procurement, design, construction, operations, maintenance, safety and any other aspect of the overall project lifecycle.

At the recent Cooperative Vehicle Highway Systems (CVHS) industry day the UK's Department for Transport and the Highways Agency issued a general "call to arms" to the private sector to consider new business models and innovative solutions for information provision. Whilst we acknowledge that potential private investment in CVHS is not directly comparable to the managed motorways model, the provision of an open forum to debate issues and influence strategy was warmly received and is a positive sign of a proactive and listening national authority that values our opinions and ideas.

In keeping with this spirit and following on from the publication of the first edition of *Managed Motorways* magazine (available to view online at [thinkinghighways.com](http://thinkinghighways.com)), H3B Media and

Away Consulting, in association with TRL, will be running a Dynamic Highways Think Tank on 15 November 2011.

This one-day event, held at TRL's state-of-the-art facilities in Berkshire, UK, will feature leading managed motorways experts from the UK, Europe, the Middle East and North America and representatives from contractors, suppliers, agencies, consultants and stakeholders making the case for the take-up and expansion of dynamic highway schemes across the globe, highlighting the potential benefits of such a programme – not just less-congested roads, but positive environmental, social and political outcomes. The Think Tank will be presented in an informal, 'Question Time' style format ensuring that the content and tone of the event is as dynamic as the subject it addresses.

At just £450+VAT, the Dynamic Highways Think Tank represents excellent value for money for those wanting to make more effective use of their road space... and who doesn't want to do that? ☺

## need to know

### EVENT

Dynamic Highways Think Tank

### DATE

15 November 2011

### VENUE

TRL, Berkshire, UK

### SUBJECT

Using road space more efficiently with managed motorways

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Local authorities, transport departments, engineers, consultants and technology providers

### FURTHER INFORMATION

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