RTiG INFORM

improving public transport through technology

August 2019 – Issue 120

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 Committee
18 September 2019, London

PTIC
1 October 2019, London

Workshop
Early October

Working Groups

Early Sept, Conf Call - Integrating Disruption Information

Early Sept, Conf Call - Procurement Advice

In this issue:

News and events: update on RTIG work
Newsletter Frequency and Email Alerts
SIRI Updates
Working Groups

In other news: around the patch

Bus Open Data Update July 2019
Bus Open Data TransXChange profile development
Bus Open Data: Implementation Guidance Review
Google Maps to start predicting crowdedness on public transport
First Group and Traveline Open Data Partnership

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
Web:www.rtig.org.uk

NEWS AND EVENTS

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.

SIRI Updates

As previously raised minor updates to SIRI are being proposed.
This work is taking place over the next couple of Months for agreement in September.

The proposed changes have been circulated to those who have previously expressed an interest.

If you would like to be involved in commenting and reviewing the proposed changes then please get in touch with Tim tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk

NEWS AND EVENTS

Working Groups

These working groups are now underway, its not too late to become involved – just get in contact:

Integrating Disruption Information

There are many different systems where disruption information is available which are not normally part of the customer information process. This group will investigate how to practicably integrate the disparate systems in use across public transport: to provide more and consistent disruption information and if appropriate, to produce an advice document

Procurement Advice

This group is working to produce a 'Dummies Guide' to real time system procurement. An initial draft is already available.

We are still looking for volunteers to become involved in these groups which are about to be starting work:

Maintaining an efficient and effective RTI system

Whether you have you have just invested in your shiny new or upgraded system or if you've been running one for years, the challenge of how you maintain it is common to everyone.
We aim to provide an advisory guide on the best practice for keeping a real time system working efficiently and effectively.

N E W S   A N D   E V E N T S

Accuracy and quality of real time predictions

Following questions at the last two workshops there it is clear that there is not sufficient common understanding across the community on how to effectively measure the performance of predictions.
This group will produce a guide on how to measure the quality and accuracy of predictions.

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

I N

O T H E R

N E W S

Bus Open Data Update July 2019

From the latest DfT newsletter on the Bus Open Data programme:

We want the information on local bus services to be available to all passengers across England and to be as good as or better than that available to rail passengers and bus users in London.
As part of the Bus Open Data project, the Department for Transport has been working on developing a new standard for fares data, alongside developing tools and training for bus operators and local authorities. The DfT has been collaborating with Traveline and Transport for the North to deliver these objectives, which will serve the benefit of data publishers and data consumers with the upcoming launch of the Bus Open Data Digital Service.

NeTEx profile

The final draft of the UK NeTEx Profile has been delivered: (http://netex.netex.uk). Workshops were held during July in Sheffield and London where stakeholders discussed NeTEx requirements, when they will come into force in the Statutory Instrument and what this meant for their organisations. We'll also begin to consider the ongoing maintenance and change control for the profile, how users will be supported in implementation and building NeTEx capability in the UK beyond the delivery of the UK NeTEx Profile.

We will hold a more technical workshop during August for suppliers and others that will be involved in the detail of implementing NeTEx, either as a publisher or a consumer. Engagement with suppliers is underway to decide the format for the workshop to ensure that they get as much out of it as possible whilst informing the final version of the UK Profile.

TfN Fare Data Build Tool
Plans to roll out an open data tool for bus information could transform the experience for passengers. Transport for the North, working closely with the Department for Transport, is in the final stages of procuring an digital platform that would make data on fares available online.

It's hoped the platform – intended to be piloted in parts of the North by the end of this year – would help web and app giants such as Google, Moovit and Citymapper to integrate the costs of public transport journeys within their existing products and services. The tool would underpin the key requirement of the Bus Services Act 2017 for bus operators to make their fares data publicly available. It would be free for operators to use and has the potential to be rolled out nationally.

Richard Mason, Information Strategy Manager at Transport for the North, said:
"Life online has become the norm, with more and more people turning to their smartphone, websites and apps to help get around. This data platform is a real opportunity to change the way people travel and we're pleased to be spearheading it in the North of England.
"Not only would such a platform make it easier for bus operators to fulfil their duty to share information, it would also give web developers a central, go-to source of data to embed in their apps. The end result would be a seamless experience of not only looking up your journey and route options, but also seeing how much it would cost and the best ticket options for you.
"We're bringing together the bus operators, local authorities, web developers like Google, Moovit and Citymapper and the Department for Transport to bring this closer to reality."

I N   O T H E R   N E W S

Bus Open Data TransXChange profile development

Work has been taking place over recent months to develop a new TransXChange profile to support the requirements of the Bus Services Act 2017 and the open data requirements for routes and timetables.

The project has produced a short survey which you can find at www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TXC_Profile

We would be grateful if you could please complete the survey so that we can get the widest possible consultation before the profile is finalised.

The survey will remain open until 23rd August.

If you are not familiar with TransXChange, then do please still complete the survey.
There are many questions of a non-technical nature which we can use to back up (or not) the thinking that has gone into the profile, and your views are still very welcome, and you can skip the technical aspects.

Bus Open Data: Implementation Guidance Review

The Department for Transport started private Beta in July this month for the Bus Open Data Service and are due to both make regulations and publish the Implementation Guidance during Autumn 2019 ahead of the first set of requirements to publish route and timetable data coming into effect from early 2020.

The Department is wanting to ensure that the guidance is fit for purpose through testing and review with a wide audience.

I N   O T H E R   N E W S

Attached is the second draft of the Implementation Guide which has addressed a significant amount of comments and feedback offered in the last few months however we know that there is still a lot of work to do.

I would be grateful if you could offer your industry and/or technical expertise to critically review the document attached – given the length of the document we are broadly happy for you to select sections that appear most relevant to your area of knowledge.

The sections are as follows:

a.   The Bus Open Data Digital Service
b.   Preparing to use the digital service
c.   Publishing route and timetable data
d.   The role for local transport authorities
e.   Publishing data about bus stops
f.   The role for Department for Transport
g.   Quality assuring data
h.   Using the data to develop products
i.   Compliance and enforcement

Questions that you may wish to consider include: (not an exhaustive list)

- Are the sections right or is there anything that we have missed that would be useful?
- Is the guide easy to read and quite self-explanatory or has it left you with further questions?
- Have we struck the right balance in terms of context setting or have we assumed lots of knowledge?
- Are there any complexities to publishing timetables that are not currently accounted for yet?
- And in a similar manner, are there further complexities to NapTAN data that we have not yet accounted for?
- Would you be able to know what is required of you to publish data from reading the guide?

- If not, what further information would be required to help you met your legal obligation?

The guidance document can be downloaded using this link: https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e03de4ac07ea5b59 07c32cd3e/files/3a353142-e766-436a-a568-7a5b38f78296/BoD_Implementation_Guide_DRAFT_2019_07_25_v3_.docx

Do let me know if you have any questions and grateful to receive your comments by close of play Thursday 8th August 2019 (ideally as tracked changes or comments) to allow me to prepare a combined RTIG response to the DfT.

Thank you
Tim.
tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk

Google Maps to start predicting crowdedness on public transport

Written by Jamie Davies and first published 1st July 2019.

http://telecoms.com/498245/google-maps-to-start-predicting-crowdedness-on-public-transport/

Google Maps is already one of the most popular ways to plan the comings and goings of daily life, but a new update makes it just a little bit better.

Launched at the end of last week, Google Maps will now tell users how busy public transport is likely to be and whether users should anticipate delays on a journey. It's a simple upgrade, but this extra little bit of information is an example of why Google Maps is such a popular application around the world.

"On days when everything runs smoothly, taking public transit is one of the best ways to get around town," Google stated in a blog post. "Not only is it

I N

O T H E R

N E W S

cost-effective and efficient, but it also lets you stay hands-free, so you can sit back, relax and maybe even read a few chapters of your favourite book.

"But unexpected delays or overcrowded vehicles can quickly turn your ride from enjoyable to stressful. Starting today, Google Maps is rolling out two new features to help you better plan for your transit ride and stay more comfortable along the way."

There are two new snippets of information which are being introduced here. Firstly, users will be told whether there are any delays on the bus to be aware of. Many estimates on time of arrival are based on the average time in which it takes the bus to get from point A to point B, not taking into account the conditions at that time. To counter this problem, Google will introduce live traffic updates.

Secondly, the Maps application will begin to tell users whether they are likely to snag a seat on an up-coming bus, train or underground journey. This section is more guesswork than anything else, using data collected on journeys through the last two years to figure out the current situation. That said, these guesses are usually correct and might be useful for anyone who gets a bit fidgety during the busy periods of travel.

These two features will be rolled out in 200 cities across the world, including numerous locations in the UK such as Cardiff, London, Nottingham and Reading.

Google Maps is turning into a wonderful money maker for the team, and this is perhaps the very reason why. Numerous features are being introduced without necessarily tying them to the bottom line. Google is not necessarily going to make money from these updates, but more people might use the product. It's the built it and they will come attitude, focusing on nailing experience before turning to profits.

MEMBERS NEWS

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'.

A 21st Century totem at the newly refurbished Walsall bus station.

First Group and Traveline Open Data Partnership

First *traveline*

First Group and Traveline Information Limited (TIL) are pleased to announce that we have formed a partnership to deliver more and better bus data to customers direct from transport operators.

We have combined our complementary expertise, experience and resources to develop tools and processes for data supply that will be available to other operators and stakeholders through TIL at low or no cost.

The drive for excellence in customer information is at the heart of this partnership. We recognise and understand the challenges of high quality data supply and the importance of working with Local Authority colleagues to ensure a smooth and seamless transition to direct data supply by operators.

We are working closely with the Department for Transport in the development of its Bus Open Data Digital Service (BODDS) throughout.

The first delivery phase of the partnership includes:
- First data quality surveys and the development of quality tools and processes in consultation with Local Authorities; in development.
- Daily processing of the Traveline National Dataset; development complete.
- A test journey planner for First test data initially; development complete.
- First fares and real time data supply direct to TIL; data in test and development underway.

M E M B E R S   N E W S

- Building industry skills and capabilities by working with operators, authorities and academic organsations to rebrand Data Specialist roles, develop career paths and professionalise skills and expertise; underway.
- TIL hosting of First's route and timetable data for linking to the Department for Transport's new Bus Open Data Digital Service early in 2020.

For further information on any of the above and if you want to know how to get involved, please contact julie.williams@traveline.info

ADMIN

Management Committee Members

The Management Committee for the year 2019-209 was appointed at the AGM on 12 March 2019. Membership is currently as follows:

Chair:

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

Contact us

Best by email: secretariat@rtig.org.uk.

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

Next issue

Issue 120 – Monday 2nd September 2019.

Please send all contributions to secretariat@rtig.org.uk at any time up to Wednesday 28th August 2019.

RTIG's newsletters are distributed by email.

To subscribe: simply complete the form online, use the QR Code or email us at newsletter@rtig.org.uk with your request and a valid email address.

To unsubscribe: email with the subject "unsubscribe" – or simply reply to your notification telling us you'd like to be taken off the list.