

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

14 January 2021, Virtual
Accuracy and Quality of Real Time Predictions

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

RTIG Working Groups

8 Jan 2020, Virtual
Traffic Light Priority Trigger Files

12 Jan 2020, Virtual
NaPTAN Technical Working Group - Data Uploaders

19 Jan 2020, Virtual
NaPTAN Technical Working Group - Data Consumers

RTIG Committee Meetings

28 January 2021, Virtual

AGM

18 March 2020, Virtual

PTIC

22 February 2020, Virtual

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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 .

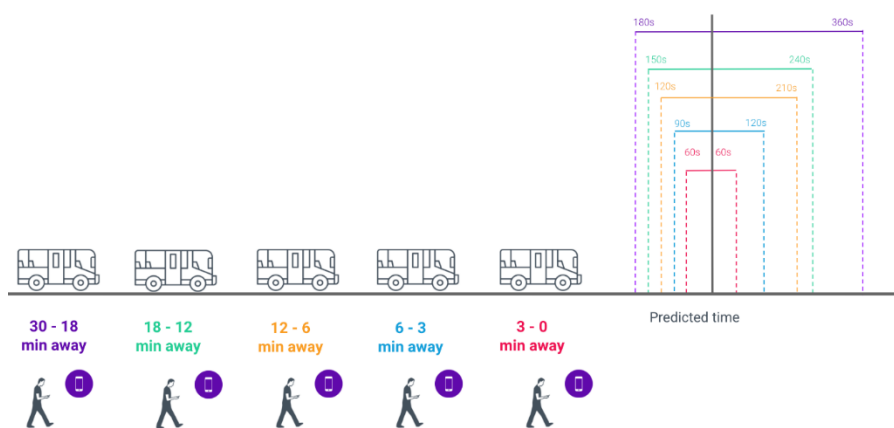
Accuracy and quality of real time predictions

Our latest best practice guidance has now been formally published.

In recent years, there has been an increasing focus on delivering improved public transport information to passengers. For authorities, this is seen in part, as a means of achieving broader policy objectives such as increasing modal shift away from private car use and therefore easing congestion on the roads; as well as improving the environment. For bus operators, this is seen as a key part of improving the image of the public transport offer.

The result of this focus is that most bus operators are now providing real time data for customers. Indeed, in 2021 bus operators will be required under the Bus Services Act 2017 to provide location data to the Bus Open Data Service for the majority of their services. This presents a unique opportunity to ensure consistent provision of bus location data to customers.

Previous reports and specifications from RTiG have covered a wide range of topics, and a number of the reports have made passing reference to the quality and/or accuracy of real time information: in the form of predicted arrival and departure times. However, up to now, none have specifically covered the quality and accuracy of predictions.



With the near ubiquitous provision of location data for the bus fleet in the UK within reach, it is timely to consider the quality of data to ensure that the information produced is fit for purpose. This report sets out to address this gap through advice from RTiG.

The launch event for this report is on 14th January 2021 where we will introduce the report to you and provide an insight into its contents.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/accuracy-and-quality-of-real-time-predictions-tickets-131078466221?aff=newsletter>

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.

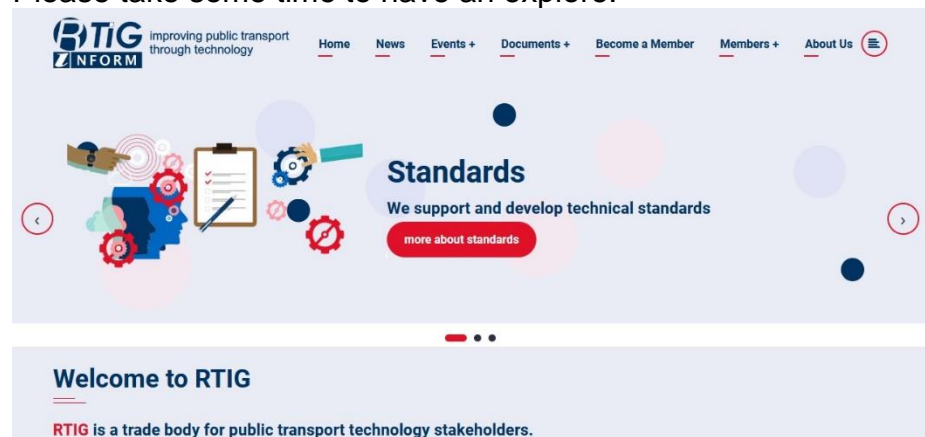
The working group has been working on a proposed standard and will be publishing the draft schema and supporting technical document during January 2021.



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>



Data Standards Webinar Series

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



These sessions have been running every couple of weeks since August and covered a different standard each time,

We've had sessions so far on:

- Transmodel, 26th August
- NaPTAN, 9th September;
- TransXChange, 23rd September
- SIRI, 1st October
- Traffic Light Priority, 14th October
- TransXChange BODS Profile, 3rd November
- NeTEx, 4th November
- GTFS, 17th November

- IPxPT, 2nd December

Whilst the session have ended they are all available to members through the website for you and colleagues to watch whenever you want.

If there are any other standards you would want to see covered please do let us know.

BODS Issue List

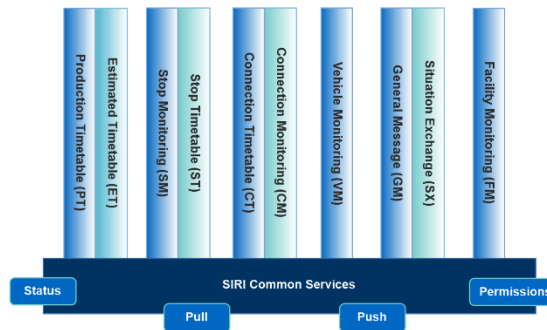
RTIG is working with Traveline and the Bus Operator Digital Initiative to collate and coordinate the reporting and management of issues identified with the Bus Open Data Service be they technical, process or organisational based.

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

Updated Guide: Real Time Information Exchange Using the SIRI Standard

The guide to SIRI has been updated. The previous version had not been updated for many years and was out of date.



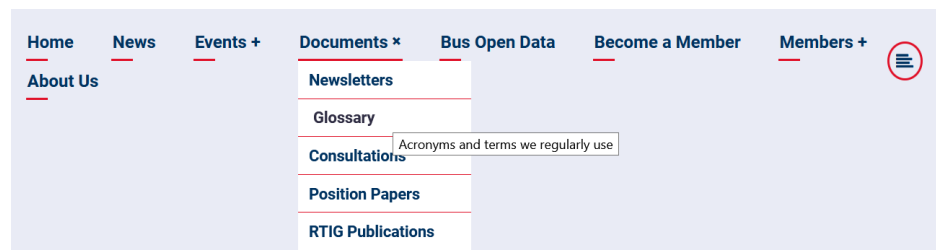
This report outlines the background to SIRI and describes the different functional services provided as well as addressing how SIRI can be used in procurements.

<https://www.rtig.org.uk/system/files/documents/RTIGT023-2.0%20Overview%20of%20SIRI.pdf>

Glossary

We have added a new Glossary section to the website:

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



This includes all the Acronyms and terms that have been regularly used by RTIG over the last few years.

There are many more that could or should be included. If you want to see others included then drop us a quick email.

2021-22 Business Plan

Now we are in the latter part of the 2020/21 business plan year it is time to start to consider what RTIG should be doing for the period from April 2021.

If you have anything that you would like to see RTIG involved in, producing or organising during 2021 then please get in touch with Tim tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk.

Annual General Meeting 2021



The AGM will be on the 18th March 2020 at 13:00 and will be held online.

The AGM will review 2020 and the 2021 business plan and elect the committee of the group.

The AGM is open to all Subscribing Members and Affiliate Members of RTIG who have committed to subscribing for FY20-21.

More details will be published nearer the time with agenda and papers being circulated to all member contacts by email.

You can book to attend already on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/annual-general-meeting-2021-tickets-13477595511?aff=newsletter>

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

BODS Business Change: Fares and agent mode now available

November month marks the completion and release of all services in the Bus Open Data Service. This means that every operator will be able to publish their routes & timetables data, fares data, and your live location (AVL) data.

With the release of 'Agent Mode' local transport authorities, and other agents, will be able to assume publishing responsibilities on behalf of operators. This will be particularly beneficial for local authorities with either Enhanced Partnership Schemes or Franchising in place. Agents can publish one or all the data types available on BODS (timetables, fares and/or location data) and handle consumer feedback / error notifications. However, agents cannot take over the legal obligation to provide data to BODS, add users or other agents to the operator's organisation, or view other agents on the system.

With this in mind, we have begun the process of delivering targeted communications to operators and local authorities directly benefiting from this, offering support and assistance to all stakeholders who required it.

BODS Business Change – operators now publishing location data

On the 15th October, we released Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) functionality to the service, supporting location feeds in the GTFS-RT format. In the short period of time since its launch, 79 operators are now actively publishing AVL data on BODS. Between these operators, they have published 119 feeds in total, representing approximately 10,000 vehicles in total.

Building on this success, we are working closely with suppliers such as Ticketer, INIT, Flowbird and Vix to target operators not yet publishing data, to encourage them to do so ahead of the statutory deadline on 7 January 2021. To this end, the Department has also written to suppliers to further push the publication of AVL feeds and to appeal for operators to provide capacity and crowding data to support social distancing during the pandemic.

If you're an operator and would like to publish your location data feed, do visit our Location Data Service here: <https://publish.bus-data.dft.gov.uk/>

BODS Implementation guide

Over the last few months, we have been asking stakeholders for feedback on the revised draft of the Bus Open Data implementation guide. The guidance was first published in January 2020 to coincide with the launch of the timetables service and has now been updated to include details on publishing location and fares data, as well as give an overview of the Analytics and Reporting tool which will be released in stages from January 2021. We have also updated sections of the guidance with further information about which operators are in scope and it also confirms that we have extended the transitional period to include 2021, in response to difficulties faced by operators over 2020.

We appreciate the input received from our stakeholders which has ensured the guidance remains a useful source of information for bus operators, local authorities and data consumers. The guidance is now published in HTML which will make it easier for us to keep updated and will be accessible. Those who still wish to save this as a single document, will be able to do so. The updated guide can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bus-open-data-implementation-guide>

School Services

Under the requirements, operators that run school services – that are required to be registered with the Traffic Commissioners under section 6 of the Transport Act 1985 as a registered local service, will need to publish this service.

If the service is a closed school service (i.e. only pupils, parents and staff) that is commissioned by a local authority in pursuance of its legal obligations or powers and is not required to be registered under section 6 of the Transport Act 1985 (to the Traffic Commissioner), this will not need to be published. However, we understand that, in some instances, local authorities have asked for these kinds of services to be registered on a voluntary basis. These services, will not fall within the remit of the Bus Open Data Regulations as they are not registered under section 6..

Enforcement strategy for BODS

Under Section 155(1)(c) of the Transport Act 2000 (sanctions) Traffic Commissioners can take regulatory action against a bus operator for a failure to provide the required information beyond 31 December 2020 without reasonable excuse. It is envisaged that this power will be used in the event of a repeated failure. Sanctions may include operators being ordered to pay a penalty, to pay compensation to passengers or to spend money to make improvements to the service.

We fully understand that there have been delays in bus operator preparations due to, for example, training staff onto the new data standards who may have been furloughed or reprioritised onto other workstreams. Further to this, service timetables have been changing on a constant basis, which may make it difficult for bus operators to start uploading this data.

We are currently developing, in consultation with the Traffic Commissioners as the industry regulator, a policy to ensure the successful delivery of the Bus Open Data Service. We will publish details of this in due course.

Ultimately, any regulatory action will be a matter for the Traffic Commissioners who will consider each case on merit and with proportionality.

The Bus Open Data team will continue to work with bus operators into 2021 and provide you with extensive support to meet the deadlines, and we urge any operator who has yet to do so, to get in touch with the team on busopendata@dft.gov.uk

Ito World NaPTAN Management Tool extension of service

The Department for Transport have announced that they have agreed with Ito World to extend the Ito World NaPTAN Management tool for an additional 6 months from January 1st 2021, to ensure continuity of support for users currently relying on the tool when uploading data.

The tool was originally due to be decommissioned at the end of 2020 but following a series of workshops with NaPTAN users throughout the autumn, the feedback we received made it clear that DfT should continue to make the tool available while alternatives are put in place.

We look forward to continuing the dialogue with all NaPTAN users in the New Year and working together to put in place a longer-term solution. In the meantime, if you have any questions of feedback you can email naptan.nptg@dft.gov.uk.

Future of Transport: data standards scoping study

Uncertainty around data standards is regularly cited by stakeholders as hampering data sharing and transport system interoperability, which in turn is slowing down data-enabled transport innovation.

Therefore, the Department for Transport commissioned the British Standards Institution (BSI) to:

- review the current data standards landscape
- explore whether current standards are fit for purpose in a Future of Transport context

The BSI's findings were that, while there are an array of data standards relevant to our Future of Transport programme, they're not widely known in the transport sector – particularly among new entrants.

In this report, the BSI make recommendations to address this and ensure that transport data standards evolve as technology advances.

This report is part of the Future of Transport programme, which aims to shape transport innovation and secure the UK's position as a leader in the transport sector of the future.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-of-transport-data-standards-scoping-study>

Transport Technology Forum Cyber Security Guidance

Signposted repository for cyber security resources related to ITS
We are entering into a world where equipment in vehicles and on the road can communicate with each other and in turn exchange vast amounts of data. This data and digitally rich environment offer great potential but also exposes us to risks, particularly that of cyber attacks.

It is now of critical importance that global standards related to cyber secure systems are fully understood and included in any procurement and maintenance activities. New cyber standards are being published almost monthly. However, in addition to standards, there are various other online resources available for reference.

Our Signposting guidance to these has been developed to help you navigate these resources. Within which have divided the resources into 4 categories, named as "ITS-Intelligent Transport Systems", "Vehicles", "Communication" and "General".

The material is available in a flyer format or as a filterable repository.

<https://www.ttf.uk.net/cyber-security-signposting-guidance/>

Which smart city services give more bang for the buck?

At Smart City Expo World Congress in Barcelona last November, I was approached by a gentleman on the Nokia booth. He was tasked by his municipal government to define their smart city strategy. They wanted to be recognised as the flagship city in his country, and he was at the Congress to figure out how to

accomplish it. No pressure! One of his very first questions was: “where should I get started with smart city, which technology will give me the best return on investment: smart parking, smart waste, smart lighting, or something else?”

City domain	Average ROI	Leaders ROI
Public transit	3.4 %	5.3 %
Traffic management	3.3 %	4.4 %
Water management	3.1 %	5.2 %
Energy & electricity	3.2 %	4.3%
Waste collection & Environment	3.5 %	5.2 %
Public health	3.9 %	5.6 %
Public Safety	3.1 %	4.5 %
E-governance	4.1 %	5.6 %

<https://cities-today.com/industry/which-smart-city-services-bang-buck/>

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.

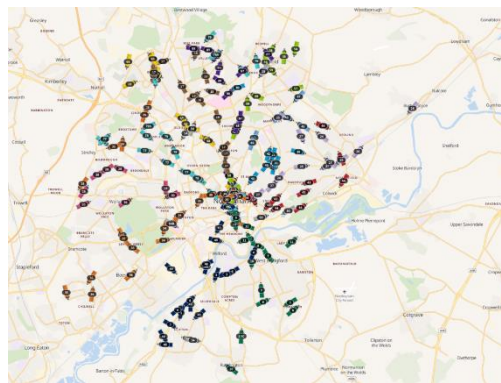
Passenger launch AVL service alongside TransXchange hosting for BODS

UK transport technology company Passenger can now host Automatic Vehicle Location data for the Bus Open Data Service (BODS) through their open data hub.

Passenger began hosting TransXChange data in April 2019 in preparation for the DfT's new BODS service following the Bus Services Act 2017. From December 2020, Passenger will provide AVL data to BODS on behalf of NCT who work with German ETM provider INIT. This step will ensure that NCT will be compliant with the forthcoming regulations, ahead of the January 2021 deadline.

Operator AVL and TXC hosted by Passenger are linked for automatic updates via its open data hub, which provides an easily accessible data store for BODS, and its predecessor Traveline, during the transition period between them.

Anthony Carver-Smith, Marketing Manager at NCT said, "When the regulations were announced there was a concern from operators that it could be a time-consuming process to meet the new legislation, adding to an already full workload in delivering services. But Passenger has made compliance with the new regulations automatic for NCT.



Passenger already has the necessary data infrastructure in place as our real-time vehicle location data is used to track our buses on the NCT website and app. So we are grateful that they have also now been able to provide the necessary link to the BODS service. This assistance from Passenger has allowed us to sidestep some technical complexities and be compliant ahead of the deadline".

Passenger also confirms that it will act as a BODS Agent for any bus operator or local authority seeking assistance to meet the regulations. BODS Agent Mode functionality, released to the service in November 2020, allows bus operators to delegate responsibility for publishing data to a local transport authority or

private agent, enabling organisations like Passenger to manage operator BODS accounts on their behalf.

“There are a host of Ticket machine providers in the UK. Many will be providing direct feeds of AVL data to BODS. Where this isn’t the case, Passenger can help.” adds Alex Ross, Senior Engineer at Passenger.

Across England, over 50% of public transport trips are made by local bus, and even with reduced travel due to Covid regulations and lockdowns, buses have been crucial to keeping the country moving.

Transport for London (TfL) released its own open data in 2007 and found that routes with real-time service updates reported a 2% uplift in patronage (compared to routes without). Better access to real-time bus locations and vehicle information is an important part of improving the bus travel experience for everyone.

Occupancy Data on Leeds Displays

Vix Technology’s latest TFT display solution is being rolled out at a bus stop near you, this time in Leeds.... Enhancing customer experience the displays provide real time passenger information, text to speech options and vehicle occupancy information.



Bus fares, open data and putting power in passengers' hands

This week we announced the public launch of the Create Fares Data Service, part of an initiative led by our Integrated and Smart Travel (IST) programme aimed at making it easier for bus passengers to find out how their next journey will cost.

Passenger insight research commissioned by Transport for the North shows an increasing number of people are using smartphones to navigate to their destination (69% in 2020, up from 64% in 2019).

While it is becoming second nature for many of us to log online or into mobile apps to plan our journeys on public transport, these passenger facing services are enabled through lots of background technical infrastructure and data feeds that put the information at our fingertips.

User-centric design

The Create Fares Data Service – previously known as the Fares Data Build Tool – has been developed in partnership between the IST programme, the Department for Transport, Traveline and Leeds-based digital transformation consultancy Infinity Works.

Bus operators from across the country were also involved in design and testing of the tool to ensure it was fully accessible, easy to use and fit for purpose. As testament to this, it successfully passed its Government Digital Standards assessment and has already started to be used by operators.

The service enables operators to upload their many different fare types – including single and returns, period passes, zonal, group and multi-operator tickets – and export this as standardised NeTEx data.

<https://transportforthenorth.com/blogs/bus-fares-open-data-passengers/>

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 138 – Monday 1st February 2021.

Please send all contributions to secretariat@rtig.org.uk at any time up to Thursday 28th January 2021.

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