

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 Virtual Workshops

15 Dec 2022 Digital Twins - In Real Life

For booking details see the website.

Working Groups

CCTV Technology & Best Practice

Procurement of Software as a Service

Committee

26 January 2023, Virtual

PTIC

14 December 2022, Virtual

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NEWS & 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.



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 .

Hearing Loops

During the pandemic, bus operators introduced Perspex screens between the driver and passenger to help provide protection from COVID-19. This barrier increased the challenge for passengers and drivers who have hearing problems.

The use of audio induction loops (hearing aid loops) and other solutions will help to alleviate some of the resultant problems.



The requirement will form part of the future vehicle requirements as seen in the new zero-emission buses scheme.

We will be producing an advice note for operators. If you want to be involved in the group creating this then please let us know.

CCTV Technology & Best Practice



In the 15 years since RTiG last produced guidance on CCTV there have been many changes in the technology available and its capabilities.

We are convening a working group to create updated advice on CCTV. We currently expect this to cover different camera and recording technologies, and good practice advice on management of images, installation and maintenance.

If you want to be involved in the working group exploring this then please let us know. To get involved in this group please get in touch tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk

The first meeting of this group will be 5 September 2022 at 15:00

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S****Procurement of Software as a Service**

With an increasing move by software suppliers to supply services on a Software as a Service (SaaS) basis, the approach to procurement needs to change to reflect this shift.

Traditional procurement and contract arrangements need to be updated to reflect the requirements and expectations of SaaS.

We have convened a working group to create guidance on how to better procure SaaS systems.

We've had our first meeting and ideas for the report are being developed.

If you want to be involved in the working group exploring this then please let us know. To get involved in this group please get in touch tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk

The next meeting of this group will be 7 September at 14:00

Towards Net Zero Carbon

The UK government has introduced ambitious goals for the UK to become net-zero carbon by 2050 and transport is the largest source of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in the UK - damaging both the environment and public health.



In addition, the UK government's recent De-Carbonising Transport report outlines a strategy for reducing overall car use,

NEWS & EVENTS

promoting the “natural first choice” to be public transport and emissions-free modes of travel like walking and cycling.

We all need to address the climate crisis and RTiG is reviewing its activities to take the necessary steps to ensure our own climate impact is reduced; and to assist with and promote, the actions public transport takes to reduce its carbon footprint.

The report that is underway on the Environmental Impact of Displays is the first piece of work.

We want to know what we should do next?
How can we help you and your organisations better understand your impacts?
How can we help you reduce your impact?

Please let us know what we can do to help and what you want us to work on.

Upcoming Webinars

Digital Twins - In Real Life



During our last event on Digital twins we looked at the background and theory behind them.

This webinar looks at how digital twins are being used in real life to make a difference.

We will be joined by Alchera Technologies who will share an insight into their work with the City of York using a digital twin to help with traffic management.

Thursday, 15 December 2022 - 13:00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/digital-twins-in-real-life-tickets-475226343787>

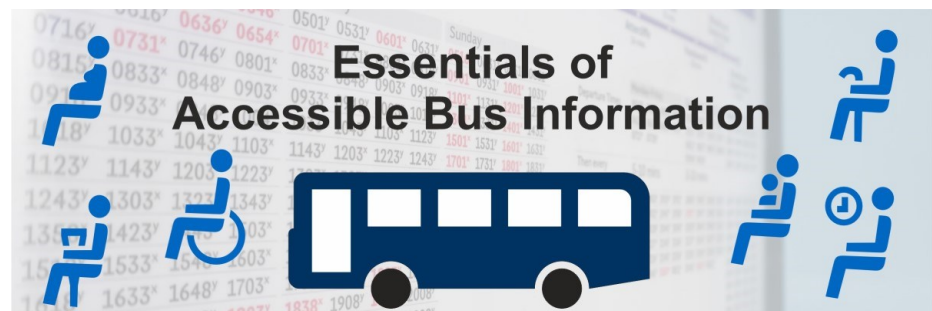
Past Webinars

All our previous webinars have been recorded and available on our YouTube channel:

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



Essentials of Accessible Information



Passengers expect information to be available in as many places as possible in many different formats. How do we ensure that the information we are providing as an industry is usable and accessible for as many people as possible?

More than 1 in 5 people have some form of disability, social inclusion requires ensuring that for everyone the journey is made possible and practical. By having access to the necessary infrastructure and information, passengers can have a seamless door-to-door experience.

What are some of the key considerations that should be considered when designing information, so it is as accessible to as many people as possible?

The recording is available at:
<https://youtu.be/4dqIUaQjbdE>

Christmas & New Year Timetable Data 2022-3

Christmas & New Year Timetable Data 2022-23



Bus services around the Christmas and New Year period will often operate differently to normal weeks and is one the most challenging times of the year to ensure data in customer information channels is correct.

The data for use in services such as the Department for Transport Bus Open Data Service , Traveline, journey planners, real time systems and mobile phone apps all need to be updated to reflect the changed operation.

RTiG and PTiC have produced some advice that covers how to prepare data for the BODS service to ensure that it is correct for the Christmas and New Year 2022 holiday period.

<https://www.rtig.org.uk/documents/rtigt053-1>

Future Structure & Governance Arrangements



Over the summer we let you know about proposed changes to the legal structure of RTiG that as a member you need to be aware of.

We produced a paper, which describes the current legal structures, why the changes are necessary and outlines the proposed changes.

<https://www.rtig.org.uk/system/files/documents/RTIGC073-1.0%20Restructure%20of%20RTIG.pdf>

We also held two Q&A sessions for members.

The current progress is that a new not for profit shell company has been registered to allow all the legal parts to be put into place and things necessary for running a company including bank accounts, VAT registrations obtained.

This will also enable the management contract for the day to day operation of RTiG to be tendered, keep your eyes out for this if you think you may be interested in running RTiG.

The company articles, or company rules are nearing a stage where we can share these and hold an extraordinary meeting to agree these and agree the dissolution of the current RTiG-inform and transfer to the new company.

We expect that this meeting will be held in January, and we will need as many members to attend or provide proxy / postal votes to ensure that we can progress.

D f T N E W S

BODS Timetable Python Tool

We are delighted to announce the release of a python package aimed at dramatically reducing the time and technical requirements for accessing and analysing clean, structured BODS timetables data.

What is it?

Open source python package that delivers analytical ready BODS timetables data, as well as enabling reporting and analytics, all within a few lines of code.

Who for?

Existing consumers of BODS timetables data, and new consumers who would like to use the data but have not had enough access to the technical requirements, tacit TransXChange knowledge, or required time to explore the data.

How to get started?

Full instructions for how to get up and running can be found here: [department-for-transport-BODS/bods-data-extractor](https://github.com/department-for-transport-BODS/bods-data-extractor): A python client for downloading and extracting data from the UK Bus Open Data Service (github.com)

How will it benefit new consumers?

This has been set up and documented in a way that even complete python beginners can extract clean timetables data, generate vehicle journey to stop timetable matrices, and run reporting functions to better understand and monitor relevant operators, nocs, or areas. It completely removes the requirement to understand the TransXChange file structure, or to write code to extract relevant data from the 1000s of xml files.

How will it benefit experienced consumers?

For more technically advanced consumers, this public codebase can act as an accelerator for developing their own projects involving BODS timetables data. The built in functions will significantly reduce time and effort in calling custom slices of the BODS timetables database, allowing consumers to focus on analysing and building data products, rather than spending time engineering data into a clean state.

Feedback

This is the first release of this software, and so we would greatly appreciate any feedback you have, whether that be potential bugs

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identified, requests for new features or how you are using this to accelerate your own projects!

Full description of the roadmap for the next release, as well as limitations to note are available within the README file at the above link. If you require support or are experiencing issues, please contact the Bus Open Data Service Help Desk.

Email: bodshelpdesk@kpmg.co.uk

GitHub: [department-for-transport-BODS/bods-data-extractor](https://github.com/department-for-transport-BODS/bods-data-extractor): A python client for downloading and extracting data from the UK Bus Open Data Service (github.com)

NaPTAN CSV Output File

Following the recent addition of two new columns, “ParentLocalityName” & “ParentLocalityNameLang” in the NPTG output the NaPTAN CSV file is now populated with “ParentLocalityName”.

In the future we will also be populating the following columns to improve parity between the XML and CSV output:

- Town
- TownLang
- Suburb
- SuburbLang

DATA4PT Validator for NeTEx files

The next training event on DATA4PT Validator for NeTEx files on 6 December 2022 15.30-16.30 CET.

<https://data4pt-project.eu/webinar-netex-validation-tool/>



Data quality is key aspect to ensure the re-use of the open data and to provide high quality mobility services. DATA4PT tool aims to support most use cases and facilitate the mission of several stakeholders involved (data providers, data consumers, National Access Points Operators, etc.). With this training, you will get familiar with the tool, its functionalities now and in the future and you will be able to ask questions about how to improve your datasets to the NeTEx experts.

Transmodel & NeTEx for Alternative modes – Webinar recording

The slides and recording of the Data4PT webinar on NeTEx and SIRI data standards for New Modes (bicycle, scooters, car sharing etc.) is available on their website:

<https://data4pt-project.eu/knowledge-database/training-material/>

M E M B E R S N E W S

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 Navaho Transport systems destination blind on the ADL Enviro 400 EV

Ticketer team up with First Bus to launch innovative new Tap On / Tap Off system for fares in a UK bus industry first

Ticketer has embarked on an innovative new pilot in partnership with First Bus to simplify their existing Tap On / Tap Off fare capping system for customers. The pilot is taking place in the First Cymru operating area of Bridgend County Borough in Wales, with the help of Transport for Wales and Bridgend County Council and will see adult customers fares calculated based on the direct distance travelled in an UK bus industry first.

A journey can consist of a passenger boarding multiple buses, within a 30-minutes transfer time. The passenger's fare will then be calculated to the exact distance (nearest metre) between their first boarding and final alighting bus stop.

When a passenger 'taps on' they're charged a minimum fare of £1.60, which covers the first 2km of their journey. If they travel further, they are charged based on the distance they travel up to a maximum of £5. That day cap is lowered the more often the customer travels across the same week, ensuring that the maximum a customer can pay for a week's bus travel is £21 - no matter the distance they travel or the number of journeys they make.



The scheme is designed to offer customers a more flexible and a 'fairer fares' system and has the potential not only to save them money in the short term, but to offer great value for money in the long-term. By calculating fares to the exact metre, it is a much fairer way of calculating fares for customers, especially those who may occur higher fares due to their geographical location between fare stages.

Simon Pearson, Chief Commercial Officer at First Bus UK, says: "This pilot has the potential to change the game in the fare capping and pricing space and is part of our nationwide rollout of Tap On / Tap Off across the UK operations. We are excited to

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see the results of the pilot and more importantly how it goes down with our customers. This pilot will run for an initial three months but has the potential to be extended and could be rolled out in other areas in the future if successful. As we go through the current cost of living crisis, it important to us to continue to innovate to find ways to save our customers money, and for bus to remain a great value travel option of choice for everyone.”

The pilot is running on all First Cymru’s buses in the county except for Cymru Clipper Services (their longer distance services that connect Bridgend with Port Talbot, Swansea and Cardiff), which will continue to be charged in the usual way.

This new innovation was developed, through a close collaboration between First Bus central commercial teams and ticketing partner Ticketer.

John Clarfelt, Ticketer’s Founder, comments: “We are really excited to have been able to deliver this truly innovative way of calculating fares for First. Simplifying fares for passengers is a key priority for us and our customers, and we are proud to have worked in partnership with First to introduce this novel approach to fares to the market.”

For more information see firstbus.co.uk/cymrutoto

Ten years of TransportAPI and our managed services go from strength to strength

TransportAPI was launched in 2012 with a vision to organise and scale all of public transport information through APIs to organisations and individuals everywhere. Transport for London was our launch customer when they approached us to provide Overground train departure boards using the newly released open rail data for the 2012 London Olympics. Since our launch, there have been over 12,000 signups on TransportAPI and we have become one of the largest providers of public transport data in the country.

We are proud to be able to celebrate our decade of achievement with the Open Data Institute who are also 10 years old on the 1st of December 2022. The ODI provided accelerator space to TransportAPI as a start-up, and today we thank them and we recognise them for the huge boost they gave us in our early years.

MEMBERS

NEWS

Since 2012 we have expanded our offer dramatically and we now deliver through a managed service model where we ingest, maintain, analyse, publish and archive transport data at scale from all the key national sources. Since COVID we have launched TAPI Bus fares, TAPI Bus Performance and added Bus-on-a-Map tracking and bus route geometry features into the TAPI Bus information managed service, mostly based on the Bus Open Data Service. We also now offer data in GTFS format as weekly downloads for all modes of transport in GB in addition to delivery through our JSON API.

First Bus to deploy Prospective.io automated fleet scheduling across UK operations

The new artificial intelligence system will allow First Bus Schedulers to create or adjust full timetables and vehicle schedules for individual services in minutes, ensuring that timetables will remain accurate throughout the year.

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First Bus has announced that it has signed a significant partnership agreement with **Prospective.io** to deploy its cutting edge artificial intelligence (AI) platform, rolling out automated, data driven timetabling and scheduling software across its largest UK operating companies (OpCos).

The deployment in Glasgow, Bristol, Manchester, the West of England, Essex and West Yorkshire will improve service punctuality for over half-a-million daily passengers and will enable local scheduling teams to make subtle changes to schedules throughout the year to maintain service quality.

Use of the automated scheduling system (FlowOS) has led to improvements in service punctuality and reliability in First Bus' West Yorkshire operations, as well as helped save fleet resources and staff time that can now be invested back into improving local service delivery.

A D M I N

Management Committee Members

The Management Committee for the year 2022-2023 was appointed at the AGM on 23 March 2022. Membership is currently as follows:

Chair: Tony Brown

Members: Sonya Sparks (Essex), 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

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

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

Next issue

Issue 161 – Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Please send all contributions to secretariat@rtig.org.uk at any time up to Thursday 22nd December 2022.

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