



LowCVP's Andy Eastlake

Electrifying public transport in cities

I recently enjoyed an interesting visit to Leipzig – home of the Porsche factory which makes the Macan and Panamera models as well as the BMW i3 production facility. Not to drive a Porsche or BMW, but to take part in a meeting of the three-year €6m ELIPTIC project, funded under the EU's Horizon 2020 programme.

I often wonder how long it must take to brainstorm the acronyms which it seems are de rigeur for the description of EU-funded projects. This one means: 'Electrification of Public Transport In Cities'. However, the coordinators clearly feel that the acronym doesn't quite sum the project up as there's a sub-heading on the website: 'Optimising existing electric infrastructure and rolling stock in order to reduce costs and energy consumption'.

ELIPTIC aims to strengthen the role of electric public transport in European cities, leading to reduced fossil fuel consumption and improved air quality. In order to achieve this, the project will analyse 23 case studies in 11 European cities (including London) and aims to support the introduction of electrified public transport by developing guidelines and tools for upgrading and regenerating those systems. ELIPTIC will also support advocacy at the government level to develop political backing for the electrification of public transport across Europe. The LowCVP will support the project through communications and other activities.

The meeting highlighted several areas where we all need to learn the opportunities through collaboration: how the energy for one transport system (for example, the Tube) might be used by another (buses and taxis, for example) and also how through looking holistically at transport, energy and infrastructure together locally we can minimise the costs of changing to electrified transport systems.

The project certainly seems timely for the UK. The government has made clear that it supports a devolution agenda, with many of the key transport decisions in future being taken at the local level. The recent upsurge in concern about air quality in many of our cities is also, of course, a local or city-level problem and it makes sense that the necessary policy levers to tackle local air quality problems are pulled at a local level. The outputs from ELIPTIC should help with this.

The LowCVP has recently published a guide to *Local Measures to Encourage the Uptake of Low Emission Vehicles* (available on the LowCVP website) and we've, so far, run two regional workshops (in York and Sheffield) to help spread the word. I'm hopeful that the outputs from ELIPTIC will also complement our work in this area.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.lowcvp.org.uk

LowCVP on Twitter: @theLowCVP and @aeastlake