

CYCLE TRAINING UK

HGV Cyclist Awareness October 09

Lambeth Council commissioned Cycle Training UK to design a scheme to raise awareness between cyclists and HGV drivers

CLIENT:	Lambeth Council
OVERVIEW:	Concerned about the number of incidents involving HGV lorries and cyclists, Lambeth's Road Danger Reduction Manager commissioned CTUK to devise an awareness scheme.
AIMS:	To reduce conflict and raise awareness between cyclists and HGV drivers in the borough.
SERVICE:	Cycle Training UK (CTUK) delivered training to Lambeth's lorry and bus drivers working for Veolia, Lambeth Council's waste management contractor.

Piloted in November 2008, the project aims are to:

- Encourage HGV drivers to empathise with cyclists
- Minimise the risk between HGV drivers and cyclist interactions by enabling drivers to consider how cyclists should/do ride
- Provide an opportunity where drivers can communicate their requirements/issues to the cycling community
- Foster a better understanding between drivers and cyclists

As well as the safety aspect, the programme hoped to promote healthy living and sustainability in promoting drivers to cycle to work. The training session takes place every month in a local depot or area convenient to drivers. The training involves a one hour interactive classroom session and then a 3 hour practical training session.

'In a large vehicle like a refuse truck it is imperative for drivers to be fully aware, not only of what is in front and behind them, but also what is riding alongside. Initiatives such as this scheme are excellent in reinforcing safety and awareness training to drivers which complements the already extensive procedures we have in place' Robert Seear, Veolia Environmental Services Senior Contracts Manager

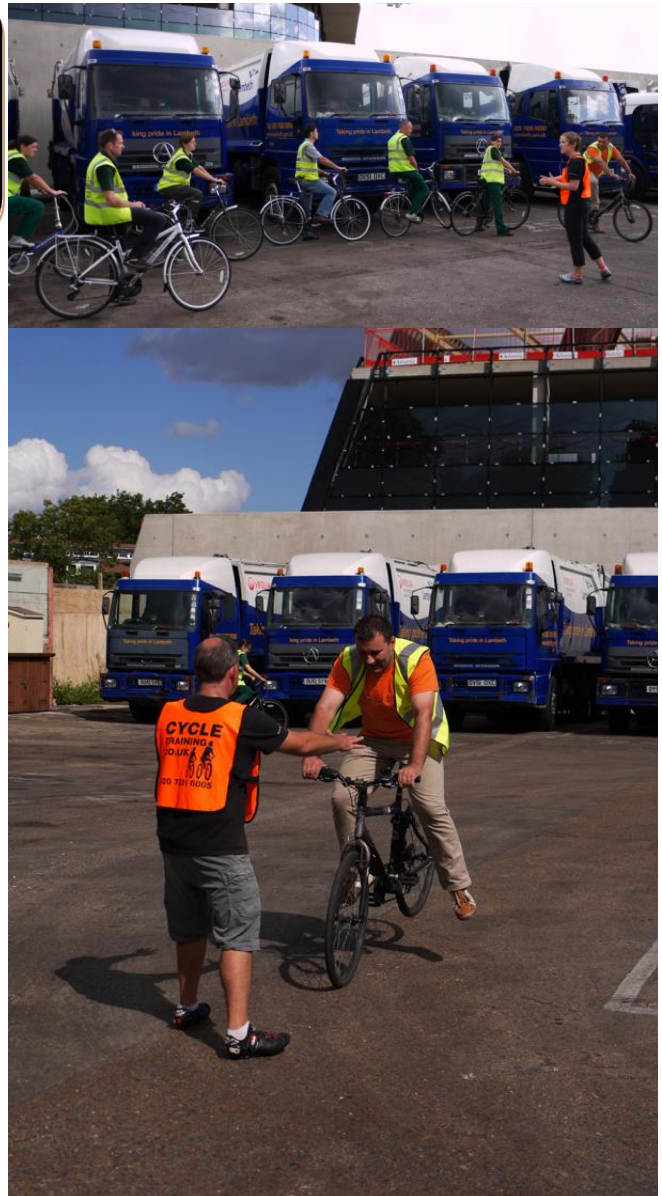
Classroom session: Drivers are asked about incidents they have had with cyclists and are encouraged to consider; how a cyclist would describe the same event and what they would like cyclists to do to help them and vice-versa.

Practical cycle training session: Includes controls skills (starting, stopping, gears, looking behind and signaling) and on road training. Drivers experience what it feels like on a bike and how external factors (noise, weather, road surfaces etc) impact on cycling. The drivers also experience junctions, traffic lights and areas where there are potential driver/cyclist conflict. The on road training helps to reinforce and illuminate the classroom learning.

Results: Initial negative responses in the classroom session, 'He stuck up two fingers and swore', or 'He said I cut him up' are more conciliatory by the end of the session; with comments like 'I wish I'd had this training years ago' and 'It's all about communicating, whether you are on a bike or in the cab'

'Awareness of other road users is critical to reducing road danger so helping make lorry drivers more in tune with the behavior of cyclists is a very valuable contribution. Listening to the questions and responses of lorry drivers at a cyclist awareness session shows just how quickly professionals can pick up the key points of lorry/cyclist interaction'

Tom Bogdanowicz, London Cycling Campaign, Campaigns & Development Manager (observing sessions)



"We were inspired to develop this project as we were painfully aware of the particular risk posed to cyclists by HGVs. We wanted to increase cyclists' awareness of the potential risk from large vehicles and also to raise the awareness of lorry drivers of how they can reduce the risk they pose to cyclists. We asked our cycle training partners, CTUK, to design an awareness raising course for HGV drivers which would include two sessions of practical cycle training, one off-road, one on-road. Lambeth's waste management contractor, Veolia, has been an enthusiastic partner in the scheme"
Norma Fender, Lambeth Council Road Danger Reduction Manager