



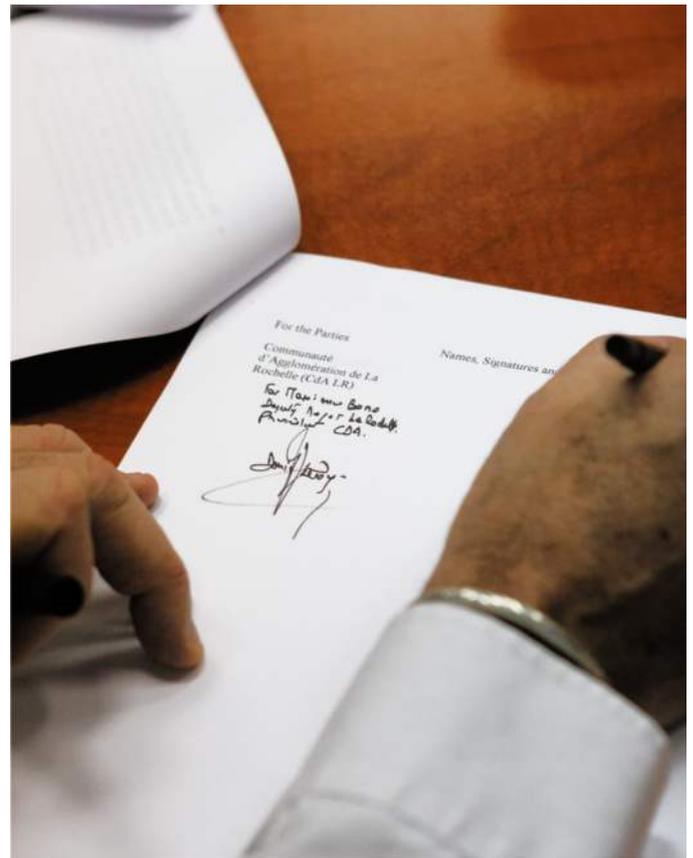
## Political Committee meeting of SUCCESS

The 3rd Political Committee meeting of SUCCESS, as a part of CIVITAS SUCCESS held on 4th July 2007 in Ploiesti, assessed the progress achieved by each city and the further steps of cooperation and common political ambitions in relation to Transport and Environment plans.

Mr. Emil Calota, Mayor of Ploiesti, and Ploiesti Local Council members welcomed the participation of La Rochelle and Preston politicians and representatives, respectively Mrs. Jean Yates, recently elected chair woman of the CIVITAS Political Advisory Committee for the next 2 years, Mr. Neil Cartwright - both councillors of Preston City Council - Mr. Cliff Hughes - councillor of South Ribble Borough Council and Mr. Denis Leroy - Deputy Mayor of La Rochelle.

The foreign guests shared their experience with Ploiesti policy makers, in order to stress the project's benefits for the cities, to tackle the obstacles in the progressing and continuing process of implementing a new mobility system.

Communauté d'Agglomération de La Rochelle, Lancashire County Council and Ploiesti City Hall, together with their partners - Ville de La Rochelle, Ecole d'Ingénieurs de La Rochelle, Preston Bus Limited, Transport and Travel Research Ltd, Preston City Council, South Ribble Borough Council, Regia Autonoma de Transport Public Ploiesti and Universitatea Petrol-Gaze Ploiesti - reconfirmed their engagement in working closely with the Clean Urban Transport unit within the European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy and Transport, by signing together a strong Political Declaration.





# Focus on the **La Rochelle** city

## Hybrid technology

Following a successful presentation during the European Mobility Week in September 2006, La Rochelle has eventually implemented two diesel electric powered minibuses. These buses, in operation since November 2006 between the Park and Ride and the city centre, are being tested to assess the impact of the hybrid technology on polluting emissions and energy consumption.



## Pure Vegetal Oil (PPO)

Within CIVITAS-SUCCESS, La Rochelle has bet on biofuels and has taken the risk to comply with the European regulation requirements, despite existing legal barriers in France.

Since February 2007, a first biofuel fuelling station has been operating in La Rochelle for the vehicle fleet of the Water Treatment Department. This biofuel is made of 70% diesel and 30% Pure Plant Oil (PPO), obtained from rapeseeds. No chemical additive is added, contrary to diester. The first outcomes proved to be encouraging, so that La Rochelle decided to install a second biofuel pump by the end of 2007 and have more vehicles using biofuel.



## Used Cooking Oil

In parallel, the Urban Community of La Rochelle is the first French local authority to implement a used cooking oil treatment plant. This plant will use raw material coming from restaurant owners in La Rochelle and surroundings. The obtained oil will be added at 30% to diesel in order to produce a biofuel, without any additive. In the first half of 2007, studies have been conducted and works on the collection management have begun. The unit will be operational for January 2008. Once the used cooking oil treatment plant will be operational, cooking oil will partially or totally replace PPO according to the needs and the quantities collected.

By involving in biofuels, La Rochelle hopes to contribute towards the evolution of the current national legislation.

## What is the "CIVITAS French Task Force"?

The CIVITAS French Task Force is an informal group made of different actors involved in research and demonstration programmes in France:

- the Group of Transport Responsible Authorities (GART),
- the Centre for the Study of Urban Planning, Transport and Public Facilities (CERTU),
- the Programme of Research, Experimentation and Innovation in land Transport (PREDIT),
- the French Ministry of Public Works Transportation and Housing,
- the National Contact Point for the FP6

## Local Partnership

Communauté d'Agglomération de la Rochelle (CdA LR)  
Ville de la Rochelle (LR)  
Ecole d'Ingénieurs de la Rochelle (EIGSI)  
Transport and Travel Research - France (TTR)

- last but not least, the French cities involved in CIVITAS I and II (i.e. Nantes, Lille, Toulouse and La Rochelle).

The Task Force was created in 2005 to provide support to the French local authorities at a time when they are globally underrepresented in international networks and European programmes. Reasons for that lack of participation are diverse: lack of knowledge of European networks and European programmes in general, insufficient awareness-raising among the local authorities, problems of language etc.

## The Activity of the French Task Force

The global objective is to provide French local authorities with a national platform where they can find relevant information and assistance for European research and demonstration programmes.

The activity comprises the following aspects:

- Diffusion of the main outcomes in the field of research and transport; communication through the CERTU and the GART internet websites etc... A recommendation guide should be published as well by the end of the CIVITAS II programme.
- Technical exchanges on mobility issues and European project engineering
- Information and training on specific technical issues (share good practices and recommendations)
- Practical examples of mobility strategies implemented through CIVITAS by the French cities.



## News and events

In 30 March 2007, the Urban Community of La Rochelle organized a technical workshop for representatives of French local authorities. The objective was to introduce the outcomes of the main actions implemented by the CIVITAS French cities and show how they can be transferred to other local authorities. Constructive exchanges occurred during the day, notably on the requirements of European project engineering. The minutes and main outcomes of this meeting are available (Contact: [sebastien.davy@agglo-larochelle.fr](mailto:sebastien.davy@agglo-larochelle.fr)).

A new French Task Force meeting is planned for the beginning of 2008. This event will focus on one specific mobility issue experimented within CIVITAS-SUCCESS (e.g. goods delivery service, bike-sharing system etc).





# Focus on the Preston city

## Local Partnership

Lancashire County Council (LCC)  
Preston Bus Limited (PB)  
Transport and Travel Research (TTR)  
Preston City Council (PCC)  
South Ribble Borough Council (SRBC)

## Clear Zone Programme

Work is ongoing to find new ways of enhancing pedestrian and cycle access around Preston's Clear Zones. The City Centre can be called a Clear Zone when steps have been taken to manage speeds and access by vehicles, to make public spaces safer, more attractive and more accessible for pedestrians and cyclists. Public transport must be made more accessible and air quality improved. Consultation on the Preston City Centre Clear Zone has been completed over the summer and is now being assessed to decide how the project will progress. The introduction of a combination of solutions should solve the problems identified.

### 20mph Speed Limits



## 20mph Zones

Vehicles would drive more slowly and carefully as a result, particularly in places where pedestrians and cyclists are encouraged to travel. On many city centre roads speed limits are already at 20mph so no new steps need to be taken to produce such a zone. As speeds are higher on other roads, however, measures would need to be introduced to reduce and manage speeds. Flat-topped humps could be used in places where the current layout allows drivers to exceed the 20mph limit. Speeds would be managed without disadvantaging cyclists, buses and service vehicles.

## Traffic Management Measures

The first phase of city centre improvements involves enhancing the environment of Avenham Road. Cross Street would become one-way for motor traffic. This will:

- reduce the amount of traffic using this road, making it safer and more pleasant to walk through Winckley Square and Fishergate
- allow the introduction of new short-term parking close to local shops and businesses, where there are currently access problems
- enable the construction of a contraflow cycle lane, to assist commuters and other city centre travellers to use bicycles instead of motor vehicles.



## Access Control

Cheapside is a busy pedestrian area that is also used as a road for vehicles serving the market, shops and Town Hall complex. Recent surveys have shown, however, that most of the traffic using Cheapside is just cutting through on this convenient route from the City Centre to Ringway. This results in safety problems for pedestrians. Through effectively preventing this, much of the City Centre traffic would disperse using other more suitable roads. Installing rising bollards, which would only be lifted during times when general traffic is currently banned, would allow the public to enjoy the dramatic public space in comfort.



Chapel Street is also used as a cut-through by drivers because it is handy, this adds to congestion and creates safety problems. When this route has been cut off in the past, drivers have quickly learned to adapt, allowing shoppers to walk across the junction of the busy shopping street of Fishergate in safety.

Initially installing gates with variable times of operation would allow further consultation over an experimental period. Similar gates would be installed part way along neighbouring Winckley Street, only allowing access for essential users. This will mean drivers have to make alternative routes.

## Ringway/Friargate Junction



A key link for pedestrians moving between the University area and the City Centre, the junction will be made more visually attractive with upgraded paving in association with Preston City planners. Toucan crossings will be used so that cyclists can make turning movements safely. Using the latest traffic signalling techniques it will be made easier and safer to cross the ring road without causing additional congestion for traffic on this road. A study of the new traffic operation has shown that the changes will have little effect on the cars and buses using the junction.



# Focus on the Ploiesti city

## CIVITAS-SUCCESS clear zone

CIVITAS-SUCCESS clear zone is a major event in personalising a city with oil tradition, on new clean coordinates, in a regional competitive context.

In the framework of sustainable development, Ploiesti City Hall acknowledges and sustains the value of pedestrian areas not only from aesthetic point of view, but also from economic and tourism development reasons.

The necessity of clear zone development in the city center came from:

- Concerns regarding a sustainable traffic system in the city in the context of an increasing traffic congestion and air pollution;
- The need of coordinating - at a future urban development level - the high density zones and pedestrian facilities needed for traffic safety and increased recreation facilities;
- The important number of inhabitants with no access to a car and for whom daily walking is a must;
- Increased number of elderly people for whom walking is important and benefic
- A car free area represents an ideal space for meetings, trade, musical, art or other community activities.

Clear central zone propose an integrated design for cycling and pedestrian facilities, urban functions and green areas. In this moment are developed the works for building new controlled parking in central area, for the pavement for the entire pedestrian area and for the lightning units installation.



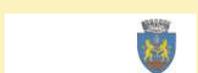
## Contacts:



Communauté d'Agglomération de la Rochelle  
**Graindorge Matthieu**  
matthieu.graindorge@agglo-larochelle.fr



Lancashire County Council  
**Howerd Booth**  
howerd.booth@env.lancsc.gov.uk



Ploiesti City Hall  
**Cozia-Roxana Georgescu & Milena Perpelea**  
pci@ploiesti.ro



TTR France  
**Marie Launay**  
marie.launay@ttr-ltd.com

## Local Partnership

Ploiesti City Hall (PMP)  
Public Transport Company (RATPP)  
Petroleum and Gas University of Ploiesti (UPGP)

Strategic scheme foresees, also, the development of bike routes from the South Railway Station till the Culture Palace and later till Central Market and Saint John Cathedral.

The first 5 kms of cycling route are already implemented from the Ploiesti Hippodrome to the Art Museum, the place where the clear zone begins.

The central clear zone new created through SUCCESS will reinforce our city personality, will integrate the economic, social, cultural, aesthetic and environmental components and will be:

**A civic space where residents and visitors become citizens of Ploiesti!**

## News...from Mobility Week

For marking the annual European Mobility Week, Ploiesti has organized a series of events for the citizens with the citizens. "Streets for people" was the name of the workshop held on the 21st of September at Ploiesti City Hall, having the purpose of finding new mobility solutions, discussing the ones already found and promoting the environment friendly actions.



Mr. Emil Calotă, mayor of Ploiesti, was the one to open the workshop holding a speech of support for this action and expressing his will to answer any questions along with the other participants.

The first part of the meeting consisted of a training for the Clear Zone that is to be implemented in our city, with the active participation from the children of the Local Student's Council whose support we have gained, the second half being dedicated to the Romanian Task Force. In this part we exposed the dissemination Task Force responsibilities and practice exchange along with participants from the RATB Bucharest (CIVITAS I), RATP, the Oil and Gas University, the local Police Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Zapodia – environmental volunteer NGO.

On the 22nd of September, on the new bicycle lanes of our Chestnut Boulevard 50 people of all ages were seen on the new Municipality bicycles. These people were public servants, media representatives, students from both high school and university, and retired people who were given the possibility to promote a healthier lifestyle.

In the framework of the Mobility Week, Ploiesti Municipality found that this was a perfect opportunity to gather both people involved in the CIVITAS program and people interested of the initiative as informed people can become our most important support to take our city further up the European way.

