

PRESENTATION – Insp. Graham Horwood, MPS Traffic Partnership

Inspector Graham Horwood, MPS Traffic Partnership gave a presentation on the MPS approach to promoting cycle safety in London. He said that there is an increase of cyclists in London each year and that female cyclists were disproportionately involved in fatal collisions with HGVs. A clear simple message needed to be sent out which could easily be passed on to cyclists and HGVs. The MPS obtained a loan of an over 7.5 tonne high cab HGV and parked it in a venue with a high flow of cyclists (Exchanging Places). Cyclists are offered an opportunity to sit in the driver's seat with a Traffic Officer in the cab to explain the areas of poor visibility. The MPS have also worked with TfL and LCC with a leaflet produced to highlight the issues for both cyclist and HGV driver. Insp. Horwood said that 39% of cyclist fatalities in London involved a vehicle over 7.5 tonnes. There is a high percentage of female cyclist fatalities involving HGVs (52%) however there is a higher male percentage of fatalities involving cars. 27 out of 31 fatal collisions involving female cyclists and HGVs were at junctions (22 with HGV turning). Some video clips were shown which can be seen on YouTube. Links will be sent out to members.

Insp. Horwood reported that 2010 showed a decrease in the number of cycle fatalities with HGVs. The top cause of cyclist injury are, going down the nearside of large vehicles, vehicles churning direction, opening doors of vehicle in the path of a cyclist, cyclists failing to conform to traffic lights, cyclists on the nearside of HGV at junctions when the vehicle turns left and cyclists entering road from pavement including cycling across pedestrian crossings. He said that there is a question of balance and the need to consider the view of both the cyclist and HGV driver.

Insp. Horwood also spoke about cycle security. There has been 13,000 bike marking per year. Boroughs should contact the MPS to arrange a bike marking event. Graham.D.Horwood@met.police.uk.