

CYCLE TRAINING UK

CPC Safe Urban Driving Course

Camden Local Authority Case Study

- CLIENT:** Camden Local Authority and Argent Group
PROJECT: CPC accredited 'Safe Urban Driving'
DATE: February 2012
BACKGROUND: Property development company Argent sought training for their contracted HGV drivers that work at the Kings Cross site in Camden.
AIMS: To encourage the drivers delivering to the King's Cross estate site to empathise with cyclists and to minimise the risk between both road users
RESULTS: Cycling in a very busy area of London meant that the drivers could immediately identify with the issues cyclists face in heavy traffic.

The Kings Cross area has a large number of students studying at the new Central Saint Martins College site. The high population of student cyclists cycling to and from the campus together with the number of cyclist/driver incidents in the area led Argent and Camden Local Authority to look at ways to address student cyclist safety. The result was the delivery of a CPC 'Safe Urban Driving' training day for Argent's contracted drivers, jointly funded by Argent and Camden Local Authority.

This was the first CPC training commissioned by Camden Local Authority and the training took place at the King's Cross Estate off York Way. The training comprises of a theory session and an on-road practical session (where drivers cycle in traffic). The practical training, delivered by Cycle Training UK, included:

- Off road session to ensure that drivers (many who have not ridden a bike for years) have the basic control skills to go on road
- Group ride to on-road locations to experience cycling in traffic. For Argent drivers this entailed cycling down Copenhagen Street and York Way, both very busy central London roads with lots of construction traffic.
- Learning about correct road positioning for cyclists and cyclist behaviour – why for example cyclists may not use cycle lanes because of danger at junction entrances.
- Activities using infrastructure and areas of potential conflict (for example the space required for artic lorries turning and how that impacts on cyclists.)

Cycle Training UK instructor David Dansky said; 'We paced the cycling to the drivers' ability. They were very open to riding in heavy traffic which was fantastic. They commented on the road surface, road bumps, cycling in cycle lanes and the noise of traffic. A key phrase at the end of the session was 'Now I understand why cyclists.....'

One of the drivers Richard Stuart, the Safety and Training Manager at Prestons of Potto commented: "The CPC course is a good way to raise the dangers and consequence of actions of both cyclists and drivers. We both have to share the space on the roads so training should be given to all traffic users. The practical training we did, on the bikes, was a great tool that got the message across of the dangers facing today's city cyclist. More awareness training, to cyclists, demonstrating the difficulties faced by the larger vehicles including HGV's would greatly raise awareness to the more vulnerable road user. Together we should aim for zero accidents.'

For more information on CPC Safe Urban Driving training please contact Maresha on T. 0207 232 4382 E.maresha@cycletraining.co.uk



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"This is the first Safe Urban Driving training commissioned by Camden Local Authority and it will not be the last. It fits perfectly with our safety strategy in that it gives drivers a realistic view of cycling on London's busy roads and will help to minimise risk, particularly in areas of high construction activity in the borough." **Richard Riddle, Senior Road Safety Officer - Cycle Training, London Borough of Camden**

