

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 Webinars

9 September 2020, Virtual
Data Standards Webinar Series: 2 NaPTAN & NPTG

23 September 2020, Virtual
Data Standards Webinar Series: 3 TransXChange

More webinars will be announced as the month progresses. For booking details see the website.

RTIG Working Groups

Dates being Agreed:
Accuracy and quality of real time predictions
Traffic Light Priority Trigger Files

RTIG Committee Meetings

9 September 2020, Virtual
26 October 2020, Virtual

Conferences

21 – 25 September 2020, Online
Transport Innovation Summit

In this issue:

News and events: update on RTIG work

[Working Groups](#)

[Accuracy and quality of real time predictions](#)

[Working Group](#)

[Traffic Light Priority Trigger File Standard](#)

[New Website](#)

[Webinars](#)

[Seat Booking for Buses](#)

[Data Standards Webinar Series](#)[Data Standards](#)

[Webinar Series](#)

[Working with Elexon UMSUG codes](#)

DfT News

In other news: around the patch

[What do you think public transport should look like after the pandemic?](#)

[Changes to Irish NTA APIs](#)

[Japan offers online bus trips, complete with fake seat belts](#)

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

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.

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.

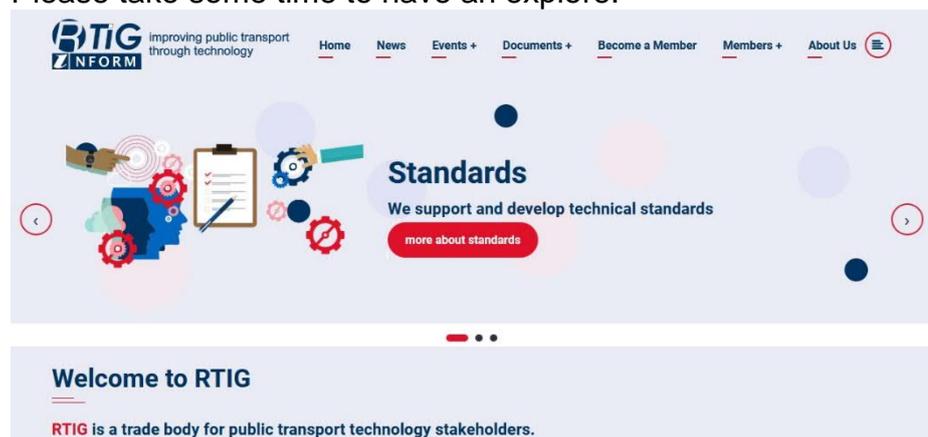
If you would like to become involved in the group, then please let Tim know.



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(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>



Seat Booking for Buses

We held our webinar on 19th August on seat booking for buses

Seat Booking for Buses

19th August 2020

12:00



As buses become busier the need the confidence you can get on a bus means some passengers may want to book a seat, and a bus operators needs to understand the demand for journeys to know where to direct resources.

Could being able to book a journey or seat on a bus be one way of solving this double problem.

We are used to being able to book a seat when we make a long distance train or coach journey but not when we make a short bus journey.

What are the options and potential opportunities for the bus industry ?

Following an introduction from Meera Nayyar from the Department for Transport we we heard interesting and practical experiences from the pilots and trials taking place with seat reservations from:

- Ben Hutchison, Transport for Wales, Fflecsi demand responsive service;
- David Hall, TrawsCymru;
- Dave Skepper, Stagecoach East Midlands;
- Rob Pymm, First West of England.

<https://youtu.be/mzLspugghWY>

Data Standards Webinar Series

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

**N
E
W
S
&
E
V
E
N
T
S**

These sessions will run every couple of weeks and cover a different standard each time, the first provide 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.

The next sessions are:

- NaPTAN, 9th September;
- TransXChange, 23rd September

Then we will continue with:

- SIRI
- NeTEX
- Traffic Light Priority
- IPxPT
- 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 will run in that order because of the importance of those standards for the DfT Bus Open Data programme, after that we would like to know what order we should run them and if there are any other standards you would want to see covered.

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 st 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 st 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 th Jan 2021	Before date of change	NeTeX BODS Fares Profile	DfT will host data for operators <40 services Profile Available
Fares – Complex		7 th Jan 2023	Before date of change	NeTeX BODS Fares Profile	DfT will host data for operators <40 services Profile Available
AVL		1 st Jan 2021 for new services, 7 th Jan 2021 for existing	Update frequency ≥ 30 seconds ≤ 10 seconds	SIRI VM BODS Profile	Profile in development
Punctuality		From 31 st March 2021	Annual update by 31 st 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 st March 2022
Bus Stop Data		31 st 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

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

NaPTAN Survey

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

Some of the NaPTAN guidance is available as a series of PDFs on the NaPTAN website. We are conducting some user research to help us understand how often these PDFs are accessed, how useful they are and how they could be improved.

Why are we getting in touch with you?

Having clear, accessible guidance is critical for complex datasets such as NaPTAN. It will help you keep up to date with changes to the dataset and upskill new staff in uploading information to NaPTAN, which is why it is so important to give you the chance to contribute your views.

How you can help us

We have put together a survey that invites you to briefly look at six PDF documents and answer 5 short questions about each. It should take around 30 minutes to complete and will provide us with valuable insights that will help set the direction for how NaPTAN guidance can be improved.

Even if you have never accessed the guidance before, please fill in the survey and let us know – it is useful for us to know if certain documents are rarely or never accessed.

Closing date 6th September.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/D37OH1/>

What do you think public transport should look like after the pandemic?

The transport select committee is asking for written evidence submissions to their new inquiry.

The longer-term implications of the coronavirus pandemic for the UK's public transport are to be examined by the Transport Committee. From the first weeks of lockdown, the Transport Committee has charted the impact of Covid-19 on the UK's key transport sectors. Transport workers, stakeholders, mayors and ministers working in aviation, local transport, freight and maritime described the immediate pressures they faced during an unprecedented period of profound upheaval. This inquiry will take a holistic look at how public transport is changing and the implications for current government strategies including the Williams Rail Review, bus strategy, walking and cycling, taxis and private hire vehicles.

The deadline for submission is Thursday 24 September 2020

Reforming public transport after the pandemic

We are launching an inquiry

Contribute your views by 24th September

House of Commons Transport Committee



<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/470/reforming-public-transport-after-the-pandemic/>

Changes to Irish NTA APIs

App developers with special interest in real-time public transport information should note that the National Transport Authority (NTA) plans to replace its RTPI REST API with a new GTFS Real-Time API by the end of September 2020.

In line with the NTA's commitment to providing open data, a new GTFS Real-time (GTFS-R) API has been launched. GTFS-R is a data feed specification that allows the NTA to provide real-time public transport updates to application developers. It is an extension to GTFS (General Transit Feed Specification), an open data format for public transportation schedules and associated geographic information.

GTFS-R was designed around ease of implementation, good GTFS interoperability, and a focus on passenger information. The new GTFS-R API contains real-time updates for services provided by Dublin Bus, Bus Éireann and Go-Ahead Ireland.

The new GTFS-R API is planned to replace the existing RTPI REST API, which is approaching end of life, and will be discontinued.

<https://www.nationaltransport.ie/news/new-transport-data-feed-for-app-developers-now-online/>

Japan offers online bus trips, complete with fake seat belts

This could only work in Japan!

Travellers in Japan, never a country to let a crisis get in the way of a holiday getaway, have resorted to taking their bus trips online during the pandemic.

Living up to the country's reputation as a high-tech place with a penchant for playfulness, one Japanese bus company has begun using Zoom video conferences to take customers on a journey – fake seat belts included.

A spokeswoman for the Kotobus Tours company said that their pandemic-era "passengers" are now being welcomed via Zoom

by a friendly young bus attendant and bus driver – all while staying put at home.

Then it's departure time – only that there's no real bus that actually drives anywhere.



Instead, the passengers enjoy the beautiful view from home with the help of recorded videos of the actual route.

At their destinations, there are also live tourism representatives who cheerfully welcome guests from afar and explain the local attractions – just like on a real bus trip.

And since culinary specialities are one of the highlights of any trip to Japan, passengers receive a travel package by post before the start of the trip, including local specialities to be eaten during the virtual bus trip.

Safety is still paramount – even if the would-be passengers are nowhere near a bus. Tour operators are providing customers with a pretend seat belt consisting of a strip of cardboard that passengers put on at home when instructed.



improving
public transport
through technology

September 2020 – Issue 133

**R
T
I

I
N

T
H
E

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'.



Buchanan Bus Station have unveiled their new 75" TFT passenger information displays manufactured and installed by the Trueform.

RideKC partners with Swiftly to launch improved real-time information

Customers and RideKC staff can now access more accurate bus arrival and position information right from their phone, via the free Transit app.

Improved real-time transit arrival and vehicle crowding predictions is coming to RideKC thanks to a partnership with the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA) and Swiftly.

These improvements were tested internally at KCATA in 2020 and are now fully implemented.

As part of this project, Swiftly is leveraging existing GPS data from onboard broadband routers and the agency's dispatch system, Trapeze's TransitMaster. Swiftly leverages this vehicle position information to more accurately predict when the next bus will arrive, rather than relying solely on the existing dispatch system. Customers and RideKC staff can now access more accurate bus arrival and position information right from their phone, via the free Transit app. This will also improve accuracy of real-time information available at digital displays, including those along Prospect MAX and at 3-Trails, East Village and 75th and Prospect transit centers.

Transit app is using the same feed to provide real-time vehicle crowding information using existing Automated Passenger Counters (APCs) onboard select vehicles. Eventually, the entire RideKC fleet will be capable of providing this information, which has been widely adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are pleased to roll out another innovative partnership that will result in a better customer experience," said Robbie Makinen, KCATA president and CEO. "Swiftly is like a protein booster to a smoothie...it gives riders information that is more accurate and reliable than it is today."

Swiftly's CEO Jonny Simkin shares RideKC's enthusiasm.

"We're proud to work with RideKC to make their transit system more efficient, reliable and seamless. This partnership will empower passengers with highly accurate real-time information and will enable the RideKC staff to leverage big data for enhanced decision-making."

Mobile app

RideKC's official app is Transit. The free Transit app offers many features to help riders get around the region, including quick access to accurate real-time transit information and live maps with vehicle locations and crowding information. In addition, Transit app also contains a trip planner to help users compare the travel time and price of a variety of transportation options, including walking, biking, transit, rideshare and more. Riders can download the Transit app from the Apple® App Store for iOS devices, Google Play™ for Android devices, or by visiting Transit's website.

Performance monitoring and reporting

In addition to real-time arrival predictions, RideKC administrative staff has access to Swiftly's dashboard for advanced and intuitive reporting and performance analysis. Staff can view real-time bus location for the entire fleet, view historical location information, compare on-time performance of routes, evaluate run times and analyze the bus speed for all routes.

Surrey County Council's Total Commitment to Passenger Information

While the Covid-19 pandemic has taken a huge toll on local authorities and transport operators, it has also showcased some truly impressive outcomes as organisations work together to address this most intrusive and collective of challenges.

One of the most striking examples we have seen is at Surrey County Council, where the Passenger Transport Projects Team has shown unwavering commitment to maintaining the delivery of accurate information to support the local community in the face of literally unprecedented levels of change.

Collaborating to deliver RTPI

By working alongside bus operators and Surrey's passenger information technology partner, Trapeze Group, the council was able to adapt to the rapidly changing situation. Surrey's existing data management service, provided by Trapeze, came into its own during this period, enabling required changes to be processed and made live the very next day.

Trapeze's data management team interact with operators directly, receiving data via TransXChange wherever possible, and then

M
E
M
B
E
R
S

N
E
W
S

schedule it for publishing across at-stop signs, media displays and downstream tools such as Traveline.

Alison explains: “Because each operator has their own way of working, service data can arrive in a variety of formats: some operators don’t have scheduling software, so do all their work by spreadsheet; others upload information to the Trapeze support community; and we have some partners who provide TransXChange data but without all the necessary information required for the RTPI system.

“In whichever form data arrives, the Trapeze team check it, find any errors and deal with bus operators directly where required, and then translate it into a schedule. With so many different operators, this can be a huge amount of work, and would be very long-winded and time-consuming to do ourselves.”

<https://trapezegroup.co.uk/case-study/surrey-county-councils-total-commitment-to-passenger-information/>

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 (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 134 – Thursday 1st October 2020.

Please send all contributions to secretariat@rtig.org.uk at any time up to Friday 25th September 2020.

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.