Towards Intelligent Transport – Case Finland

Risto Kulmala

VTT
Structure

- Introduction
- Benchmarking Finland
- Identifying implementation issues
- What ITS to deploy?
- Role of public sector
- Recommended actions
- What is happening now?
Introduction

- Finnish Parliament and Transport Minister concerned about low status of ITS in Finland
- EU and national policies put much more emphasis than what is being done in practice
- Ministry of Transport and Communications nominated me as a one-man committee to investigate the issue and find solutions and especially what the public sector should do
- Paper sums up the results and their outcome
Benchmarking ITS

- Geography, demographics, industry
- Very advanced in maritime transport management, mobile ITS solutions for public transport, demand responsive transport, road surface friction monitoring and modelling, national information base interface libraries, and assessment of services and their impacts
- Average European level but falling behind Japan, USA and leading European countries
Implementation issues - 1

- Lack of champion for ITS
- Lack of national master plan
- Planning and decision making is infrastructure oriented
- Small budgets for implementation and R&D
- Lack of personal resources and expertise in public sector
- Lack of awareness and information, conservative attitudes
- Lack of customer orientation
- Poor quality in 1st deployments bad for reputation
- ITS does not bring publicity and thereby votes
Implementation issues - 2

- Inadequate business models in a small market
- Aversion to risk
- Varying roles and operational models in public sector
- Inadequate information infrastructures
- Issues related to protection of privacy and data security
- Lacking standards and legal frameworks
- Heaviness of European solutions
- Difficulty of use
- Difficulty of payment
What ITS to deploy - 1

- Incident management
- Public transport ITS solutions
- eLogistics
- Urban mobility and traffic mgmt
- Enhanced enforcement
- Goal oriented road user charging
- Maritime transport management
- Vessel traffic control
- Rail traffic management
- Utilisation of satellite positioning
Role of public sector

- Basic services for transport system operation and safety
- Facilitator of ITS market and deployment
  - Regulation
  - R&D
  - Information infrastructures
  - Purchasing and outsourcing while supporting innovations
- National and international cooperation
Recommended actions

- Develop and agree on a national ITS master plan
- Focussed R&D programmes of critical mass
- Large-scale test sites and FOTs in cooperation with "brother countries"
- Renew the transport planning systems
- Network operations - key mission
- Develop purchasing processes
- Provide affordable information infrastructure with long-term quality guarantee
- Implement ITS where/when effective & profitable
Immediate actions

1) adapt the medium and short term goals of the administrations to also consider use of ITS
2) obtain sufficient personnel and expertise in the domain as well as agree on share of work
3) start up active goal oriented national and international cooperation
4) commence actions to deploy most efficient and effective ITS solutions and to start up large-scale field operational tests
Immediate actions

- 5) mainstream ITS and renew the planning system for network operation
- 6) agree on a national vision programme for ITS and get the political and national commitment for it
- 7) agree on a national ITS strategy with the support of the Intelligent Transport Forum to be set up together with the government, municipalities and ITS Finland
What is happening now?

- Report given to Minister in December 2008
- Most immediate actions recommended have been initiated
- Finnish cabinet programme half-way review spring 2009: ITS strategy and solutions highlighted
- Minister set up another one-man committee to develop national ITS strategy and action plan until end of October 2009