Abnormal Loads Toolkit

TfL lane rental industry publication

Introduction

London is experiencing sustained growth in both the economy and population which is set to continue for some time. To meet future challenges and provide the additional demand for jobs and homes, an unprecedented volume of work is taking place, requiring more construction traffic on an already congested network, some of which is large and, an abnormal load.

The Project

The project set out to establish an improved process for management of abnormal loads, while providing increased visibility of routes used to facilitate them to works promoters for consideration during the planning process.

Working with industry stakeholders, a forum was held to gauge requirements for streamlining the movement of abnormal loads around London. The feedback highlighted a unanimous need for formalised training for officers within the London Boroughs, to assists with authorising the movements within the areas of responsibility and a larger suite of courses for the industry.

Two pilot courses where then produced in the template used by the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS) for industry stakeholders outlining the technical content and what could be expected by introducing this type of framework, consisting of a one-day training course and route mapping.

One-day training course

The one day training course would provide an overview of the following;

- Knowledge and understanding of what constitutes an abnormal load

- The duties and responsibilities of an Abnormal Loads Officer

- Overview of the varying regulations

- Understanding abnormal indivisible loads over 150 tonnes

- General requirements

- Confirmation of Learning – Group Exercise

A Course Training Pack which could provide guidance to an instructor detailing lesson plans and the course content, inclusive of presentations, video content and selected images to support the training.

A comprehensive toolkit of advice and guidance, inclusive of regulatory references, with regard to all aspects of the movement of abnormal loads

The aim of this was to obtain feedback from the industry to ensure that the content was fit for purpose and endorsement to proceed to the next phase of procuring a company to deliver the training.

Route Mapping

In addition to this, the abnormal load routes were mapped on TfL's Playbook system which is available to boroughs and utility companies. The layer defines the routes based on the type of abnormal load, as well as road restrictions, waiting bays and whether the road is part of the TfL Road Network (TLRN).
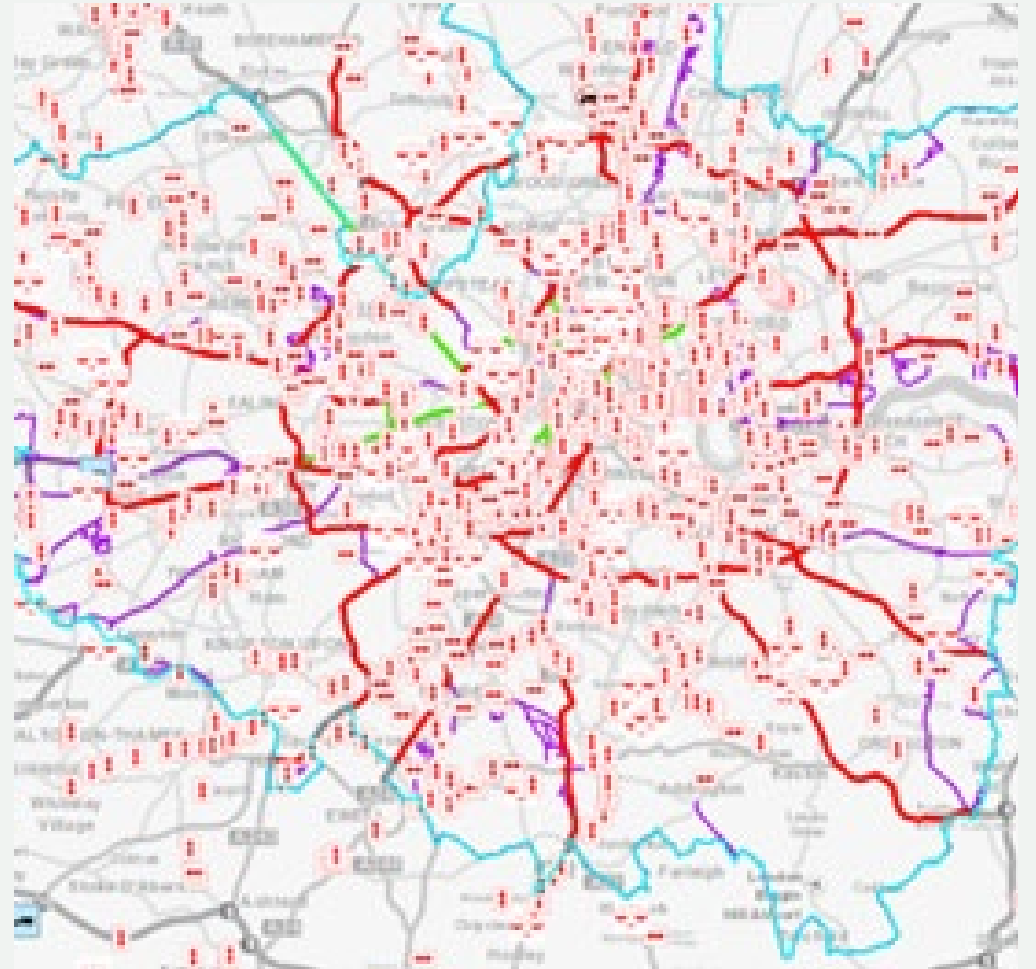
Outcomes

The project was a success, with very favourable feedback received from industry stakeholders who attended both pilot courses and who fully endorsed the technical content and overall presentation.

Conclusion/ Recommendations

The training is the first of its kind within the industry to demonstrate 'what good looks like', along with improved visibility for works promoters working on the TLRN of the routes used.

The next step is to offer the course to the London Boroughs via a training programme, once procurement of a training delivery company can be obtained. This will improve the knowledge and understanding of the movement of abnormal loads with a view to reducing congestion and improving air quality in line with the Healthy Streets initiative, which forms part of the Mayor's Transport Strategy.

Once this phase of training is complete it will be provided to FORS to provide on an industry wide scale.

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