RTIG INFORM

improving public transport through technology

Members Edition　　　　　　　**November 2023 – Issue 171**

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

Webinars

30 November 2023　What Next for Data Standards?

For booking details see the website and events beyond November.

Workshops

8 November 2023　Managing Bus Real Time Systems, *Manchester*

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

RTIG Board
6 November 2023, Virtual

PTIC
7 December 2023, 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.
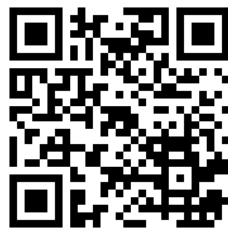
RTIG on X (*Twitter*)

RTIG is now on twitter as @RtigInform

https://twitter.com/RtigInform

RTIG on Instagram

RTIG is now on twitter as rtig_inform

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

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

N E W S   &   E V E N T S

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 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.

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

N E W S & E V E N T S

Upcoming Webinars

What Next for Data Standards?

What Next for Data Standards? What are the recent changes and what is on the development path for data standards?

In the UK we have been using standards to ensure consistency of public transport data for decades. We have been using the same version of standards for a few years now, but there has been a lot of change in the last couple of years with more planned.

In this webinar you will learn about:

- What is new and what are some of the most important new features available in the latest versions?
- What is being planned for the next releases and beyond?
- How can you report problems with a standard?
- How can you influence and get involved in the development of standards?

Thursday 30 November 13:00 – 14:00

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/748647172847

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N E W S & E V E N T S

Next Face to Face event

Managing Bus Real Time Systems

Managing Bus Real Time Systems

8 November 2023, Manchester

Are you passionate about providing the best information to the bus passenger? Do you want to know what it takes to run a bus real-time system?

Then you need to attend our day conference on managing bus real time systems.

Why Attend?

Explore Cutting-Edge Technologies: Dive into the world of real-time data management, fleet tracking, and passenger information systems that are revolutionising the way we manage bus fleets and provide information to customers. Discover the latest advancements and how they can enhance operational efficiency.

Widen Perspectives: Gain insights into how different areas are implementing and managing real-time bus systems. Learn from success stories and challenges faced by different cities and counties, and broaden your knowledge of what is available now and in the future.

Mobility of the Future: Engage with experts as they share insights on how bus real-time data can play a pivotal role in shaping future plans though data.

Networking Opportunities: Connect with professionals, practitioners, and suppliers from around the country. Exchange ideas, collaborate on projects, and build lasting connections. Whether you're from a bus operator, transport or local authority or supplier, this conference offers

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valuable takeaways that will enrich your knowledge and help you contribute effectively to the advancement of bus real-time systems.

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.

Register Now: Book your spot at the conference and be part of this dynamic event that promises to shape the future of bus real-time systems.

The venue is a 10 minute walk Deansgate rail or metrolink stop, or 30 minute walk from Manchester Piccadilly.

Bonded Warehouse, Lower Byrom Street, Manchester, M3 4AP

Book Event
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/managing-bus-real-time-systems-tickets-710219785497

Past Events

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

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

N E W S & E V E N T S

Designing the Next Generation of Bus Priority

19 September 2023, Birmingham

Public transport, and buses in particular, are facing challenges at every turn: slow recovery from the covid collapse in passenger numbers, inflation increasing cost base, driver recruitment and retention, and of course traffic congestion.

How can we make the bus more attractive to encourage more people to use it?

One way of making buses more attractive, and encourage former and new passengers onto buses, is ensuring that they provide a competitive and reliable journey time in comparison to other modes – both now and in the longer term.

It is vital therefore, as traffic levels and congestion continues to increase, that journey times do not become slower or less reliable as a consequence. Unlike some of the challenges we face, this is not under the control of bus operators – but traffic managers can make a difference, including through bus priority measures. Bus Back Better (the national bus strategy) has a lot to say about bus priority, and it forms a key element in many Enhanced Partnerships and Bus Service Improvement Plans.

Nearly 20 years ago the first standard approach to providing digital bus priority was published, and over a decade ago an interface between buses and urban traffic control systems was developed. This UTC interface is now well adopted with plenty of experience in its implementation.

However, in the last few years technology has progressed very rapidly, and there are now bus priority schemes that have been and are being introduced using different approaches.

This event was jointly organised by RTIG and UTMC.

N E W S & E V E N T S

At this event we will:

- Review the historic bus priority landscape
- Hear from places trying new approaches
- Understand how traffic management is changing

During the afternoon we will break into small groups to help identify:

- What needs to be done to support the adoption of good practice?
- What needs to happen to help suppliers of bus and traffic management systems work together to achieve effective bus priority?
- How can bus operators and traffic managers work together?
- How do standards need to develop?
- What information is needed by implementers?
- How can business cases be developed and presented?

The slides and recordings from the event are available: https://www.rtig.org.uk/workshops/2023-09-19

Customer information in 5 years

Over the next few years we know that many things about public transport and the way that we travel will change, the need to de-carbonise and improve air quality will become more urgent. There will be more electric and non-ICE powered vehicles and more micro mobility solutions available and there is much discussion about how to achieve these changes.

What about the information that public transport passengers and micro-mobility users will need to be find out about the services available and how to use them?

N E W S & E V E N T S

In this series of webinars we will explore what customer information may look like in five years' time, starting with what data may be available, through the passenger's information journey to being on bus.

Data   11 September
This session focused on what data will be available and where from.

Online information & Apps   28 September
This session will focus on how information will be presented online and what technology may become available.

On Street Information   24 October
This session will focus on what customers can expect on street and how it will be presented.

On Bus   26 October
This session will focus on what customers can expect on bus and how it is presented.

If as a non-member you would like access to the recordings, please get in contact with secretariat@rtig.org.uk to discuss arrangements.

Christmas & New Year Timetable Data 2023-4

Christmas & New Year Timetable Data 2023-24

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 2023 holiday period.

https://www.rtig.org.uk/documents/rtigt056-1

NaPTAN Public Meetings schedule

NaPTAN will have meetings about twice every month – with sessions that are focussed on Bus Operators as well:

- 28th November – 2pm to 4pm – A wrap up of the year in NaPTAN.
- 30th November – 2pm to 4pm – A wrap up of the year in NaPTAN.

Will any of this help Beryl to get to see Beverly?

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

Policy Paper: Future of Transport: supporting rural transport innovation

This document shows how innovative and emerging transport technologies could address some of the major challenges in rural communities. It highlights the importance of transport to everyday life rural life and provides guiding principles for the introduction of new technologies and services.
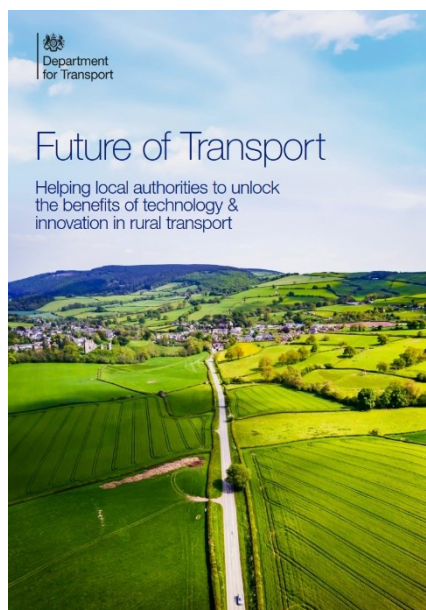
The document is primarily aimed at local authorities, but transport operators, businesses and people living in rural areas will also find it helpful.

It follows a 2020 call for evidence to understand the transport needs of rural areas. A number of issues were raised, which this document addresses. They include:

- poor access to services in rural areas
- a lack of genuine choice for completing journeys
- heightened loneliness and isolation
- commercial challenges for operators due to long distances and sparse populations

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-of-transport-supporting-rural-transport-innovation

D f T N E W S

TTF details £70 million signals funding process

The manager of the Transport Technology Forum, Darren Capes, has given details of how local authorities can claim a share of the £70 million earmarked to make traffic signals more efficient, which was announced by the Transport Secretary on Monday.

In launching the Department for Transport's Plan for Drivers, Mark Harper said there would be £30 million available through a Traffic Signals Obsolescence Grant (TSOG) to upgrade traffic signal systems, replacing unreliable and obsolete equipment to improve reliability, a £20 million Green Light Fund (GLF) to tune up traffic signals to better reflect current traffic conditions and get traffic flowing and a £20 million Intelligent Traffic Management Fund (ITMF) to deploy advanced technology for traffic signals, making use of emerging technologies to optimise traffic flow and balance traffic across city centres.

Speaking at LCRIG's Strictly Highways event in Blackpool, Mr Capes, who is ITS Policy Lead at the Department for Transport, explained £10 million of the TSOG will be paid out through the transport metrics within the Integrated Transport Block (ITB) formula, but the remaining £20 million of that money, plus the other two £20 million payments will be awarded through challenge processes opening this autumn.

For the TSOG and GLF, money will be awarded in £500,000 lots using the same process as used for the 2021 Traffic Signal Maintenance allocation. Authorities may be restricted to only one of the funds. For the ITMF, there will be one challenge process similar to the 2021 Traffic Signals Maintenance allocation, where 39 authorities were awarded either £250,000 or £500,000.

https://ttf.uk.net/news/ttf-details-70-million-signals-funding-process/

I N O T H E R N E W S

Transport Research and Innovation Grants 2023 programme

Transport Research and Innovation Grants (TRIG) provide early-stage funding for innovations in science, engineering, or technology delivered by The Department for Transport's (DfT) project delivery partner, Connected Places Catapult. TRIG is open to any UK organisation to support proof-of-concept projects that could lead to the development of successful new transport research products, processes, or services. TRIG is designed to support organisations by providing easily accessible grants, alumni, and wrap-around support from Connected Places Catapult to bring innovations closer to the market. The programme also provides a collaborative space for innovators, including academics, SMEs, and large businesses, to work with DfT's policy teams on realising shared goals. Since 2014, over £12 million has been awarded to 361 projects.

TRIG aims to:

- Stimulate the development of new technology solutions to DfT challenges.
- Provide innovators with support to try out new ideas – to show early promise; or fail fast.
- Join up innovators with DfT colleagues in a safe setting and allow them to learn together.
- Help create future leaders in transport, whilst driving jobs and growth.

For TRIG 2023, DfT will offer innovators grants of up to £45k across five separate challenge areas, in addition to an Open Call challenge to undertake early stage feasibility studies.This year, the competition is seeking proposals which focus on:

- airport decarbonisation: innovative ideas to support the development of airport ground infrastructure for zero emission aircraft or to support airport operations transition to zero emission
- local transport decarbonisation: innovative ideas that accelerate the decarbonisation of local transport systems, demonstrating an understanding of the needs of local areas and communities, whilst also having the potential to be scaled-up across the UK in the future
- the Future of Freight: innovative ideas that address the opportunities and challenges faced by the Freight and Logistics

sector and its supporting services, as outlined in the Future of Freight plan

- maritime decarbonisation: innovative ideas for maritime solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions by the UK's maritime sector, as set out in the Clean Maritime Plan, and support the transition to net zero by 2050
- connectivity, AI and digital twins: innovative ideas that combine AI, digital twins and / or digital connectivity together to enable a resilient transport system delivering cheaper, cleaner, and quicker journeys for all
- open call: innovative ideas that have the potential to address a UK transport challenge, across all modes, challenges and technology areas

https://cp.catapult.org.uk/opportunity/transport-research-and-innovation-grants-2023/

CIHT Paper: The role of data and artificial intelligence in achieving transport decarbonisation

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a technology aimed at performing human-like tasks, such as perception, logic, and reasoning. AI is not a new phenomenon, but it is a topic that has recently been gaining greater attention and is becoming more common in our work and social lives than ever before.

There are many benefits AI can bring to the highways and transportation industry, especially when it comes to improving safety, providing more insightful transport planning, and efficient asset management, as well as improving the way the public experiences transport systems.
When it comes to decarbonisation, there are already examples of data and AI being used to:

- Accelerate modal shift to public transport and active travel by creating reliable databases on sustainable transport use; optimising traffic flow in favour of active travel and public transport; and monitoring the condition of active travel infrastructure.
- Decarbonise road transport and how we get our goods by aiding site selection of public electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints; managing grid capacity for EV charging; and reducing congestion, improving traffic flow, and improving road safety to avoid traffic incidents.

I N   O T H E R   N E W S

- Delivering and maintaining low-carbon infrastructure by predicting asset life cycles; analysing the integrity of existing assets; and recommending low-carbon infrastructure.

https://www.ciht.org.uk/knowledge-resource-centre/resources/the-role-of-data-and-artificial-intelligence-in-achieving-transport-decarbonisation/

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 Navaho Transport systems destination blind on the ADL Enviro 400 EV

Greater Cambridge Partnership & Ito World provides bus data for Citymapper app

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) has entered a partnership with Citymapper to make real time bus data available through the journey planning app.

It said this will help local residents and visitors navigate the city through the quickest route on their smart devices.

GCP, which includes representatives from three local authorities, the university and business, said the move is also part of its partnership with transport data specialist Ito World.

It said the collaboration is part of a series of real time data projects aimed at providing better travel information for the area.

Cllr Elisa Meschini, chair of its executive board, said: "Our collaboration with Citymapper and Ito World is about making sure residents, visitors and commuters have the most up-to-date information on their mobile phones to help them get around.

"By integrating real time transit data into the Citymapper app, we're helping commuters to plan their journeys with greater accuracy, convenience, and confidence. It's all about making their journeys better which is why today's announcement is so exciting."

The Citymapper app provides real time travel updates, estimated time of arrivals, voice navigation, audio instructions and information on multiple modes of transport.

MEMBERS NEWS

Solent Transport's multi-city MaaS app, Breeze, passes 10,000 users milestone

NEWS
Solent Transport's multi-city MaaS app, Breeze, passes 10,000 users milestone
As Breeze user numbers continue to grow, Solent Transport is responding by continually adding new services and features to make the app even better.

Solent Transport MaaS app, Breeze, passes 10,000 users milestone
Credit: Solent Transport

Solent Transport has announced that its Breeze app – a transport super-app for south Hampshire and the Isle of Wight – has passed the 10,000 user mark, improving residents' and visitors' access to transport services and service information across the region.

Breeze is the UK's first multi-city Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) platform; a five-year trial project that uses cutting-edge technology to offer users access to a wide range of transport information and services, on a scale not yet seen in the UK.

With a diamond shaped zone of operation that includes Winchester in the north, Havant and Totton in the east and west, and the Isle of Wight in the south, Breeze gives users access to a range of transport services across the region. Whether users want to check on the location of their bus, buy rail tickets or hire one of the rental e-scooters or rental bikes that are available, Breeze makes this all possible without needing to switch apps or set up multiple accounts.

As user numbers grow, Breeze is responding by continually adding new services and features to make the app even better. Recent updates mean that every bus service in the region can now be accessed through the app. An expansion of the existing rail coverage will be complete at the end of November 2023, supporting travel from Bristol to Brighton and everywhere in between. For islanders, holidaymakers and commuters, travel to and from the mainland is a major consideration, so Breeze will include Hovertravel tickets by the end of October 2023. More services are being added all the time as further updates are rolled out.
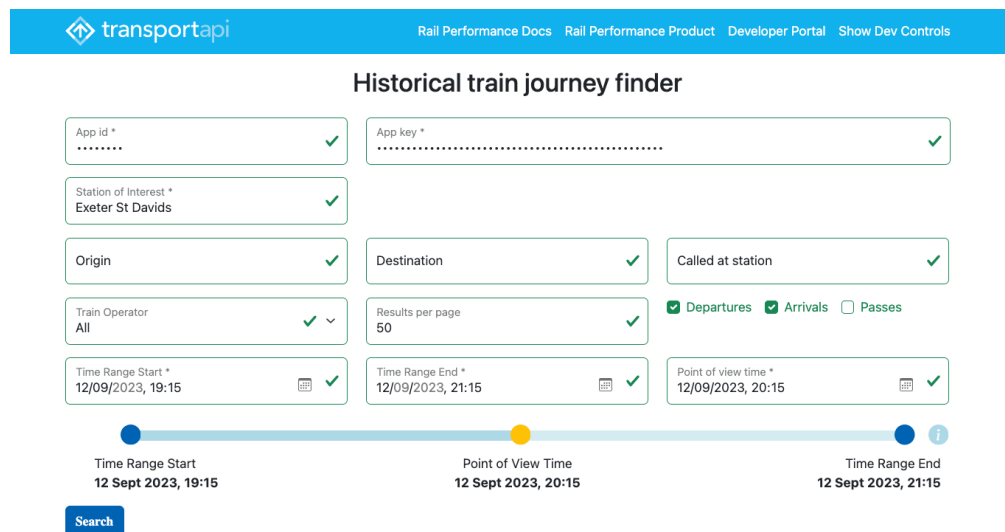
https://www.intelligenttransport.com/transport-news/150377/solent-transport-maas-app-breeze-milestone/

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TransportAPI Develop Rail Performance Explorer

In July we released TAPI Rail Performance which provides a complete archive of rail journeys, based on official National sources. The primary use so far has been for customer service, but the product can also be used to generate performance statistics for stations and operators.

This product has two benefits that are new to the market.

A "Time Travel" feature that allows you to define the status of a station or journey for a specific time of interest – not just the final status.
A complete record of the "Expected times" for stations and journeys.
Put these two together, and you can verify passenger claims about what departure boards were saying at any given time, how this changed, and why that influenced their behaviour, e.g. thinking they had time to spare, but returning to a platform to find the train departed.

As an API provider our primary job is to get the data right. But to show how this new time travel feature allows changes in expected times to be explored we have developed a web front-end to TAPI Rail Performance.

https://www.transportapi.com/blog/2023/09/transportapi-develop-rail-performance-explorer/

A D M I N

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 172 – Friday 1st December 2023.

Please send all contributions to secretariat@rtig.org.uk at any time up to Tuesday 28th November 2023.

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