

## Kizoom in the news

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# Essex and Edinburgh expand real-time information systems

**E**ssex County Council has appointed Cityspace to provide real time information to the council's park and ride sites.

Cityspace's Vision content management system will allow Essex to broadcast travel, traffic and real-time departure information to the LCD screens in the Chelmsford park and ride, as well as across the network of seven Smart Columns at interchanges, bus stops and passenger hubs in the town centre.

"We're investing heavily in park and ride schemes to tackle congestion and poor air quality," said Tony Ciaburro, director of highways and transportation at the county council.

"We are looking at expanding the system to encompass a mobile phone service for bus arrival times – these are the kinds of services which will get people to buy in to public transport."

The network of Smart Columns, which already provide journey planning and interactive services, will broadcast real-time bus and train arrivals and departures and disruption information from key transport hubs around Chelmsford. The service is due to go live by the summer.

Meanwhile, Mott MacDonald is helping to expand City of Edinburgh Council's Route and Car Park Guidance (R&CPG) System. The system will be extended to include six additional variable message signs, as well as occupancy signs for five park-and-ride sites on the outskirts of Edinburgh. Mott MacDonald was responsible for implementing the original R&CPG system in 2007.

The company's common data management system provides the city's operations and control centre with facilities for manual and automatic sign setting. Edinburgh's existing system

comprises 20 car park information signs across the city plus 11 strategic message signs situated on the approaches to the city, which provide drivers with information on car park occupancy and other important traffic updates. The additional six signs will be located within the city on major traffic routes, both citybound and out-bound, to provide further information to road users.

Roll-out of the system expansion started in December 2007 and is expected to be completed in autumn 2008. City of Edinburgh Council hopes the expansion will promote the use of park-and-ride sites, reduce congestion on the Edinburgh road network and further improve driver information in the area.

Funding for both phases of the system was provided by SEStran, the South East of Scotland Transport Partnership.