

## 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](mailto:secretariat@rtig.org.uk)

### RTIG Webinars

- 1 October 2020, Virtual  
Data Standards Webinar Series: 4 SIRI
  - 14 October 2020, Virtual  
Data Standards Webinar Series: 5 Traffic Light Priority
  - 4 November 2020, Virtual  
Data Standards Webinar Series: 6 NeTEX
- More webinars will be announced as the month progresses. For booking details see the website.

### RTIG Working Groups

- 12 October 2020, Virtual  
Traffic Light Priority Trigger Files
- 13 October 2020, Virtual  
Accuracy and quality of real time predictions

### RTIG Committee Meetings

- 26 November 2020, Virtual
- 28 January 2021

### Data4PT Stakeholder Workshop

- 5 November 2020, Virtual

### Conferences

- 20-22 October 2021, Virtual. Smart Transport Conference

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- [Working with Elexon UMSUG codes](#)

### DfT News

#### In other news: around the patch

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- [DATA4PT first Stakeholders Workshop](#)
- [The End of 3G is in Sight](#)
- [Transport for the North – Fares Data Build Tool development update](#)
- [Traveline South East, Anglia and East Midlands Websites Close](#)

### Members' news: showcasing innovation

#### Admin: useful facts about RTIG

- [Committee members](#)
- [Contact us](#)



For all administrative matters and enquiries please contact:

RTIG Secretariat, c/o Tim Rivett Consulting Ltd,  
36 Fields End, Sheffield, S36 8WH

Tel: +44 (0) 1226 762712  
Email: [secretariat@rtig.org.uk](mailto:secretariat@rtig.org.uk)  
Web: [www.rtig.org.uk](http://www.rtig.org.uk)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk) .

## Accuracy and quality of real time predictions Working Group

This group is now well underway having met a couple of times already.

It's not too late to become involved in the group, just let Tim know.

## Traffic Light Priority Trigger File Standard

The RTIG T031 centre to centre traffic light priority protocol has been widely adopted with resultant significant benefits; but missing from the RTIG standards set is a common format for the transfer of traffic light trigger locations.

There is interest in addressing the gap so we are going to hold a working group to agree a common trigger file format.

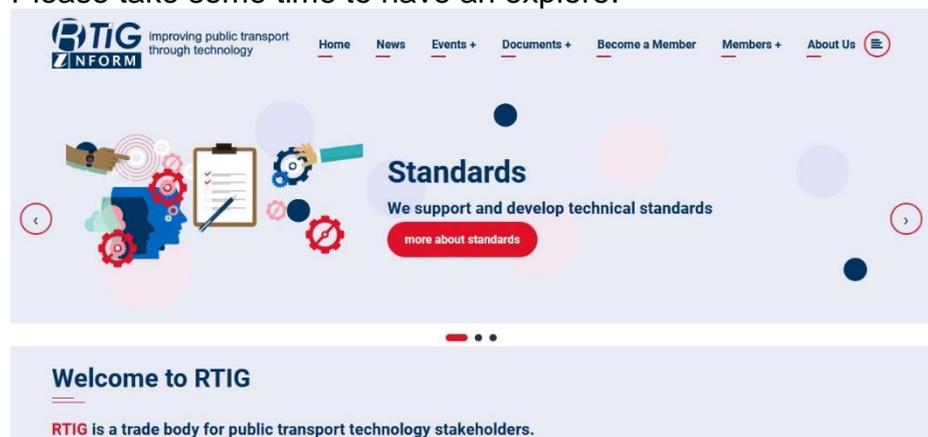


The first meeting is in the diary for the 12 October. If you would like to become involved in the group, then please let Tim know.

## New Website

After nearly 10 years the website was getting a bit tired and in need of a refresh.

We have now launched our new website, we hope you like it. Please take some time to have an explore.



If you are a member your old login details will not work with this new site.

Once logged in you can access the members only content:

- Members Newsletters (with added content),
- Workshop presentations
- Corporate & Administrative documents,
- Strategy documents,
- Project documents,
- Technical documents appropriate to your organisations membership level.

Previously there was a single account shared across an organisation. The new site uses individual accounts, but we do not know who was using the old site, so we need to know from you who needs an account.

To request your login details please send an email to [website@rtig.org.uk](mailto:website@rtig.org.uk) (link sends email)

If you have any feedback on the site then please do let us know.

## 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>



## Data Standards Webinar Series

We started a series of webinars at the end of August on data standards.



These sessions will run every couple of weeks and cover a different standard each time, the first provided an introduction to the series and background on standards and Transmodel.

The aim is to have these as short snappy sessions with content being about 40 minutes to allow plenty of time for questions and discussion to take the overall time to an hour.

We've had sessions so far on:

- Transmodel, 26<sup>th</sup> August
- NaPTAN, 9<sup>th</sup> September;
- TransXChange, 23<sup>rd</sup> September

The next sessions are:

- SIRI, 1<sup>st</sup> October
- Traffic Light Priority, 14<sup>th</sup> October
- NeTEx, 4<sup>th</sup> November
- IPxPT, 2<sup>nd</sup> December

We are planning the session on GTFS.

These sessions are free for members, there is a small charge for non-members to attend.

The first ones on Naptan, TransXChange and SIRI ran in that order because of the importance of those standards for the DfT Bus Open Data programme.

If there are any other standards you would want to see covered please do let us know.

## The Public Service Vehicles (Open Data) (England) Regulations 2020

The Department for Transport has made the statutory instrument to provide the powers to enable the requirement for operators to provide open data and authorities to maintain NaPTAN.

This sets out the dates and data requirements for supplying data to the open data service.

With the formal publication of the SI we have updated our summary of the key dates and data formats that are contained in the statutory instrument:

Data	Supply From	Mandated Supply	Change Notice Period	Data Format	Note
Routes & Timetable	Jan 2020	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2020	When supplied to Traffic Commissioner.  > 28 days for Franchising Authority	Until 31 Dec 2020: TransXChange v2.1 - 2.5 General Profile  After 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2021: TransXChange v2.4 BODS Profile	Service cancellation: Immediately before cancellation  DfT will host data for operators <40 services  Profile Available
Fares – Simple		7 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2021	Before date of change	NeTeX BODS Fares Profile	DfT will host data for operators <40 services  Profile Available
Fares – Complex		7 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2023	Before date of change	NeTeX BODS Fares Profile	DfT will host data for operators <40 services  Profile Available
AVL		1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2021 for new services, 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 for existing	Update frequency >= 30 seconds =< 10 seconds	SIRI VM BODS Profile	Profile in development
Punctuality		From 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	Annual update by 31 <sup>st</sup> March for preceding year	Current format will be accepted initially	For 31 March 2021 a 3 month update will be required. First full year due 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022
Bus Stop Data		31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020	Not mentioned	NaPTAN v2.4	Schema available

The full document can be downloaded from the website:  
<https://www.rtig.org.uk/system/files/documents/RTIGT040-2.0%20BODS%20SI%20Dates%20and%20Formats.pdf>

## Working with Elexon UMSUG codes

We are starting to explore reported challenges that some members are experiencing getting UMSUG codes for unmetered electricity supplies from Elexon and display suppliers.

If you have any experience, good and bad, of obtaining and using UMSUG codes then please let us know.

Once we have a better picture of the industries experience we will be able to start to talk to Elexon to see how we can better work together.

## BODS Issue List

RTIG is working with Traveline and the Bus Operator Digital Initiative to collate and coordinate the reporting and management of issues identified with the Bus Open Data Service be they technical, process or organisational based.

The document is being put together at KPMG / DfT request and will be updated weekly with contributions and input from the BODS team as it becomes available.

If you have anything to contribute, then please let Tim have the details. [tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk](mailto:tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk)

## 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](mailto:tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk)

## Updated NaPTAN Web Pages

The DfT has refreshed the NaPTAN User Guide and application ensuring compliance with the new accessibility legislation. This was done following user research which some of you have been involved in:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-public-transport-access-node-schema/html-version-of-schema>

This is part of a wider project to improve the National Public Transport Access Nodes (NaPTAN) dataset, the Department is reviewing all NaPTAN information and guidance available online.

The next steps are to look at redeveloping the database back end and also starting work on the future of the application and development of a product roadmap.

The Department is keen to make sure users are involved in the next phases of work, so keep an eye out in the newsletter and email to find out how you can be involved.

## Government Digital Service (GDS) assessment

The GDS service standard helps the technology implementation teams to create and operate effective public services. Any transactional governmental service needs to be successfully assessed against the 14 principles of the standard before it's released for a public use.

Projects are released in multiple stages: Alpha (prototyping), Private Beta (closed group piloting); Public Beta (for all users in the public domain), and finally Live. To date, BODS has successfully passed the Alpha service standard (summer 2019) and the Private Beta assessment (winter 2019) for timetables service.

Currently the BODS team is developing the Location Data and Fares service, and in August 2020 passed the GDS mock assessment. The assessors praised the quality of the implementation and user-centric design, user acceptance testing and thorough preparation before its release to bus industry users. Going forward, live assessments will take place this Autumn.

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Subject to a successful outcome, the service will be released to bus industry users ahead of the legislation dates in December 2020 and January 2021. We are looking forward to working with the bus industry stakeholders and onboarding all data publishers in the forthcoming months ahead of the legislation and would like to say a big thank you to all involved to date!

## BODS: Data Quality Reporting

The team has been working on the Data Quality reporting side of the portal. To date, 15 interviews with operators, SMEs, councils and others have taken place to improve the functionality and ease of use of the DQ reporting tool for timetables. A notable change coming soon is the introduction of an export functionality (to Excel) on the DQ Report. This will simplify the report sharing process for certain operators to schedulers to track and fix DQ observations.

The team has also been working with OTC, DVLA, DfT data team (along with operators and data consumers) to design the future algorithm for a 'Data Quality Score' on BODS for operators in England. The team is looking for volunteers/interested parties to provide some feedback.

If are interested, please get in touch with any member of the BODS team. As always, your feedback will directly shape the service.

## BODS: Publish Fares Data Service Update

At the end of July, we invited publishers, including operators and local transport authorities, to be part of the 'early adopters' phase for the Fares Data Build Tool (DBT) and the Fares Data Service on the Bus Open Data Portal. Publishers were asked to use the Fares DBT to create NeTEx data for simple fares, with most looking at adult singles and returns, but some publishers have submitted more. Working with TfN familiarise stakeholders, we have seen 13 publishers upload 65 datasets onto the Fares Data Service for the Bus Open Data Portal. Initial feedback has been positive, where publishers have said they were able to easily upload their files on the system and the summary information was helpful on BODS.

We continue to work as a team with TfN to help publishers create and publish their data on to BODS. This team has been able to work together to add positive enhancements to the Fares Data

Build tool. Additionally, we continue to speak to publishers about potential updates they would like to see going forward with BODS, feeding back to the team to continue towards our achievement of creating a great user experience.

After receiving our initial feedback from the publishers for the Fares Data Service on the Bus Open Data portal, we continue to support potential consumers of the service. Since August 26th, we have assisted consumers in their journey to adopt NeTEx and accessing the Bus Open Data Portal. Providing them with the ability to review example files and guidance, using the interactive API service, we go into the next stage of the early adopters phase for consumers. Starting on September 9th, we had initial sessions with Trapeze, Ito World (on behalf of Google), Cityscience and Passenger to talk about their experience so far and how they plan to use the information available to them.

Consumer feedback sessions will continue over the coming weeks. To ensure early adopter consumers are provided with all the tools they may require, we have also set up a knowledge session with Nick Knowles. During this session Nick will provide a presentation and then an open to discussion forum for all the consumers we have invited to Fares thus far.

## **BODS: Reporting, Analytics and Archiving Service**

With the advent of Bus Open Data, there is an opportunity and a growing appetite to utilise this data to enhance current processes across the bus industry.

The Reporting, Analytics and Archiving Service is a new tool that will enable the reporting and analytic of data such as punctuality performance, AVL feed monitoring, journey completeness headway reporting, and disruption alerting. It has the potential to create more efficient processes and enable information access across different organisations including DfT, DVSA, Local Authorities and bus operators.

The team has gone through a process of initial research across the industry. From this, we have created wireframes (templates of what individual screens could look like) which include a range of data visualisations, features and functionalities. The team are now testing these screens with potential users and gathering feedback to further develop the tool. 40 research sessions have been conducted so far, and the team are looking forward to

driving further discussions on the benefits this tool could bring to the industry.

## BODS: Business Change Update

September marks an important phase in the Business Change framework to transition the Bus Open Data Service into a fully utilised platform for the industry. To date, 27 operators have published data to the service, among them 4 out of the 'Big 5'. The South East is the current focus of activities and there remains significant work to do get in touch with all operators, and we are working to complete discussions with all Local Authorities in the next weeks. This means that we can fully support the operators using the strong relationships that already exist to aid with the journey that all operators will need to complete to become fully published.

There are several enhancements coming to the service that the team have been working on the last few months, and we will work with early adopters to ensure we have a stable and fully functional version that can be deployed for wider use by the industry. Please let the Bus Open Data team know if you would like to be a part of this process and we'd love to include you in the process to further improve the service for everybody.

## Smart data: putting consumers in control of their data and enabling innovation

On 9th September 2020 the UK Government published a response to the Smart Data Review that is conducted in 2019.

The report, titled “Next steps for Smart Data. Putting consumers and SMEs in control of their data and enabling innovation” identifies the success of Open Banking and , it also highlights that though data portability initiatives are being developed in finance, energy, communications, and pensions, the progress is slower than that in banking.

Transport is mentioned specifically in the “Legislating to mandate participation” section where it indicates that they could “mandate industry involvement in Smart Data initiatives across the economy”. What this means is that Parliament could introduce primary legislation to make sectors participate in Smart Data (for example portable and interoperable data) initiatives including transport. Using open data standards such as SIRI, TransXChange and NeTEx will be critical to being able to achieve these aspirations.

The report suggests that future Smart Data initiatives include: “for example, linking trains, airlines, and vehicle data to enable apps that could automatically claim for redress following delays, or enable consumers to track their carbon footprint”

The report is published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/smart-data-putting-consumers-in-control-of-their-data-and-enabling-innovation>

## DATA4PT first Stakeholders Workshop

On 5 November 2020, DATA4PT will organise its first Stakeholders Workshop!

The DATA4PT project aims to advance data-sharing practices in the public transport sector by supporting the development of data exchange standards and models, to fulfil the needs of multimodal travel information service providers.

During the workshop, EU Member States, PTOs, PTAs, IT Industry and other experts will discuss on the roadmap to deploying a set of harmonised European public data standards (Transmodel, NeTEx and SIRI), and publication to the NationalAccess Points.

Furthermore, participants will learn how DATA4PT wants to enable union-wide multimodal travel information services and contribute to a seamless door-to-door travel ecosystem across Europe that covers all mobility services.

You can register for the workshop:

<https://efficy.uitp.org/onlinereg/?e=6955&ext=1&p=-1&rk=online>

## The End of 3G is in Sight

Last time we covered this was last year, it's taking another look though.

“Deutsche Telecom are shutting down their 3G network from June 2021”

Announcements like these are a reminder of the reality of the 3G sunset in Europe. Even when the network is operative, overall coverage may reduce meaning "Things" that have been connected for years no longer communicate.

For many years many real time systems have been purchased with specifications requiring displays that are equipped with 3G modems.

Whilst the more recent procurements that have just specified 3G modems are likely to have been supplied with modems that will also support 4G networks there must be many installed modems that will not support 4G.

There is no indication that the 2G networks are going to be switched off anytime soon as they provide the networks with low cost coverage enabling calls to be made and allowing comms to fall back to basic GPRS / 2G for data. This may cause real time systems significant challenges with bandwidth and timeliness of updates etc.

We would recommend that anyone with equipment that relies on a mobile network to contact their suppliers and find out how they will be affected by the reduction in coverage of 3G and the ultimate switch off of the 3G networks.

## Transport for the North – Fares Data Build Tool development update

Private Beta development of the Fares Data Build Tool – which will support bus operators to publish fares – continues at pace. The tool can now support creation of single, return and flat fares for a range of user types, as well as zonal fares and single operator period passes, group tickets and tickets with time restrictions. Further development work is taking place this month to finalise the approach for multi-operator zonal tickets.

Over the summer, TfN supported DfT-led User Testing sessions and 12 operators were able to successfully use the tool to upload sample NeTEx fares data to the Bus Open Data Service.

The team are now preparing for the Beta Private GDS assessment in late October and are making good progress on the transition of the tool to DfT ownership later in the year so that it can be provided as national solution ahead of the implementation of fares regulations from January 2021.

## Traveline South East, Anglia and East Midlands Websites Close

For over 20 years, the traveline regional websites have provided impartial travel advice using data compiled by all of the local transport authorities (County Councils and Unitary Authorities) in the region.

The Bus Services Act of 2017 means that, by the end of 2020, it will be the bus operators' responsibility to make available timetable, fares and real-time location data. The Government expects "the market" (bus operators and internet information providers) to use the latest technological developments to give travel planning information to the travelling public.

The websites had become rather dated, and without funds to develop it with new facilities, and without enhancements to use the latest software developments, the decision was taken to close it down. The closure was initially due to take place a year ago, but

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then at the end of March 2020. The rapidly changing data resulting from the Covid-19 outbreak provided a further extension.

The websites last day of operation was Wednesday 23rd September, when the software contracts and hosting arrangements came to an end.

We will continue to provide data to the Traveline National Dataset as the transition to operators' data takes place.

## 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.

## Omnibus Support for BODS

To help clients to provide compliant timetable data seamlessly for Bus Open Data Service (BODS), Omnibus will be launching a new facility within its TransXChange Export module.

From its launch in the Autumn, clients will be able to produce TransXChange 2.4 files in accordance with the BODS profile, giving customers the benefit of a three-month window to refresh their timetable data prior to the 31st December deadline.

Omnibus is also advising operators that they can submit data now, before the September launch of the new facility, as the current versions of TransXChange are acceptable for submission to BODS.

For further information please contact Marc Knott [marc.knott@omnibus.uk.com](mailto:marc.knott@omnibus.uk.com) or Adam Stephenson [adam.stephenson@omnibus.uk.com](mailto:adam.stephenson@omnibus.uk.com)

## React NaPTAN editor being used by TfGM

Following the launch of the web based React NaPTAN editor earlier this year it is now in use by TfGM

‘React were able to quickly implement a number of TfGM specific requirements to their NaPTAN Editor and as such provided TfGM with a SaaS based solution that delivers both on functionality and ease of use’

John McCabe, Data Quality Manager, Transport for Greater Manchester

Our Bus stop asset manager and WiKi accessibility reporting service is also ready for wider customer feedback – so anyone who fancies having a look please message me.

[russellgard@react-access.com](mailto:russellgard@react-access.com)

### WHAT IS THE REACT NaPTAN EDITOR?

- An easy-to-use tool that allows authorities to...
- Manage their NapTAN bus stop database
- Upload & download the data to the DfT

- Receive prompts on where repairs or enforcement is required (via the React Bus Stop WiKi feature for operators, passengers & others to use).

#### WHY USE IT?

Under the 2017 Buses act there is a statutory duty on Local Authorities to manage this data & keep it accurate. This tool ensures that you can do this easily & cost effectively.

### Moovit is first major tech firm to use Transport for the North's Open Data Hub to improve passenger journeys

People using public transport in the North of England will get extra help planning their journeys thanks to a collaboration between a leading technology firm and Transport for the North.

Moovit is the first major firm to use Transport for the North's new Open Data Hub, which provides publicly accessible data about fares and delays to journeys, in its customer-facing services.

It means that anyone using Moovit's free iOS, Android, and web app across Yorkshire and the North will now have up-to-date information about delays to their journey to help them plan.

The Open Data Hub is part of TfN's £150m Integrated and Smart Travel programme, which aims to develop smart ticketing, payment and information technologies to transform travel across the whole region.

## How busy is your bus?

While the Covid-19 pandemic has taken a huge toll on local

Passengers now able to check real time bus seat availability in one place

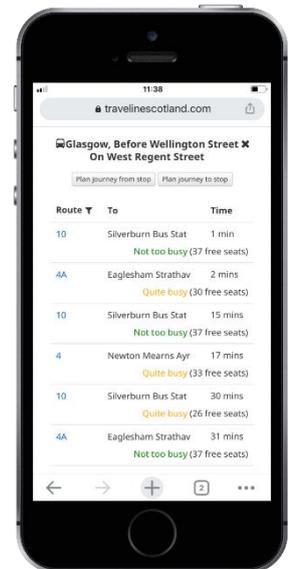
From 24 September, Traveline Scotland is providing real time information on the capacity of bus services for multiple operators across the west of Scotland (SPT) and Aberdeenshire (NESTRANS) areas. This service, a first in the UK, allows passengers to check if seats are available before catching their bus.

With capacity restricted on public transport due to physical distancing measures, the public are being encouraged to plan their journey and avoid busy times where possible.

This development, which significantly improves people's ability to plan their journey more effectively and travel safely, is the first part of a phased roll out that aims to cover the whole of the country over the coming months.

Information is being collated and verified so that the journey planners on the Traveline Scotland website and associated IOS & Android apps will now show how many seats are available, or how busy a bus is when it is in service. By using the on board ticket machine and driver input, digital data is also able to indicate whether a service is quite busy, not so busy or relatively quiet in real-time for passengers benefit.

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/news/how-busy-is-your-bus/>



**Transport for the North is exploring how new technologies can transform how we travel and incentivise the use of public transport across the region.**

**Pre-procurement market engagement webinar**

Monday 5th October 2020, 1-2 PM

Register Now: <https://transportforthenorth.com/ist/ist-innovation/>

Transport for the North is developing a new way forward for smart travel and want to engage with transport, ticketing and payment suppliers, as well as other tech experts, innovators, SMEs and start-ups.

We want to conduct market engagement and need your feedback and insight ahead of our upcoming innovation procurement and technical demonstration activity. Join our Zoom webinar to hear more about:

- TfN's Integrated and Smart Travel programme
- Strategic objectives & responding to current challenges
- Regulation 31 Innovation Partnership Procurement
- Industry challenge statement

Please note, a recording of the webinar will be available on the webpage following the session.

<https://transportforthenorth.com/ist/ist-innovation/>

## 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 (21<sup>st</sup> Century), Tony Brown (Atkins), George Connell (Stagecoach), Simon Gold (Reading Buses), Meera Nayyar (DfT)

## Contact us

Best by email: [secretariat@rtig.org.uk](mailto:secretariat@rtig.org.uk).

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

## Next issue

Issue 135 – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

Please send all contributions to [secretariat@rtig.org.uk](mailto:secretariat@rtig.org.uk) at any time up to Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

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