RTiG INFORM

improving public transport through technology

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 June	Future Bus Connected & automated vehicles

Webinars

2 May	Bus User Priority – The New Local Transport Note
Multiple	Accessible Information Regulations and Grant

For booking details and additional events see the website.

Working Groups
CCTV Technology & Best Practice
Procurement of Software as a Service

RTIG Board

PTIC
6 June 2024, Virtual

In this issue:

N E W S   &   E V E N T S

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.
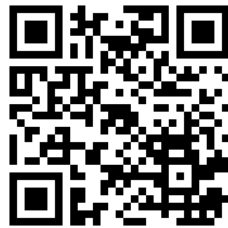
Social Media

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

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N E W S & E V E N T S

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.

NEWS & EVENTS

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 current 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.

N E W S & E V E N T S

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

Bus Operator Accessible Information Regulations Support Grant

In March 2023, the Department for Transport announced rules that will require almost every local bus or coach service to provide audible announcements and visual displays identifying the route and direction, each upcoming stop, and the beginning of any diversions.

The government has allocated £4.65m to support smaller operators to comply with the Regulations, RTIG have been asked to manage the grant on behalf of the Department for Transport.

On Monday 8th April applications for grants to help with the cost of meeting the accessible information regulations opened.

Our ask is if you as someone working for an Authority, with more direct relationships with operators than ourselves at RTIG, is to pass on the message about the availability of the grant to your operators and encourage those who are eligible to apply.

If you're a small operator then please look at the application process and if you are eligible apply.

If you are a supplier please let your customers know and encourage them to apply if eligible.

To find out more about the regulations please visit: https://www.rtig.org.uk/aig

Information on how to apply for a grant can be found at:
https://www.rtig.org.uk/aig/apply

Next Face to Face event

Future Bus – Connected & Automated Vehicles

13 June
Milton Keynes

Connected and automated vehicles are all over the news, there is lots of information about private vehicles available, but what about public transport and buses in particular?

We are gathering together practitioners with real work experience of what is needed to make automated and connected buses work to help us understand how we can all prepare for their introduction, and what lessons can be learned from the trials that have and are taking place.

Attendees will learn:

Operators – How they should an operator be getting prepared.
Authorities - what should they be doing to support on street operations.
Suppliers - what authorities and operators need from you to support them.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/892533139647

NEWS & EVENTS

Upcoming Webinars

Bus User Priority - The New Local Transport Note

2 May 2024, 13:00 -14:00

What does the new local transport note on Bus User Priority say?
25 years on from the previous guidance, what is different other than the inclusion of User in the title?
The new Local Transport Note 1/24 is part of the government's national strategy to improve bus services and increase bus use and will be a key document for anyone involved in public transport for many years to come.

What does the note cover and what does it expect and what advice does it include?
In this webinar we will look at the new structure of the guidance and the 6 core design principles it lays out and how as transport professionals you can use the guidance to help delivery your bus service improvements plans and provide better bus services.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/876012445807

Accessible Information Regulations & Grant
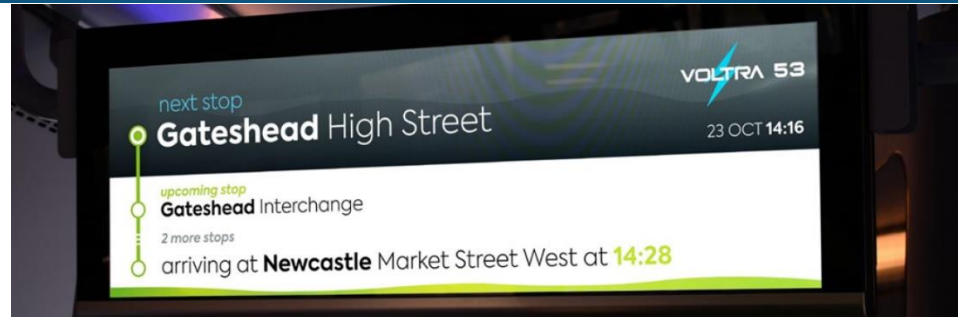
Multiple Events during May

In March 2023 the Department for Transport published a new statutory instrument before Parliament to introduce rules that will require almost every local bus or coach service to provide audible announcements and visual displays identifying the route and direction, each upcoming stop, and the beginning of any diversions.

New vehicles need to comply already, but the first tranche of existing vehicles need to comply from October 2024.

The government has allocated £4.65m to support smaller operators to comply with the Regulations, RTIG have been asked to manage the grant on behalf of the Department for Transport.

On Monday 8th April applications for grants to help with the cost of meeting the accessible information regulations opened.

In this webinar we will explore:

- What do the regulations say?
- What can you do to comply?
- Where would you turn to for help and information?
- Eligibility for the grant and how to apply
- Q&A

All events can be found in this collection:
https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/on-bus-accessible-information-regulations-grant-644989

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May 2024 – Issue 177

N E W S & E V E N T S

Past Events

Enhanced Partnerships - Reporting

Enhanced Partnerships
Reporting

12 Apil 2024, 13:00 -14:00

With many Enhanced Partnerships having been up and running for a while we take a look at what the Bus Back Better strategy and the EP guidance says and what partnerships are achieving.
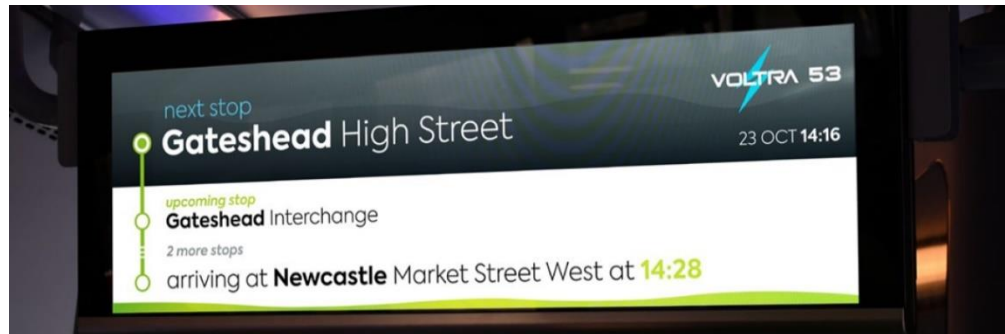In this series we will explore:
- Information to the Passenger
- Reporting
- Managing partnerships
- Planning networks

In this second session we explored the reporting requirements and were joined by Podaris and East Sussex

The recording and slides are available to members when logged in to the website

Accessible Information Regulations

Multiple Events

In March 2023 the Department for Transport published a new statutory instrument before Parliament to introduce rules that will require almost every local bus or coach service to provide audible announcements and visual displays identifying the route and direction, each upcoming stop, and the beginning of any diversions.

New vehicles need to comply already, but the first tranche of existing vehicles need to comply from October 2024.

In this webinar we will explore:
• What do the regulations say?
• What can you do to comply?
• Where would you turn to for help and information?

We've brought together all DfT documents into one place https://rtig.org.uk/aig.

Slides and the recording of the webinar can be found on the RTIG website:
https://rtig.org.uk/workshops/2024-03-27

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

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

D f T

N E W S

NaPTAN Product Update

The next workshops on NaPTAN are:

NaPTAN Roadmap and (maybe) Indicator Field
Thu 2nd May – 10am to 12pm

May: [Proposed] Is it accessible? New Olympic data set user research
Tues 28th – 2pm to 4pm
Thu 30th – 10am to 12pm

June: [Proposed] Contact form – and more Indicator field
Tues 25th – 2pm to 4pm
Thurs 27th – 10am to 12pm

All events are managed through Eventbrite:

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

NaPTAN Accessibility Update

We passed the Government Digital Services (GDS) Alpha assessment for our Accessibility work – they were impressed with the work we had done in the short time, covering both User Research and the proof of concepts we had built and could demo.
You can see the outcomes of the Alpha in the recordings of the last two meetings.

The short version is, we showed our plan to infer accessibility information from the Local Authority street furniture data, and present this linked to NaPTAN data, is the way forward.

We are now starting on the Private beta phase for this.

We are currently working on an inception, which is where the team works out the features we will need for a Minimum Valuable Product (MVP) and look at how we can build the technology to get there. There will also be continuing user research to ensure we get the right things built.

In our April public meetings we will present the Future plans and Roadmap for this, to get your feedback and let you know when the Private beta work is planned to deliver something for you to look at and start to model in your systems.
We are especially interested in talking with Journey Planners – we have connections with CityMapper, Traveline and the TfL Planning app.

D f T

N E W S

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

ATCO Code Split – 305 is LIVE!

We have spent quite a bit of time working out how to split one ATCO Code into two. This has never been documented before as a NaPTAN service. We know there have been some areas wanting to split because of the way they are funded, and we have been delaying this, because we needed to have a service to remove stops from the data set.
With Managed Removal now fully implemented we can split an ATCO Code.

To do this there are a couple of steps, and we are beta testing with Northamptonshire to ensure we have these in the right order.
What do you need to know?

Northamptonshire (ATCOAreaCode 300) is splitting into two – West Northamptonshire (300) and North Northamptonshire (305). The NaPTAN codes for North Northamptonshire bus stops will also change. Any stop moving to North Northamptonshire will have the following changes

ATCOCode will change from 300xxxxxxx to 305xxxxxxx
NaPTAN code will change from nthxxx to ntnxxx

What do you need to do?
If you are managing or displaying bus routes through Northamptonshire – you will need to update your NaPTAN files.
Due to Easter – we delayed the drop of the 305 file into NaPTAN – we wanted to ensure that everyone was available, and we are currently in the last week of Easter holidays across the country.
We made the changes and updates today (15th April) at 11am – 305 is now LIVE!

Elise who manages the data in North Northamptonshire thinks this migration will only take her bus operators a matter of weeks. We will keep you updated on the progress.

Accessible Information Regulations

Around 14 million people in Great Britain are disabled, and on average they rely on using local bus and coach services more than most to make the journeys many take for granted. For some, a lack of on-board travel information can be a major barrier to traveling confidently and

DfT NEWS

independently. More broadly, on-board information has the potential to improve the journey experience for all passengers.

Many transport operators and authorities have taken steps to provide this information, but over half of vehicles remain unequipped to provide it. This is why the government has introduced the Accessible Information Regulations. These new rules will make the provision of audible and visible information a requirement on board local services across Great Britain, which will help everyone to travel with confidence.

Providing audible and visible information on board transport services is not a new concept. The provision of announcements and visual displays has been a requirement for new railway rolling stock since 1998, and since the early 2000s several operators and authorities have begun providing it on buses. For over fifteen years, most bus services in London have incorporated audible and visible information on the route and upcoming stops.

The Accessible Information Regulations became law in June 2023 and already apply to new vehicles, from October 2024 they will apply to newer existing vehicles with all vehicles having to comply by October 2026.

For more information RTIG have produced a summary of the requirements https://www.rtig.org.uk/aig/AIR_Summary and as a standalone guide: https://www.rtig.org.uk/documents/rtigt058-11

The government has allocated £4.65m to support smaller operators to comply with the Regulations, RTIG have been asked to manage the grant on behalf of the Department for Transport.

Free Membership of CIHT for Bus Centre of Excellence Members

If you are not already signed up as a BCoE Member (its free) you can apply for a complimentary membership to CIHT up to the end of 2024.

All you have to do is register, upload your CV, and complete the form.

This offer is exclusively for new CIHT members working in England and is not applicable if you've held membership within the past 12 months. For inquiries, please contact membership@ciht.org.uk or call +44 020 7336 1555 (Option 1).

Intelligent Transport Address

Join ITS UK on Tuesday 21 May for the second annual Intelligent Transport Address!

We are delighted to confirm that we'll be joined by Shashi Verma, Chief Technology Officer at Transport for London, who will be giving the Address this year, presenting his vision for the future of the transport industry and how technology can support the sector going forward. His Address title is: "Smart ticketing, mobility and the future of transport: Where we are and where we're going".

Following the Address, there will be a panel discussion on how technology can enable a better transport sector.

IN OTHER NEWS

Before the event, we will hold our AGM, exclusively for ITS UK Members. Non ITS UK members are welcome to sign up to the Address, but will not be allowed entry before 6pm, after the AGM has concluded.

This event will take place at Amazon's UK HQ at 1 Principal Place, London, EC2A 2FA.

https://www.its-uk.org/event/ita/

UTMC Working Group – Restarting

UTMC has been in existence since the early 1990s. Beginning as a research project, it developed under DfT and it predecessors into a broad, technically-focussed framework for the interconnection of diverse ITS with a role in traffic management. Functions within the scope of UTMC included – and still include – traffic detection, signal control, variable message signs, car parking, incidents and accidents, air quality, and several others.

About the Group
The approach of UTMC (www.utmc.uk) has always been to focus on the exchange of data between applications, in common and standardised formats, rather than the functionality of the applications themselves. This leaves suppliers free to innovate their products and facilitates a dynamic marketplace, while simplifying the acquisition, integration, operation and maintenance of tools by local highways authorities (LHAs) and others.

UTMC is now a TTF Working Group where the role and scope of UTMC will be shaped to meet new opportunities, while also assisting LHAs in maintaining their legacy systems until they reach the end of their operational lifespan, and sustaining the effectiveness of today's UTMC implementations in a toolset to meet the challenges of today's world.

RTIG are part of the steering group which has just had its first meeting. The group will be defining the strategy and short and medium term actions over the coming months.

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 VIX Technology display in Leicester

M E M B E R S   N E W S

Creating a unified approach to control room processes

Bus operators currently face a host of challenges amidst ongoing uncertainties regarding future funding, the gradual recovery of patronage post-COVID-19, driver shortages and escalating traffic congestion.

Many are scrutinising their operations and networks closely, but the teams at Omnibus and EPM Bus Solutions believe the key to addressing the multifaceted issues arising from these challenges lies in enhancing efficiencies and rationalising processes.

Integration is key
Integrated technology stands as the linchpin of EPM and Omnibus's revisioning of the control room, offering a clearer understanding of operational dynamics. Key to that vision is the launch of Control360.

"Control360 offers controllers an advanced software solution that automatically consolidates operational data from various sources into that single centralised hub," says Nick. "This empowers control room teams to efficiently address on-the-day challenges, ensuring the delivery of a reliable and high-quality bus service while achieving significant cost savings." The platform features a comprehensive depot and live view, highlighting exceptions for immediate attention and providing contextual information such as event history and driver behaviour or history.

https://www.epm-bus.com/a-unified-approach-to-control-room-processes/

Yunex Traffic builds operating systems for Amsterdam Traffic Control Center

Zoetermeer, The Netherlands, April 23, 2024. Yunex Traffic has entered into an public-private partnership alliance agreement with Heijmans and the Municipality of Amsterdam. Together, they will realize the functional tunnel management systems for the newly built Amsterdam Traffic Control Center.

The Municipality of Amsterdam wants to modernize, standardize and centralize the operation of its five road tunnels in Amsterdam. For this, the municipality is realizing a newly built traffic control center. After completion of this center, operators will be able to operate all five tunnels from one location using one single operating protocol.

M E M B E R S   N E W S

Supporting the newly built Traffic Center Amsterdam for tunnel management
The center consists of multiple operating desks dedicated to operating the tunnels 24/7, monitoring the city of Amsterdam's traffic bottlenecks, testing new software releases and training operators. These assets will be housed in a newly built traffic control center at the Logistic Center Metro. The traffic control center will meet all current requirements in terms of safety and ergonomics. The alliance is responsible for the hardware and software of the control center and realizing the interfaces with the tunnels, also called the functional systems. In multidisciplinary teams, the alliance partners realize the design and implementation of the functional systems, of which the traffic management system is also a part.

https://www.yunextraffic.com/newsroom/alliance-heijmans-amsterdam-tunnel-management/

The technology saving Warrington's Own Buses money every day

The host of this year's ALBUM Conference, Warrington's Own Buses, has made 'demonstrable savings' in its CCTV system since choosing the Journeo Portal to manage their CCTV systems.
"We saved the cost of the software license just by spending less time retrieving the footage cartridges from vehicles and managing the process. Every £1 we spend on the Journeo solution pays back at least £3 and the capital costs were paid back before the end of the first year."
Gareth Mead, Commercial Manager for Warrington's Own Buses, explains how the old situation was impacting them: "We process a lot requests for CCTV every month. Camera or system failures meant that we were often staring down the barrel of an insurance claim with no footage."

As well as supporting insurance claim investigation, requests for footage come from many different sources. Some come from schools and colleges, to answer customer and service enquiries. The team in Warrington also receives requests for footage from the area's police force.

Gareth adds: "With the old system, we used to have to wait for a vehicle to return to the depot, then send an engineer to access the DVR which is located behind a locked panel, and retrieve a cartridge. With all the extra man hours involved, it became an industry in itself."

The Journeo Portal means that now footage can be retrieved remotely whilst the vehicle is still out on the road, enabling data to be collected

much quicker, significantly reducing the hours involved. The Portal also monitors the entire CCTV system for any faults, ensuring issues are identified early, eliminating the risk of missing footage.

https://journeo.com/resources/the-technology-saving-warringtons-own-buses-money-every-day/

Lancashire buses set to 'talk to traffic lights' - while bus stops will tell passengers when their service is due

Digital displays are set to be installed at dozens of Lancashire bus stops telling passengers when the service they are waiting for is due to arrive.

The "real-time passenger information" (RTPI) system will also be accompanied by technology which speeds the progress of buses through traffic light-controlled junctions by giving them priority over other vehicles.

The twin bus-boosting features will first be rolled out in yet-to-be-named areas of East Lancashire, but the aim is to bring them to all parts of the county as more funding becomes available.

Lancashire County Council's cabinet has agreed to begin the tender process for the kit, which will see arrival time boards initially put in place at 80 bus stops, along with facilities to ensure visually impaired people can also benefit from the scheme.

https://www.lep.co.uk/news/transport/lancashire-buses-set-to-talk-to-traffic-lights-while-bus-stops-will-tell-passengers-when-their-service-is-due-4590061

A D M I N

Management Committee Members

The Management Committee for the year 2024-2025 was appointed at the AGM on 20 March 2024. 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 178 – Monday 3rd June 2024.

Please send all contributions to secretariat@rtig.org.uk at any time up to Wednesday 29th May 2024.

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