

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

Workshops

- 13 February 2024 Using AI to improve Bus Services, Leeds
- 20 March 2024 On Vehicle Information to Passengers. TBD

Webinars

- 15 February 2024 ABOD analysis – logic and improvements made

For booking details and additional events see the website.

Working Groups

- CCTV Technology & Best Practice
Procurement of Software as a Service

RTIG Board

- 20 March 2024, Virtual

PTIC

- 7 March 2024, Virtual

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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.



Social Media

RTIG is on these social media channels:

Linkedin

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/12119271/>



X (twitter) as @RtigInform

<https://twitter.com/RtigInform>



Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/rtig_inform/



Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.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.

We've met a few times and a report is in development.

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

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 met a few times and a report is in development.

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

Next Face to Face event

Using AI to Improve Bus Services



13 February 2024, Leeds

There is a lot of talk about artificial intelligence and how it can be used to make a difference in pretty much every industry. It is hard to work out what is hype and what is actually being achieved.

At this event you will find out about how AI and Machine Learning:

- works and what it is really about;
- is being used already; and
- it could be used to help public transport.

Hear and learn about the latest advancements in artificial intelligence and how they can be applied to enhance efficiency, reliability, and sustainability.

Explore real-world case studies showcasing successful implementations of AI in bus services, illustrating the positive impact on passenger experience and operational efficiency.

Hear from:

- Basemap
- Simplifai
- ITO
- KPMG
- Alchera
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
- And others

Whether you're from a bus operator, transport or local authority or supplier, this event offers valuable takeaways that will enrich your knowledge and help you contribute effectively to the advancement of bus services.

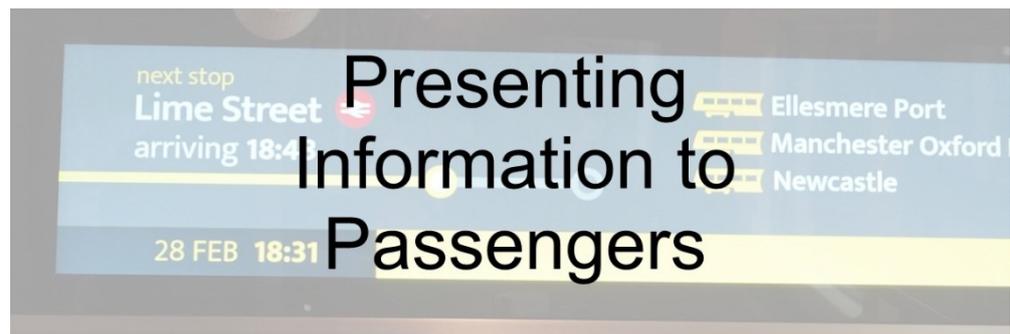
Whether you're a seasoned expert or new to the field, there's something for everyone.

Call for Speakers: We invite you to contact us if you would like to share your experience and knowledge.

Book Event:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/785864841897>

Presenting Information to Passengers



20 March 2024, TBD

In an increasingly online world the attraction of physical displays continues unabated, and with the new Accessible Information Regulations there is an increased focus on information on vehicle.

Supporting the rapid roll out of displays on vehicle we have seen in the last couple of years the launch of many new displays by suppliers, this is an opportunity to hear about the latest innovations and trends and see some of them in real life.

Its easy to get engrossed in the physical displays and technologies, to avoid that we will also take some time to look at what information does the customer need.

During this event we will hold our AGM. If you are unable to physically attend the event but want to participate in the AGM we aim to stream this section (only the AGM, not the rest of the event).

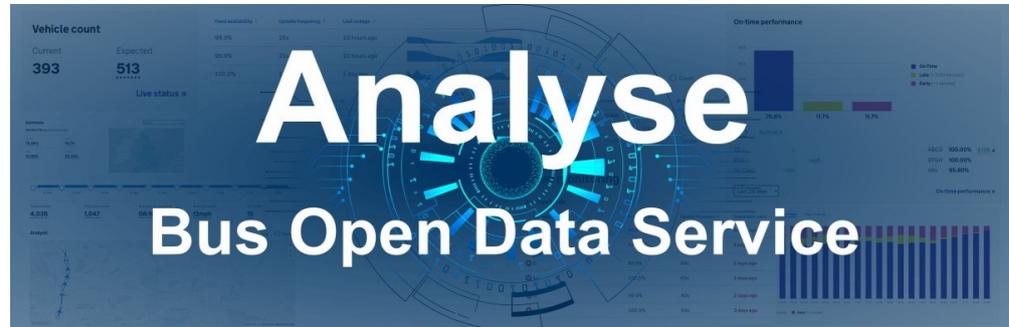
Call for Speakers: We invite you to contact us if you would like to share your experience and knowledge.

Book Event:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/785927007837>

Upcoming Webinars

ABODS Series



Analyse Bus Open Data (ABOD) is an extension service to the Bus Open Data Service (BODS), that provides free-to-access reporting and analytics to operators and authorities nationally.

The service provides:

- Dashboard overview;
- feed monitoring;
- on-time performance analyses;
- Vehicle journey analysis;
- Corridor reporting.

Analyse Bus Open Data is part of the Department for Transport's ongoing investment in bus services, and supports the National Bus

Strategy, by helping government, local authorities, and bus operators to:

- perform existing bus data analysis in faster and easier ways;
- produce more accurate and detailed performance analysis reports;
- improve on collaboration between different organisations;
- identify network improvement opportunities;
- inform transport policy and compliance monitoring across the industry.

RTiG is supporting the Department for Transport by promoting the service to ensure operators and authorities know about the service and how they can use it. We will be holding a series of webinars during 2024, together with DfT's technical supplier Ito World, to demonstrate ABOD features and help users understand how to maximise its potential.

Operators and authorities who have not yet received an invitation to get access to ABOD can also request this during the webinars – or in advance by emailing BusOpenData@dft.gov.uk

ABOD analysis – logic and improvements made Thursday 15th February 2024

- We will run through the changes we have made to the data over the past year thanks to your feedback
- Understand the logic ABOD uses to derive the on time performance calculations
- See changes to data completeness and early departure metrics

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/770269706427>

Past Events



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

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

Turn your technical knowledge into simple insights



Turn your
technical knowledge
into
simple insights

Thursday, 18 January 2024 - 13:00 - 14:00

Learn how to give your audience actionable insights by transforming your technical reports into clear messages.

Delivering BSIPs and EPs requires contributions from lots of people who have differing levels of technical knowledge and perceptions about bus service improvement. Your success depends on creating an environment where technical knowledge is not a barrier to creating support for your goals. The first step on your journey to realising this involves gaining a better understanding of your various audiences and presenting your messages in terms they can understand.

In this first taster session, you will learn three key skills and how to apply them:

- Know your audience
- Answer their question, not yours
- The secret power of visuals

NaPTAN Product Update

The next workshops on NaPTAN are:

Data Quality - what we've found and where should we focus?

27th Feb – 2pm to 4pm

29th Feb – 10am to 12pm

Accessibility - wrap up of the last 3 months

Tues 30th April – 2pm to 4pm

Thu 2nd May – 10am to 12pm

All events are managed through Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/department-for-transport-naptan-team-39414925573>

NaPTAN Accessibility Discovery and Alpha work begins

We have just finished the kickoff planning work for the Discovery/Alpha on Accessibility we are running from January to March 2024.

We will be talking about this at the next public meetings – taking you all through the rationale, and the plan we have.

We are working in two interlinked streams:

Discovery

The discovery is about understanding what information already exists in the ecosystem (and some of what we talk about might not be what you thought could work for accessibility).

We also want to talk to Data Consumers – mostly those who are involved in publishing Journey Planners to understand how we can give you data that you can use to make accessibility part of your planner.

Alpha (Proof of Concept)

The Alpha is about proving with a technical proof of concept we can do this.

We have constraints we have placed on the work (to make it more interesting and more of a challenge)

- We cannot in any way change the NaPTAN schema (and we must be able to work with data from the 2.1 and 2.4 NaPTAN schema)

- We cannot ask the Local Authority to create any new data – aka no accessibility audits

How you can be involved

We will be reaching out for people to take part in both the Discovery (What accessibility data do we have as an ecosystem? How could we combine and interpret it?) and the Alpha (Combining some Accessibility data with NaPTAN data – is this possible?)

We will be engaging with passengers in the second half of this Discovery work.

The March meeting will cover off more about this work – what we found out, how the technology worked out, and what the next plans are!

If you would like to be involved in the research please get in touch – naptan.nptg@dft.gov.uk

Future BODS & ABDS Requirements



The Department for Transport are exploring what the bus industries requirements and expectations are for the Bus Open Data Service, now and in the future.

We want to work with local authorities, suppliers and operators to identify what you would want to see BODS & ABODS able to do to help you achieve your objectives and goals. As part of this work, we are holding a series of online workshops.

During the workshop we will explore:

- What you are currently using the service for and what is stopping greater use;
- What your aspirations are for the service.

There are a series of events planned and an online questionnaire will be available later in January.

This session is for suppliers and data consumers:

5 February 2024 14:00 – 16:00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/780107902737>**National bus strategy: 2024 bus service improvement plans**

This guidance document is for all LTAs in England outside London. Separate, brief guidance will be issued to LTAs in the North and Midlands regarding their specific proposals for 2024/25 BSIP Phase 3 indicative funding.

This guidance is intended to help LTAs and their local partners to update their BSIP, keeping it up to date and relevant. Although it provides a step-by-step guide on how to update the document in line with the key themes for the 2023/24 BSIP refresh, it is not binding. Individual LTAs continue to hold responsibility for whether and how their BSIPs are produced, and what they contain.

Nevertheless, the submission of a 2024 BSIP to DfT by 12 June 2024 is a condition of the provision of any DfT BSIP funding in financial year 2024/25

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bus-service-improvement-plan>

Accelerator Aims to Inject Innovation to Rural Transport

Between six and eight projects offering new ideas to boost rural mobility and provide people with more travel choice will be chosen this spring to take part in a competition from the Department for Transport, delivered by Connected Places Catapult.

From today, the Rural Transport Accelerator programme is open to applications from small to medium sized companies (or their trial partners) to set out their innovations, products or services to help improve travel for users and ensure the rural transport system is as safe, reliable, joined-up and inclusive as possible.

Also encouraged are ideas that reduce environmental impact, tackle climate change and improve air quality associated with rural transport; and those that aim to improve access to public transport, reduce car dependency and promote active travel.

Innovations are also welcome that seek to enhance community wellbeing, support local economies and enable growth.

<https://cp.catapult.org.uk/news/accelerator-aims-to-inject-innovation-into-rural-transport/>

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 'chivvyng'.



A VIX Technology display in Leicester

VIX TECHNOLOGY TO LAUNCH GAME-CHANGING ALL-IN-ONE DRIVER CONSOLE AND MDT FOR SEAMLESS TRANSIT OPERATIONS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AURIONPRO TRANSIT

Vix Technology is delighted to announce the upcoming launch of its state-of-the-art All-in-One Driver Console (DC120) and Mobile Data Terminal (MDT10). Developed with an understanding of the challenges faced by bus operators and drivers, these solutions are designed to streamline transit operations by providing a central on-vehicle hub for various functions from ticketing to communications.

The MDT10 is a tablet device that enables vehicle tracking and driver assistance, making it an indispensable tool for drivers to navigate routes with precision. Drivers use the touch display screen to access the different features, which can include communications with controllers in the back office and information delivered to passengers via on-board displays.

The DC120 provides all the features of the MDT10 as well as integrated ticketing functionality. Drivers can seamlessly handle fare payments without the hassle of juggling between various gadgets. The ticketing machine supports multiple fare payment options, including barcode and contactless, and prints receipts.

The devices have been developed in partnership with Aurionpro Transit, a subsidiary of Aurionpro Solutions and a leading provider of Automatic Fare Collection (AFC) technology.

Management Committee Members

The Management Committee for the year 2022-2024 was appointed at the EGM on 19 January 2023. 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), Triumph Okojie (DfT)

Contact us

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

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

Next issue

Issue 175 – Friday 1st March 2024.

Please send all contributions to secretariat@rtig.org.uk at any time up to Monday 26th February 2024.

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