

## **Press Release: £20 Million for Better Bus Time Information**

Thousands of bus passengers could see the latest technology being used to tell them of bus arrival times as the winners of a £20million competition are announced by Transport Minister, David Jamieson today.

Local authorities across England will today hear whether they have been successful in claiming a share of the Government's £20million fund aimed at speeding up the provision of improved bus real time information on local services.

David Jamieson said:

"I am delighted we are able to give £20m to fund 19 real time bus schemes across England. This will make it possible for thousands of passengers to see when their next bus is due. An electronic sign at the stop will count down the minutes until the next bus arrives. Real time systems have been very popular and successful in areas where they have already been introduced and I am pleased that we are able to offer them to a greater number of passengers. These systems will also make it easier for bus operators to better manage their fleets, thereby reducing delays."

The success of electronic signs counting down the minutes for bus arrivals in London and other areas, led to the Government announcement of the £20million fund. The extra funding is to ensure that better bus service information is more widely available across England.

### **Notes to editors:**

As part of the Local Transport Plan Settlement, the Government announced on 13 December 2001 that it would be allocating £20 million to Local Authorities to accelerate implementation of real-time bus information on many local bus services.

Better bus real time information forms one of the Transport Direct targets - a programme announced in the 10-Year Transport Plan in July 2000 aimed at providing transport information on the Internet.

The schemes offered funding today are expected to be in place by December 2003, on course to meet the target. In addition to improved bus real time information, Transport Direct will be a one-stop information point for all modes of transport and will initially be available through the internet.

In total, 46 bids for bus real time funding were received. Many of the bids were of a very high standard and it has been possible to offer 19 schemes funding:

<b>Successful authority or groups of authorities</b>	<b>Allocation proposed</b>
Derby	£260,000
Essex, Southend & Thurrock	£517,750
Gloucestershire	£797,000
Greater Manchester	£1,001,400
Kent	£834,000
Lancashire	£1,824,000

Leicester	£996,000
Lincolnshire	£1,001,700
Merseyside & Halton	£413,230
Plymouth	£765,000
Poole, Dorset & Bournemouth	£772,685
Portsmouth	£1,486,000
Reading	£1,738,600
Surrey	£1,300,000
West Midlands	£2,035,000
West & South Yorkshire	£2,521,000
Wiltshire	£829,500
Wokingham	£349,434
York	£539,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£19,981,299</b>