

What's on

The calendar below shows key events over the next few months, from RTIG and our associates. For further details of RTIG events please contact secretariat@rtig.org.uk

RTIG Webinars

10 March 2021, virtual
Traffic Light Priority Trigger File Standard

More webinars will be announced as the month progresses. For booking details see the website.

AGM

18 March 2021, Virtual

Bus Open Data Service Events

the full list of regularly updated events here:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/bus-open-data-service-31561104991>

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Newsletter Frequency and Email Alerts

The newsletters are produced on a monthly cycle.

They will be posted on the RTIG website and emailed out to the newsletter contact list.

If you think a colleague or contact would benefit from receiving the RTIG newsletter then please ask them to fill out the form on the website or use the QR Code.



RTIG on Twitter

RTIG is now on twitter as @RtigInform

<https://twitter.com/RtigInform>

Photo Library

To help liven up RTIG printed and digital outputs we are interested in receiving any images of public transport information real time or otherwise that you would be happy for us to use.

We will of course credit the appropriate source if published.

If you have any material you would be able to let us have access to please contact Tim tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk

Working Groups

If anyone wants to become involved in any of the work packages in the business plan then please feel free to discuss or commit by getting in contact with Tim tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk .

Traffic Light Priority Trigger File Standard



The Traffic Light Priority Trigger Position File working has produced a new standard and schema for review:

RTIGT042 Traffic Light Priority Trigger Position File Format
This includes an XML schema of the format.

In addition to the new standard and document the group has also updated:

- RTIGT008 TLP and Cleardown Specification
- RTIGT030 Digital air interface protocol
- RTIGT031 Centre-centre bus priority protocol

These documents are all available through the members section of website.

We are holding a webinar on 10th March 2021 at 13:00 to introduce the standard and traffic light priority more generally.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/traffic-light-priority-trigger-position-standard-tickets-138927193977?aff=newsletter>

Environmental Impact of Displays



Environmental Impact of Displays

There are a bewildering range of displays on offer from suppliers from LED to TFT powered by mains, battery and solar.

With the climate emergency and environmental concerns high in peoples minds the impact of our choices of technology need to be considered more than ever.

Purchasing and environmental teams are increasingly expecting questions to be asked whenever equipment is purchased.

What is the impact of the choices we make?
Do we know which technologies are better for the environment?
Do we know the carbon impact of different display types and technologies?

We do not know the answers to these at RTIG, neither do we know if these are even the right questions to be asking.

To help make sure we ask the right questions and are able to help people with finding the answers we are setting up a new working group to look at the environmental and carbon impact of different display technologies and power suppliers.

If you have some of the answers, or more questions to ask, or just want to find out more then please get in touch with tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk and join the working group.

On Bus Audio Visual Display Implementations

There are an increasing number of successful on-bus audio visual deployments in the UK with more being installed all the time.

Once the long-awaited Accessible Information requirements for the Bus Service Act 2017 are published there will be a large number of operators with no or little experience of specifying, selecting, installing and maintaining on bus audio visual systems.



We plan to produce a series of case studies of best practice implementations and advice on specifying, selecting, installing and maintaining systems.

If you think you have experience that you would be willing to share with others, or think you have a good system then please get in touch.

Webinars

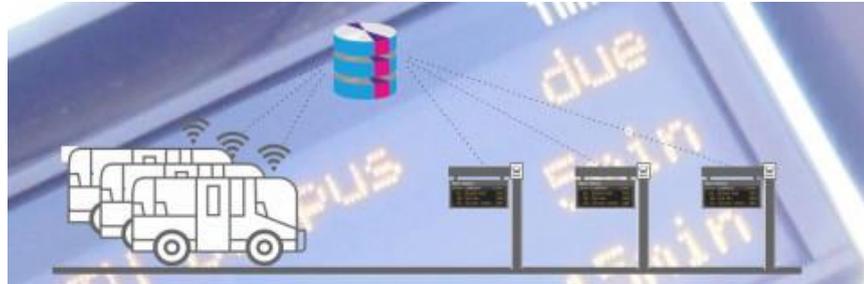
With the inability to physically meet for the foreseeable future we have been running some webinars instead.

All these webinars are being recorded and available on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.rtig.org.uk/youtube>



Creating Real Time Information Webinar



With the introduction of the Bus Open Data Service from the DfT it is easier than ever to access public transport data. How can timetable and location data be used to create real time information for customers?

If you've never used public transport data before then this session will introduce you to the concepts of how you can use timetable and location data to create real time information for customers - the countdown information you see on a bus stop display or on a phone app.

You will find out how the data from the Bus Open Data Service can be used and the importance, if you are a bus operator or supplier to bus operators, of making sure the data you supply to the different data feeds matches.

If you missed the session then the recording is available at:
<https://youtu.be/vr-heQyuU8>



Experiences from Implementing Passenger Counting

Experiences from Implementing Passenger Counting



1.	8	Occupancy: Medium	5 min
2.	28	Occupancy: Low	7 min
4.	8	Occupancy: Low	15 min

Covering, maintain social distancing & carry hand sanitizer.

On 25th February we held our webinar hearing from those with experience of implementing passenger counting as a follow up to last years two webinars on how to count passengers and present the information on vehicle occupancy to customers.

Our new member Prospective Labs talked about their work taking passenger counts from First Group and using predictive technology to help customers know the likely availability by the time the bus reached their stop.

West Yorkshire Combined Authority discussed their on-street display implementation of occupancy information.

Finally we heard from ITO World on what they are doing in other countries.

If you missed the session then the recording is available at:

<https://youtu.be/jXultd9Q2Cs>



Glossary

We have added a new Glossary section to the website:

<https://www.rtig.org.uk/glossary>



This includes all the Acronyms and terms that have been regularly used by RTiG over the last few years.

There are many more that could or should be included. If you want to see others included then drop us a quick email.

2021-22 Business Plan

Now we are in the latter part of the 2020/21 business plan year it is time to start to consider what RTiG should be doing for the period from April 2021.

At the moment the plans include activity in these general areas:

- Foundations of real time
- Providing customer information
- Support for the bus open data programme
- Support for accessible information requirements
- Smart transport systems
- Towards Net Zero Carbon
- Transport innovations
- National and international standardisation and cooperation

If you have anything that you would like to see RTiG involved in, producing or organising during 2021 then please get in touch with Tim tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk.

Annual General Meeting 2021



The AGM will be on the 18th March 2020 at 13:00 and will be held online.

The AGM will review 2020 and the 2021 business plan and elect the committee of the group.

The AGM is open to all Subscribing Members and Affiliate Members of RTIG who have committed to subscribing for FY20-21.

Full details have been published to members with agenda and papers. If you have not received a copy please do get in touch.

You can book to attend on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/annual-general-meeting-2021-tickets-13477595511?aff=newsletter>

COVID-19: How can RTIG Help?



As you face the challenges that COVID-19 are bringing you, what are the areas and things you would think RTIG could help you with?

Would some new guidance on a particular area help?
Would an online session of a particular topic be useful?

Please do get in touch with Tim with any ideas
tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk

Publishing your timetable data in TransXchange 2.4.

Bus operators are now legally required to publish timetable data from 31 December 2020. During 2020, we have been accepting both TransXchange 2.1 and 2.4 and currently 95% of lines are provided in TransXchange 2.4 with 5% of lines in the dataset being provided in 2.1. In total, 14% of operators are publishing in just TXC 2.1 only, 4% in both 2.1 and 2.4 and the remainder of operators are publishing in just TXC 2.4.

The Bus Open Data Service Team are currently developing a validator for the TXC 2.4 PTI profile validator and from the Summer, operators will be required to start publishing to this profile. In advance of that change, we would encourage all operators who are currently publishing in TransXchange 2.1 to start transferring their data exports to TXC 2.4 prior to the service no longer accepting TransXchange 2.1 files.

Punctuality reporting requirements

As we mentioned in January's newsletter, the next set of requirements within the Bus Open Data regulations is for bus operators to openly publish data on punctuality and performance of their bus services. The regulation can be found here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/749/regulation/14/made>

Punctuality data will be created from the combination of timetable and location data uploaded onto the Bus Open Data Service. This will then be pulled through the Analyse Bus Open Data Service which is being released in March 2021.

It's noted that for the 31 March 2021 deadline the legal requirement to supply punctuality data only applies in respect of August 2020 to December 2020. If operators have joined BODS as early adopters of the location service, they'll be able to provide punctuality reports for this period once the Analyse Bus Open Data Service is released.

If operators have not joined BODS as early adopters of the location service, then they will not be able to and won't be required to provide punctuality reports for August to December 2020.

For the 31 March 2022 deadline, as 2021 is being treated as a transitional year we will not expect Traffic Commissioners to enforce punctuality reporting for all of 2021 by this date. Instead, we will expect operators to meet the deadline of 31 March 2022 and supply whatever punctuality data they have for 2021.

However, by 31 March 2023, we will expect operators to supply data for all of 2022 and those who are unable to do so, will likely face enforcement procedures from the Traffic Commissioners. This will be detailed in the enforcement policy which is being developed in consultation with the Traffic Commissioner.

Ticketing block exemption up for review

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) will shortly be reviewing the Public Transport Ticketing Block Exemption, setting out the rules that public transport operators need to follow in order to deliver multi-operator tickets without breaching the terms of Chapter I of the Competition Act 1998.

The Block Exemption was intended to encourage operators to offer attractive multi-operator tickets, offering benefits to consumers and helping reduce congestion and pollution, while continuing to compete in other ways. The review will address the continued relevance of the objectives and ask whether the Order needs any changes. The review does not affect the term of the Order, which was extended for ten years in 2016.

Multi-operator bus fares and tickets comprise one of the categories of “simple fare and ticket information” that should already be supplied to BODS.

Create Fares Data Service

The Create Fares Data service (<https://fares-data.dft.gov.uk/>) is being used by bus operators throughout the country to generate the NeTEx format fares data to publish on the Bus Open Data service. We continue to work with users and make improvements based on their feedback. We have now updated the site to allow operators to upload fares triangles/charts in either pounds or pence. This means it should be much easier for anyone getting their fares triangles as an export from Ticketer systems.

Data quality tips for publishing timetables data

For your timetables data to be easily consumed and provided through apps to passengers, it's best to 'update' your current dataset with your updated data, rather than publishing a whole new dataset. At the same time it's important to be using both start and end dates within your files, which will give clear signals for what periods that data is relevant.

Location data publishing – remember that final step...

If you have a link for a subscription to your location data feed from your ticket machine supplier, remember to log into the Publish Bus data Service and publish that link to us. Currently we have 34 Ticketer operators who have a subscription link to the feed but have not yet published this feed to the Publish Bus Data Service. You know who you are – do get in touch if you need help!

We need your NOC code!

We've noticed in the TransXchange data that many bus operators are currently publishing their NOC code in an incorrect data format. A NOC code usually comprises four digits and will appear for example as ABCD. A link to the NOC code database is provided below – please ensure that the OperatorRef field contains your four digit NOC code. From Spring 2021, we will start actively validating the provision of NOC codes. Failure to include your NOC code or providing partial/incomplete/incorrect NOC codes adversely impacts bus passengers trying to use your data for journey planning. We need your NOC code and we need it to be the right NOC code.

<https://www.travelinedata.org.uk/traveline-open-data/transport-operations/browse/>

A New Future for Bus and Rail Integration.



With effect from 1 April 2021, on the retirement of Jonathan Radley, Commercial Director of Journey Solutions the partnership will merge with the Traveline Information Board. Jonathan has successfully managed the PlusBus brand over the last fourteen years and developed it into the household name for integrated ticketing in the UK. From April, management of the national system and its 280 local products will transfer to the team at Traveline, which is headed by Chief Executive Julie Williams.

The merger will combine PlusBus, which is Britain's only nationwide train to bus ticketing scheme with Traveline, the nationwide public transport information service. The merger heralds exciting new opportunities for the further development of public transport journey planning and integrated ticketing, whilst continuing with the high-quality provision of existing PlusBus products and services.

Over the next two months Jonathan will be working in partnership with Julie Williams and the Traveline team to ensure a smooth and efficient handover of PlusBus scheme management.

Real Time in the news

This section covers stories about real time and associated topics that have been in the news over the last month.

This section is only in a version of the newsletter being sent to members organisations.

We would be interested to find out if you find this new section useful and would like to see it continue, or would like to see something different, widen the scope etc.

UK News

'Super' bus stops coming to Nuneaton

'Super' bus stops could soon be heading to Nuneaton.

They form part of the ambitious plan to change bus use across the town.

Under the Transforming Nuneaton programme it is planned to move the bus station from its current location to a new 'transport hub' nearby to be shared with the train station.

As part of this, there would be new new 'super' bus stops, more central routes and links with shops.

The 'super' bus stops have raised platforms to allow easier access and also have screens showing real-time bus arrival information, meaning passengers will know how long they have to wait.

<https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/local-news/super-bus-stops-coming-nuneaton-19867074>

Plans go in for real-time bus information board at Lancaster Railway Station

FirstGroup PLC has applied for planning permission to install a Real Time Bus Information display at the bottom of the stairs that serve platform 3.

In a planning statement, Avanti West Coast said: "Under the current terms of the Avanti West Coast franchise, there are a wide range of 'committed obligations' that relate to tangible improvements and enhancements to stations, car parks and other vital aspects associated with the journey experience.

"A number of these 'committed obligations' relate to the deployment of technology themed customer information solutions that help provide real-time journey information to support the end-to-end travel needs of passengers.

"Avanti West Coast stations are generally large regional hub stations that serve passengers from other train operators and networks including those seeking onward journey services by bus.

"To facilitate and promote multi-modal travel, Avanti West Coast have committed to provide Real-TimeBus-Information (RTBI) displays at 12 of their stations."

It added: "The main design principle is an installation of a Real Time Bus Information (RTBI) display for Avanti West Coast in the area that used to have a ticket machine situated in this space, which has been removed.

"This is a new installation to serve passengers from Avanti West Coast Trains and other Train Operators seeking onward journey services by bus that requires to be located on the route from the Railway station to the local Bus Stops."

<https://www.lancasterguardian.co.uk/news/uk-news/plans-go-real-time-bus-information-board-lancaster-railway-station-3121083>

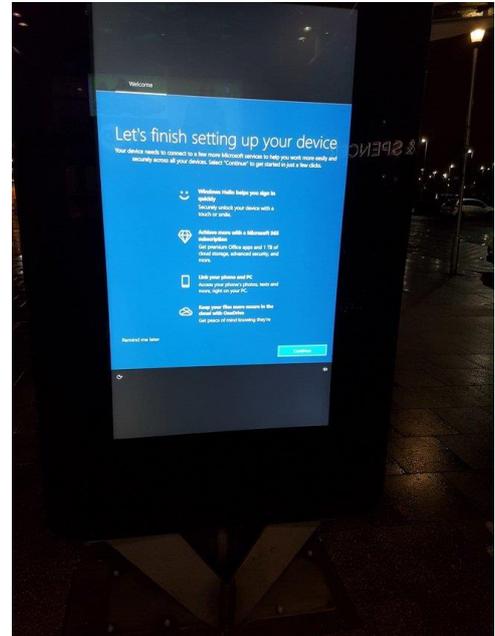
The next departure leaves in... have you thought about a Microsoft 365 subscription?

You can't beat that factory-fresh smell except, it appears, when waiting for both a bus and somebody to finish setting up Windows 10 on a rainy Scottish evening.

Today's display in dismay was spotted by a Register reader on an essential journey to Glasgow's Braehead shopping centre. It is

usually to be found showing bus times, but is instead in the throes of Windows Setup. Fresh from the box, so to speak.

It looks like the sound is on, although one can but hope there is no physical speaker fitted to the digital display, otherwise the incessantly perky voice of the Windows Setup might be heard echoing across the carpark and frightening the horses. Or at least alarming the hard-pressed residents of Glasgow, seeking a brief bit of retail respite from reality.



<https://www.theregister.com/2021/02/10/bork/>

NB: This next one is not real time but shows why security of on street equipment and systems is important.

'Go back home you IDIOTS!': Cyber renegade hacks into traffic system



Mystery surrounds several photos of a road traffic screen that appears to have been hacked in Staffordshire, with the sign telling people to go home and reminding them 'we are supposed to be in lockdown.'

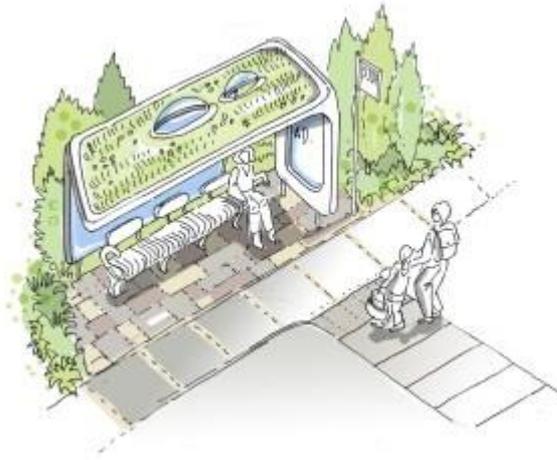
The electronic board is thought to have fallen victim to a cyberattack on Burton-on-trent's traffic system which took place Sunday afternoon, displaying the 'unacceptable' messages.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9209345/Go-home-IDIOTS-Cyber-renegade-hacks-traffic-system.html>

Berry's mayoral campaign goes for solar-powered bus stops

The Green Party has today unveiled plans for a vastly improved new bus stops for London's streets.

Sian Berry, the Greens' candidate for Mayor in the London elections on May 6, has pledged that she will commission a full redesign to be used for all Transport for London bus stops as soon as possible.



The key features of the Green proposals include:

- Real-time bus arrival time and air pollution information
- Shelters with proper, comfortable seating, with arms to help older and disabled people stand up
- A ban on unethical advertising, and ring-fenced advertising space for local small businesses and services
- Solar generating glazing
- Attractive, bee-friendly planting on the shelter rooftop, alongside further solar power generation
- Zebra crossings across any cycle paths next to the bus stop and new pedestrian crossings in the right place for every main road bus stop

The proposal for a new standard bus shelter responds to problems raised by Londoners with transport infrastructure.

<https://insidecroydon.com/2021/02/12/berrys-mayoral-campaign-goes-for-solar-powered-bus-stops/>

Transport hub plan to revitalise town centres

Mini-transport hubs that combine public transport with bike and car shares, cafés, outdoor gyms, wifi and phone charging are planned for Scotland to “re-energise” town centres.

It is hoped that, if the scheme is successful, every resident in the country would live within walking distance of an access point for public transport.

Officials believe they would encourage people to spend their money locally and help to build a “green recovery” by reducing emissions and congestion.

The “mobility hubs” — which are common in Germany and Austria in particular as a way of revitalising city centres — have been identified as a strategic priority in a report for the Scottish government.

They would be the first such hubs in the UK outside London.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/transport-hub-plan-to-revitalise-town-centres-s59pvjnjs>

First-and-last mile service to integrate e-scooters into UK public transport network

British technology company Zipabout today launches its new first-and-last mile feature, integrating e-scooters to the wider public transport network.

The feature is now live on Zipabout’s personalised information service and will soon be made available to its clients (transport operators, local authorities, and event organisers / venues) so they can provide personalised first-and-last mile support to their passengers and customers.

brought to you by Conduent Transportation

The service integrates micro-mobility options into the UK public transport network for the very first time, solving what transport leaders worldwide identify as one of their biggest challenges. It will also encourage passengers to try new and sustainable ways to begin and end their journey as well as giving them a choice rather than a recommendation.

<https://www.traffictechnologytoday.com/news/multimodal-systems/first-and-last-mile-service-to-integrate-e-scooters-into-uk-public-transport-network.html>

Innovative traffic insight sensors installed to monitor Kent traffic patterns

State of the art traffic sensors are being trialled by Kent County Council (KCC) and Amey to monitor traffic patterns to help make future transport decisions for the county.

In collaboration with Vivacity Labs, 32 insight sensors have been installed at various positions.

These sensors can classify what modes of transport are using the highways at any given time, monitoring the usage and speeds of cars, buses, bicycles and pedestrians. Smart data collected will provide insight into how the transport infrastructure is being used.

Combining real-time data and predictive algorithms enables the highways authority to identify abnormal traffic flows, enable visualisation through virtual CCTV, and predict flows before they happen – ensuring an effective response to data being provided and ultimately a better road user experience.

The work is part of the £22.9M Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (Adept) Smart Places Live Labs programme, launched in May 2019.

<https://www.newcivilengineer.com/latest/innovative-traffic-insight-sensors-installed-to-monitor-kent-traffic-patterns-22-02-2021/>

£30m bus priority announced for West Midlands

Development work has started on a £30 million package of bus priority measures for services between Birmingham, Sandwell and Dudley. The work is expected to improve reliability and journey times on commuter routes.

The measures will include new bus lanes, priority junctions and bus gates, with new state-of-the-art bus stops offering real time information along a cross-city corridor from Druids Heath to Dudley via Birmingham City Centre.

It will allow buses, including the 50, 82 and 87 routes in Birmingham, Sandwell and Dudley – primarily following the A435 and A457 – to cut through traffic congestion and offer passengers more reliable journey times..

Improving bus reliability and services is expected to contribute to the region's #WM2041 plan to become carbon-neutral over the next 20 years by making public transport an even more attractive option.

Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), which is part of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), is currently working with partner councils to plan the package of bus priority measures. Public consultation on proposals for Birmingham City Centre has launched this week, and further consultation on the wider measures will take place later in the year.

Construction on some early measures are due to begin this summer and the entire project will be completed during the second half of 2023.

Measures could include:

- Improving bus journey times through Cape Hill
- Improvements to Burnt Tree junction in Sandwell and Dudley
- Safety improvements on Waterloo Road
- Dudley Road improvements alongside works planned by Birmingham City Council
- Bus improvements on Alcester Road South through Druids Heath, Highter's Heath, Billesley and Kings Heath.
- Brand new shelters with RTI at key locations

<https://www.busandcoachbuyer.com/30m-bus-priority-announced-for-west-midlands/>

Rest of the World

Optibus Joins Open Transit Initiative to Work Together on Agile Transit Ecosystem

Optibus is committed to bringing cloud-centered technology in an open data platform to the mass transportation industry worldwide, and we're excited to announce that we're joining forces with the

Open Transit Initiative to further our shared values of an open transit ecosystem, collaboration through data standards, and continuous innovation.

Public agencies and private operators alike have suffered enough from limited technology options and data access – and Optibus is eager to work with the Open Transit Initiative to change that.

The Open Transit Initiative is an ecosystem of cloud-centric technology partners and transit agencies dedicated to moving cities more efficiently through interoperable systems and data standards.

The project, led by Swiftly and a coalition of like-minded partners committed to common data standards and cross-vendor compatibility, is guided by a new way of thinking about transit that enables agencies and operators to freely integrate with the tools and data they need.

<https://www.optibus.com/optibus-joins-open-transit-initiative-to-work-together-on-agile-transit-ecosystem/>

Real-time data aims to win back Melbourne’s public transport passengers

The state of Victoria in Australia has launched a new online tool, RideSpace, to give Melbourne train passengers real-time information on how busy, or quiet, their journey will be before they get on board.

It is being deployed alongside extra train services and off-peak discounts to give passengers confidence to return to public transport and balance demand on the network.

In December, Victoria began easing COVID-19 restrictions with venues and leisure spaces opening back up and groups allowed to meet once more, with social distancing. Masks must still be worn in many settings, including on public transport.

As vaccines roll out around the world and more cities look towards re-opening later in the year, many will be watching initiatives such as this closely as they prepare their own public transport networks.

Integration

The RideSpace solution is accessible via a dedicated website and its capacity data will soon be made available in third-party journey planning apps. The plan is also to add bus, tram and regional train capacity data and integrate RideSpace into the Public Transport Victoria (PTV) app.

The tool shows the current and predicted level of busyness for trains, stations and platforms using icons ranging from Very Quiet to Very Busy. It aims “to help passengers make informed choices about travelling safely on the network”. Its introduction follows a four-month trial.

RideSpace has been “fast-tracked” with partners including Telstra Purple and NTT DATA, who provided expertise in areas such as predictive data modelling and machine learning.

<https://cities-today.com/real-time-data-aims-to-win-back-melbournes-public-transport-passengers>

Trafi takes its mobility-as-a-service platform to LatAm, starting with Bogota

Trafi, the Lithuanian startup that created a platform that lets users plan, book and pay for various modes of transportation within a city, is expanding beyond the European market where it got its start to tackle one of the most congested urban areas in the world.

The company said it has reached an agreement to provide its mobility-as-a-service platform in Bogota, Colombia.

Trafi’s platform is a white label product. But underneath the name — whether it’s Yuomov in Zurich, Jelbi in Berlin or MVG in Munich — is the same underlying technology. The company, which operates in seven European cities, is able to capture transportation data to provide real-time route planning for users. It also handles the payment system, which helps it stand apart from some of its competitors.

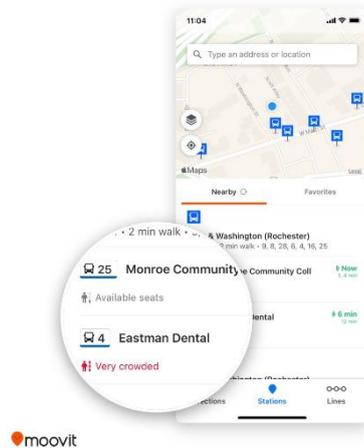
In Bogota, the platform will pull together all the forms of public transit, including buses and trams, as well as local taxis and e-bikes. Users can use the single-payment system to book and pay for the various modes of transportation. The app includes real-time departure information, a “nearby function” that will show the user all mobility options available within their location and

“intermodal routing,” which proposes combinations of up to three different modes such as taking an e-bike to the bus stop.

<https://techcrunch.com/2021/02/15/trafi-takes-its-mobility-as-a-service-platform-to-latam-starting-with-bogota/>

Moovit releases real-time crowding, wheelchair accessible feature for its app

Maintaining social distance can help transit riders feel safe and Moovit is incorporating real-time crowding information into its app, which is used by more than 65 transit agencies across the United States, Canada, Australia, Italy and Singapore. The app now displays Available Seats, Standing Room Only or Crowded in the Itinerary, Live Directions, Stations, Line Details and Favorite Lines screens.



In addition to real-time crowding information, Moovit’s app will also share wheelchair accessible buses, which Moovit says will be in addition to the wheelchair-accessible routes and stations that the app already identifies. The symbol to be displayed indicating wheelchair accessibility has been redesigned by Moovit “to show a more dynamic and

engaged person with disability in motion.”

Moovit notes the app is enhanced with screen reading features for low vision users, including TalkBack/VoiceOver capabilities and is designed with optimized menus and buttons for people with hand-motor disabilities.

<https://www.masstransitmag.com/technology/passenger-info/mobile-applications/article/21210573/moovit-releases-realtime-crowding-wheelchair-accessible-feature-for-its-app>

Keeping in touch with you

As well as keeping you up to date with all the latest news from RTIG, this newsletter aims to provide a community forum for members. We therefore offer RTIG members the opportunity to submit a short article here on any issue or innovation that might be of interest to the community.

There are two ways of becoming involved in this:

- ▶ Email pieces to us when you have them – press release format is fine, and pictures are welcome.
- ▶ Nominate a marketing contact who will be included in the editor's monthly process of 'chivvying'.



Buchanan Bus Station have unveiled their new 75" TFT passenger information displays manufactured and installed by the Trueform.

EPM Bus Solutions completes Omnibus acquisition

18 Feb 2021 – EPM Bus Solutions has today, with the support of Literacy Capital, completed the acquisition of one of the UK’s leading passenger transport software businesses, Omnibus.

The strategic acquisition sees EPM further strengthen its capability in providing high quality software solutions across the bus operator and transport authority markets, focussed on improving operational and commercial performance.

Founded in 1990, by Peter and Carol Crichton, Omnibus provides software for passenger transport scheduling, staff rostering, depot allocation and timetable construction to a wide range of public transport operators and local authorities, with solutions being used across the UK and overseas.

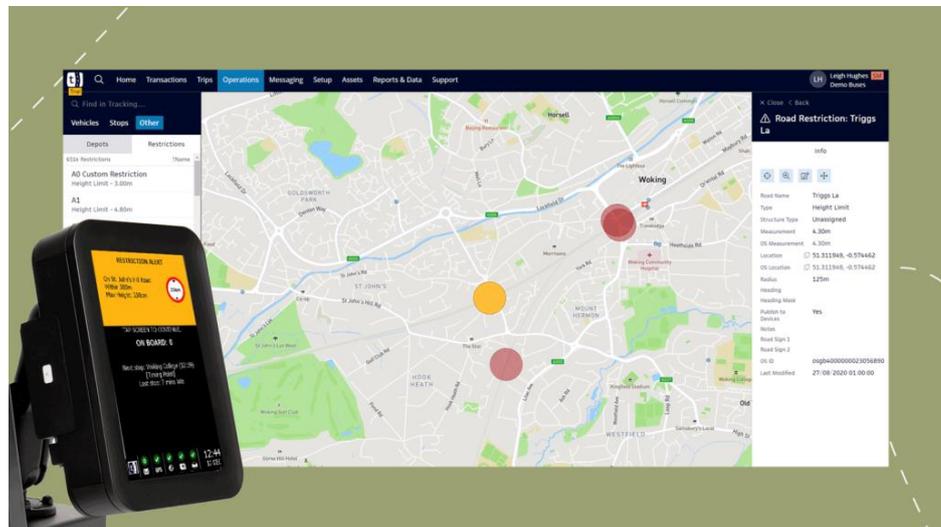
EPM Bus Solutions, formed in 1986, provide software to help bus operators and transport authorities reduce operational costs, improve financial performance and better serve their customers. In addition, EPM are the UK’s leading BSOG auditor and concessionary reimbursement consultancy.

Ian Churchill, CEO at EPM Bus Solutions, said: “Omnibus’ software solutions perfectly complements EPM’s, and the acquisition will enable us to provide a higher quality service to existing clients and give a wider offering of solutions to new customers. By bringing together the two businesses we will be able to harness the domain knowledge and experience of both to develop solutions to meet the needs of the public transport sector as society emerges from the impact of Covid-19.”

Peter Crichton, Managing Director at Omnibus, said: “I am very proud of the journey the Omnibus business has been on over the last three decades. Driven by the challenges faced by the pandemic, new technologies, and demand from bus operators and transport authorities for deeper insights into their operations to drive efficiency, EPM’s solutions combined with Omnibus’s will offer a powerful set of solutions which will be best-in-class. I am looking forward to working with the EPM team on this exciting journey.”

Ticketer develops new driver alert feature for the bus and coach industry: Road Restriction Alerts (RRA)

Ticketer has launched an exciting additional driver alert feature on their Electronic Ticketing Machine (ETMs) which will bring further benefits to public transport operators and drivers.



Due to changing schedules, road closures and rail replacement services, drivers can often find themselves along unfamiliar routes where restricted access, such as width and height limitations, may prevent the safe passage of some buses. Answering an industry wide call for a solution, Ticketer's new Road Restriction feature alerts drivers when they are approaching a restricted access area that cannot safely accommodate the vehicle, warning the driver that it would be inadvisable to cross under or through.

Utilising a regularly updated national gazetteer of restricted roads across the UK, together with dimensions of the vehicles, the ETM can detect when the bus is approaching any restricted roads and warn the driver via a visible and audible alert.

State of Public Transit 2021

Swiftly have published the results of a survey to learn how other transit professionals navigated 2020 and how you can apply their learnings at your agency.

2020 was a turbulent year for public transit. Ridership plummeted, budgets suffered. And yet, public transit showed itself to be more resilient and agile than ever before. Transit professionals worked tirelessly to keep essential workers moving and quickly implemented protocols to make public transit safe for riders and staff.

In an effort to capture the state of public transit in the midst of a global pandemic, we surveyed transit professionals and analyzed quantitative data to understand the breadth of COVID response, uncover areas of learning, and find opportunities for the industry going forward.

<https://www.goswift.ly/2021-state-of-public-transit>

IVU supplies network timetable information for VBB

Compiling and enriching timetable data and preparing it for use in information systems – on behalf of the VBB, the Berlin-Brandenburg public transport authority, IVU Traffic Technologies is ensuring that the region's timetables are current at all times with the IVU.pool timetable management tool.

Covering more than 30,000 km², the VBB network area is roughly the size of Belgium and is therefore among the largest in Europe. In total, the 36 network members operate more than 1,000 routes and call at more than 13,000 stops each day. In addition, the timetable information across the VBB network integrates numerous connections from companies in neighbouring regions. The VBB has now commissioned IVU to continue managing data integration until the end of 2024.

Standardised interfaces make it easier for the IVU engineers to import data from the various planning systems and ensure reliable data harmonisation. At the same time, IVU.pool allows data on walking distances, transfer times or accessibility

information to be added to the timetable information. Thanks to a special component, on-demand buses not connected with a route or the BerlKönig BC shuttle bus can also be modelled in IVU.pool and output in the VBB's timetable information.

“The functional scope of the IVU.pool system that is used enables a high degree of efficiency and cost effectiveness in editing and is one of the reasons why we awarded the contract for data integration to IVU following the tender,” said Alexander Pilz, Head of Passenger Information at the VBB. “In addition, we profit from IVU's long-standing expertise that comes into play in extraordinary situations such as those related to the coronavirus pandemic in particular.”

In order to incorporate the regular changes to the timetables due to pandemic-related developments in a timely manner, the IVU engineers updated the VBB timetable twice as often as they normally would. Besides specialist support, IVU is responsible for all technical administration of IVU.pool. In future, the system will be fully hosted in the IVU.cloud, the powerful servers of which enable higher performance and even faster data preparation.

<https://www.ivu.com/news/ivu-supplies-network-timetable-information-for-vbb>

Passenger announces five-year partnership with the Go-Ahead Group

Passenger, the UK's leading provider of public transport apps and websites will be delivering 15 apps and six websites for Go-Ahead Group's UK bus operations as part of a new five-year contract.

Go-Ahead, one of the UK's leading public transport companies, will move from developing digital solutions in-house to using Passenger's market-leading digital service platform to power the apps and websites for its UK bus operators.

Passenger has extensive experience in delivering large scale systems to transport operators and authorities, including fully PCI-compliant mobile app ticketing, network dataset management and real-time systems. The Bournemouth-based company will manage the migration of customers, including those with active tickets, to the new platform.

Management Committee Members

The Management Committee for the year 2020-2021 was appointed at the AGM on 30 April 2020. Membership is currently as follows:

Chair:

Members: Andrew Wilson (Hants), Graham Davies (WYCA), Russell Gard (React Accessibility), Darren Maher (21st Century), Tony Brown (Atkins), George Connell (Stagecoach), Simon Gold (Reading Buses), Meera Nayyar (DfT)

Contact us

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<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8557065>

Next issue

Issue 140 – Thursday 1st April 2021.

Please send all contributions to secretariat@rtig.org.uk at any time up to Monday 29th March 2021.

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