

Denby Transport

Eco-Link Trailer

AutoTrack Case Study

AutoTrack for Highway Design

Denby Transport

Denby Transport (www.denbytransport.co.uk) is a small haulage company based in Lincoln, UK. They are set to revolutionise long haul road transport in the UK, and reduce congestion, with their Eco-Link trailer.

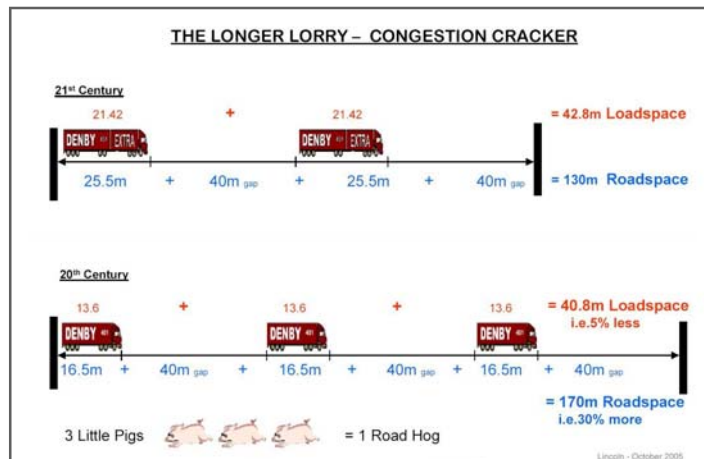
The Challenge

The prototype Eco-Link trailer was designed and built by Denby Transport Ltd as a potential solution to road congestion.

The vehicle comprises three units, the first is a standard tractor unit and the last is a standard semi-trailer, but it's the design of the middle unit that makes this vehicle so revolutionary. The middle trailer unit looks like a standard twin axled semi-trailer but has two special features; firstly, the two rear axles steer with an Ackerman style linkage linked to the tractor-trailer articulation angle, and secondly it incorporates a king-pin style coupling allowing a standard semi-trailer to be used as the second trailer.



The design of this intermediate trailer is such that the overall vehicle tracks a path similar to a standard two unit articulated vehicle despite that fact that the vehicle is around 9 metres longer. Importantly, the path also complies with the EU turning guidelines.



The Solution

The Eco-Link trailer linkage is quite complex and the linkage ratio varies not only with angle but also with speed. AutoTrack is currently the only swept path program capable of modelling this linkage, and therefore the vehicle's movement, accurately. At the time of writing the vehicle had passed all technical tests and now the Denby team await a ministerial decision regarding its use on British roads.

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