

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

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 7 June | Better Connected Transport Strategy |
| 25 June | OpRa: a new transmodel-based exchange format |

Face to Face

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 9 July | Franchising is not just about contracts, Birmingham |
|--------|---|

For booking details and additional events see the website.

Working Groups

Future Bus Priority
Accessible Information

PTIC

- | | |
|--------|---------|
| 4 June | Virtual |
|--------|---------|

Conferences

- | | |
|--------|----------------|
| 9 June | Rural Bus 2026 |
|--------|----------------|

RTIG Board

- | | |
|---------|--------|
| 12 June | Online |
|---------|--------|

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Newsletter Frequency and Email Alerts

The newsletters are produced on a monthly cycle.

They will be posted on the RTIG website and emailed out to the newsletter contact list.

If you think a colleague or contact would benefit from receiving the RTIG newsletter then please ask them to fill out the form on the website or use the QR Code.



Social Media

RTIG is on these social media channels:

Linkedin

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



Bluesky

<https://bsky.app/profile/rtig.org.uk>



Instagram:

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



Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/RTIGInform>



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.

Future Bus Priority Working Group

At the last practical bus priority event there was plenty of discussion about the challenges of the current approach to providing bus priority. We discussed what works and where there are opportunities to do things differently and what the medium and long term futures may be and need to be able to handle.

It was agreed that the current RTIG / UDG standard T031 needs some updates to better meet requirements – a group has been reviewing this and is nearing the end of the review which will update the document and XML standard.

There was also a desire to fully review how bus priority could work in future. A working group has started to meet, but is in the early days still and new members are more than welcome.

If you want to be part of either of this working group please contact secretariat@rtig.org.uk

Accessibility of Printed and Electronic Information Working Groups

There are currently two documents which give advice on how to provide information to the passenger, one for electronic information and another for printed. The former is an RTIG document, the later originally developed by ATCO.

RTIGPR003-D002 Inclusive passenger information - A guide to good practice for bus passenger technology providers (2018)
ATCO Printed Information at Bus Stops - Good Practice Guidelines

Both documents are in need of review because of the passing of time, technology developments and changing understanding and capability.

We have two groups active, one looking at printed information and one on digital information.

If you want to be part of either of this working group please contact secretariat@rtig.org.uk

ITS World Congress 2027

The Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) World Congress is the world's largest transport technology conference. The 2027 edition will be hosted by Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) at the NEC Birmingham between Monday 25 and Friday 29 October.

Over 15,000 global experts and industry leaders will attend. Delegates will participate in:
an exhibition of the latest transport products and services, talks, seminars, and workshops
a region-wide programme of technical visits, cultural experiences, and networking events

Partners

ITS World Congress Birmingham 2027 is organised by ERTICO, Europe's public-private partnership for smart and sustainable mobility. The successful bid was supported by the Department for Transport, Intelligent Transport Systems UK, Department for Business and Trade, Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles and NEC Birmingham.

RTIG Stand & Opportunity for Members

RTIG will be having a stand at the congress, and whilst this will be in part to raise awareness of RTIG and the work we do, the prime purpose is to showcase the excellent work done by our members and help you reach a global audience.

To achieve this our stand will be in the style of a pavilion showcasing organisations who would otherwise have their own stand.

We have committed to a stand, the size of which can change depending on demand.



Birmingham
ITS World Congress
25-29 October 2027

If you are interested in the opportunity, then please get in contact with tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk

Past Events

Data Standards Webinar Series



We started a series of webinars in September on data standards.

Standards for data have been around for many years, but as we try to provide a better passenger experience they have become critical to being able to provide quality information in a timely manner. Some standards are better known and understood than others

The slides and recordings for the sessions which have taken place are available on the RTiG website:

Transport Data Action Plan - What it means for bus

Transport Data Action Plan



The Department for Transport has now published the Transport Data Action Plan — setting out its commitments to improve how transport data is used, shared and understood across the sector.

So what does this mean in practice for authorities, operators and suppliers?

What will change around sharing and access?

What does “better standards and quality” look like?

And how do we make sure data is used in ways that reflect user needs, including accessibility, as well as good governance and ethics?

RTIG is hosting this webinar to provide a clear overview of the Action Plan and highlight the areas that will matter most for organisations delivering public transport information, operational systems and passenger-facing services.

What we'll cover

- What the Transport Data Action Plan is and why it has been published now
- The five priority themes
- What “good” looks like for implementation — and how to align your current work to the direction set out in the plan

<https://www.rtig.org.uk/workshops/2026-04-30>

Managing and Communicating Disruptions in Edinburgh



When things go wrong, the challenge isn't only restoring or managing service - it's making sure operations teams, customer channels and data feeds all tell the same story, quickly and consistently. RTIG has repeatedly heard the same questions from operators and authorities: how do you keep buses moving, and how do you keep passengers informed at every stage of their journey when disruption hits?

In this webinar we will hear from Lothian buses about how they manage this in Edinburgh.

View the recording:

<https://rtig.org.uk/workshops/2026-05-21>

Next Face to Face event

Franchising is not just about contracts — it's about data



Thursday 9 July
10:30 – 15:45
Face to Face

Central Birmingham

Authorities across England that are introducing bus franchising are placing growing emphasis on data — from timetable and AVL feeds to ticketing, reporting and contract-performance systems. Publicly available franchising material shows a clear focus on operator data requirements, KPI monitoring, payment adjustment, network oversight and customer experience.

Join us for a timely discussion on why data matters in a franchised environment, what authorities need to manage networks effectively, and how stronger data can support better information for passengers, improved reliability and clearer accountability.

Call for speakers : please contact tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk if you would like to speak.

The event is being held:
Millenium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham, B4 7AP

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1990780846101>

Upcoming Webinars

Better Connected Transport Strategy – What does it mean for Information?



DfT “Better Connected” Integrated Transport Strategy – Implications for Passenger Information

17 June 2026, 12:00

The Department for Transport’s Better Connected Integrated Transport Strategy sets out a vision for a more seamless, joined-up transport system across England—one where passengers can plan, access, and complete journeys across modes with minimal friction. Central to this ambition is the role of high-quality, consistent, and interoperable passenger information.

This RTIG webinar will look at how the strategy reframes expectations around passenger information, highlighting both the opportunities and challenges for authorities, operators, and technology suppliers.

Key Themes

1. Passenger-Centric Information Ecosystem

The strategy places passenger needs at its core, emphasising door-to-door journey information that spans modes, operators, and geographies.

2. Data Integration and Interoperability

A key pillar of Better Connected is the ability to combine data from multiple sources into coherent, reliable outputs. The webinar will examine the implications for existing standards and services.

3. Real-Time and Disruption Information

The strategy highlights the importance of timely and accurate real-time information, particularly during disruption.

4. Accessibility and Inclusion

Ensuring that passenger information is accessible to all users is a central objective.

5. The Role of Standards and Industry Collaboration

Delivering integrated passenger information at scale will depend on strong alignment across industry stakeholders.

Who Should Attend

This session will be particularly relevant for:

- Local authority transport and digital leads
- Bus and multimodal operators
- Passenger information system suppliers
- Data and standards specialists
- Policy and strategy professionals

Outcomes

By the end of the webinar, participants will:

- Understand the passenger information implications of the Better Connected strategy
- Be aware of emerging expectations for integrated, multimodal data provision
- Gain insight into best practice and implementation challenges
- Be better equipped to align their own programmes with DfT's strategic direction

This webinar forms part of RTiG's ongoing programme to support the industry in delivering high-quality, standards-based passenger information that meets evolving policy and user expectations.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1990626279789>

OpRa: a new transmodel-based exchange format for operational raw data



25 June 2026 – 09:00

We are pleased to invite you to the Webinar 'OpRa: a new transmodel-based exchange format for operational raw data' that will take place on 25 June 2026 at 09:00.

This one-hour webinar is a presentation of the new CEN Technical Specification for the exchange format of operational raw data in support of the "observed data" category of the MMTIS EU delegated regulation.

Targeted audience:

Public Transport Authorities, Public Transport Operators, National Transport Regulatory Authorities, MMTIS data producers and consumers.

Speakers:

- Victoire Champenois, Policy officer at the European Commission, DG MOVE
- Fabrizio Arneodo, chair of the OpRa CEN group
- Gergely Nitch, technical expert OpRa
- Andrej Tibaut, technical expert Transmodel

Participation is free of charge, but registration is mandatory. Please register here.

<https://www.cencenelec.eu/news-events/events/2026/2026-06-25-webinar-opra/>

National Public Transport Gazetteer (NPTG)

Within the National Gazetteer, as part of the Regions structure there are AdministrativeAreas, mainly these are local transport authorities. There is a Great Britain regions section which includes the entries listed below.

Each entry contains a 'National' field. This indicates whether the AdministrativeArea administers stop types nationally or only within its own geographical area (which is the default behaviour).

For AdministrativeAreas that issue stop types at a national level (the '9nn' admin areas), this field should be set to true.

However we have recently identified that these are currently set to false which is incorrect.

These entries are now configured with a value of '1' to represent their national coverage.

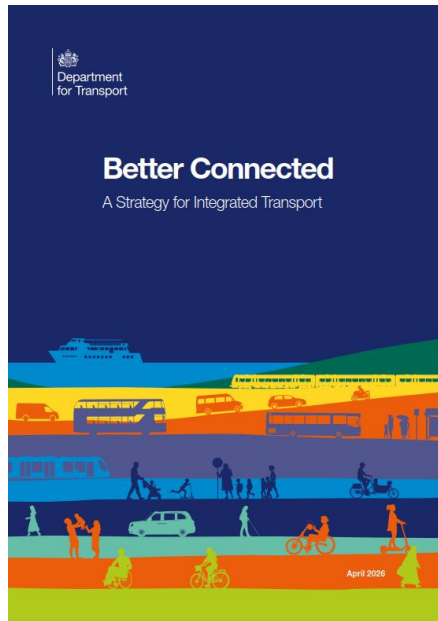
The relevant AdministrativeAreas are:

- 900 – National (Coach)
- 910 – National (Rail)
- 920 – National (Air)
- 930 – National (Ferry)
- 940 – National (Tram)
- 945 – National (Automated People Mover)

Better Connected – Integrated National Transport Strategy

The long awaited integrated national transport strategy was published at beginning of April:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-connected-a-strategy-for-integrated-transport>



Tap-and-go travel across buses, trains, and trams will benefit more cities and towns across England after the government announced more local powers for contactless travel today (2 April 2026).

Local leaders are being given the tools to replicate joined-up systems already in place in areas like Liverpool, London and Nottingham, where passengers travel seamlessly across the city on different transport while tapping their bank card as payment – without juggling multiple tickets or apps.

It is one of more than 40 fully funded commitments in the new Better

Connected national transport strategy, designed to make everyday journeys simpler, easier to pay for and more reliable from door to door.

Huge steps have already been taken to make people's everyday journeys more affordable, including the rail fare freeze, the bus fare cap, and freezing fuel duty.

Giving people genuine choice over how they travel and making these options more affordable is at the core of this strategy. By providing local leaders with more flexibility, control and long-term funding certainty, they can design more joined-up networks that deliver better value for money, helping to keep fares down and support the cost of living.

The strategy also announces a breakthrough new partnership with Google, allowing passengers across England to track their bus in real time through Google Maps. The service will be especially useful for passengers in rural areas where bus services are less frequent.

To help local areas go further, the government is also launching £40 million in new funding for local authorities to trial digital technologies to improve transport, reduce congestion and ease disruption. Gold standard examples like Nottingham and Derby's Ride app, part-funded by government, show what is possible when local leaders are backed to improve local transport.

Rural Bus Conference



Tuesday 9 June 2026
Chester Racecourse

Rural Bus 2026 is supported by the Department for Transport and the Bus Centre of Excellence as they understand how vital bus services are in delivering Government's stated missions.

Both recognise that improving rural mobility is central to delivering UK Government priorities from economic growth and net zero to levelling up, health, and social inclusion.

This unique event will bring together more than 250 local authorities, operators, consultancy and service providers to share best practice across the rural bus sector. A range of keynotes, presentations, interactive panels, case studies and organised networking sessions will help delegates understand how to:

- Make use of the Bus Services Act to support rural buses
- Develop stronger local control to support rural routes
- Embed protection for "socially necessary" services
- Develop robust and timely paths to franchising or Enhanced Partnerships
- Understand what's available in funding and rural investment
- Make the most of lessons learned from the Rural Mobility Fund evaluations
- Create funding formulas that explicitly recognise rural challenges
- Evaluating how Enhanced Partnership or franchising arrangements can create and maintain local services
- Making the most of revised planning frameworks – supporting sustainable travel, including rural buses

Supported delegate places at Rural Bus 2026

As an event partner, the Bus Centre of Excellence (BCoE) is funding a limited number of delegate places at Rural Bus 2026, available to local authorities and third sector organisations.

<https://www.qualityruralbus.uk/>

Transmodel Standards and GitHub

All Transmodel standards will migrate to a new common GitHub location in the next few months.

The new location will be:

<https://github.com/TransmodelEcosystem>

There will be repositories for each of the standards.

The current locations will auto-redirect to the new location so in the short term there will be no need to change workflows.

NeTEx has moved already and is:

<https://github.com/TransmodelEcosystem/NeTEx>

Women and Girls' Perceptions of Safety on the UK Bus Network

While roughly 11% of women feel unsafe during the day, this rises sharply at night, with 63% avoiding evening travel and many altering behaviours to feel safe. Similarly, a 2025 Girlguiding survey found 31% of girls and young women avoid public transport alone, and 86% avoid going out after dark, because of safety fears

With research emphasising that women and girls' perceptions of safety is shaped less by any single feature than by the whole journey, including walking routes to the bus stop, waiting at the stop or shelter, conditions onboard the bus, and interchanges.

Research also finds that women associate safety with being able to travel without harassment, with personal space respected, with visible staff who can help, with good lighting, and with a reliable journey that does not leave them stranded

SYSTRA's literature review on Women and Girls' Perceptions of Safety on the UK Bus Network highlights that the feeling of safety is shaped by the entire journey—including the walk to the stop, waiting, the ride, and interchanges. The research explores practical steps operators and local authorities must take to address systemic safety fears.

https://www.systra.com/uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2026/04/systra-uk-2026_women-and-safety-on-buses-a4b.pdf

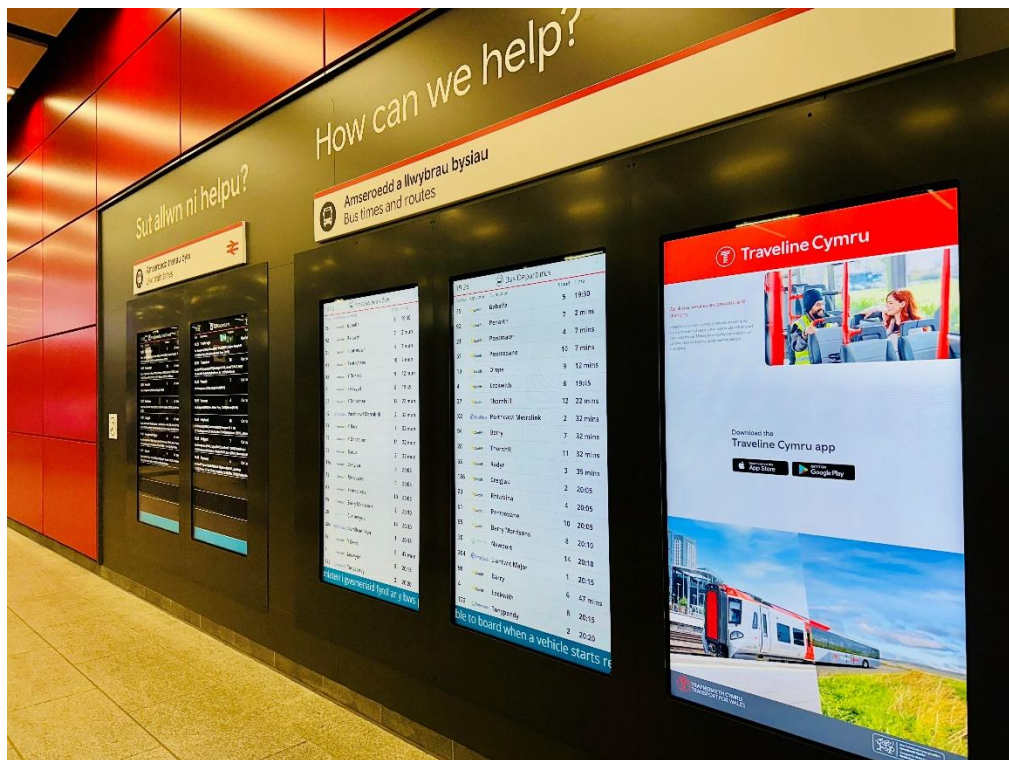
Keeping in touch with you

As well as keeping you up to date with all the latest news from RTIG, this newsletter aims to provide a community forum for members. We therefore offer RTIG members the opportunity to submit a short article here on any issue or innovation that might be of interest to the community.

There are two ways of becoming involved in this:

- ▶ Email pieces to us when you have them – press release format is fine, and pictures are welcome.

Nominate a marketing contact who will be included in the editor's monthly process of 'chivvyng'.



Transport for Wales, Cardiff Interchange

Bus mileage recovery creates postcode lottery as some regions surge while others fall further behind

Recent work by Basemap has provided very useful information on bus mileage recovery.

To support transparency and allow further exploration, the full dataset has been made available through an interactive map developed by Basemap in collaboration with the Bus Centre of Excellence. The platform allows users to explore changes in bus mileage across Great Britain at national, regional, and local authority levels from 2021 to 2025. The interactive map is available at <https://mileage.busstats.com/>, providing planners, policymakers, and the public with direct access to the underlying data and trends.

<https://www.buscentreofexcellence.org.uk/articles/busmileagerecovery-creates-postcode-lottery-as-some-regions-surge-while-others-fall-further-behind>

NextBuses joins the managed service line-up at TransportAPI

Following our announcement at Transport Ticketing Global 2026 that TransportAPI would become the NextBuses operations and commercial provider under an agreement with Traveline, we are happy to report that the service has been migrated on time and as specified. 'NextBuses - powered by TransportAPI' is now part of our managed service lineup, available separately or as part of our Bus Information managed service.

NextBuses - powered by TransportAPI is now the single national service for real time information (RTI) on bus departures, bringing together all of the regional and local schemes in a single place. The service is regulated by Traveline on price, data quality and support and is available to all users with full IPR ownership in the data downstream. Users can access the service for free to evaluate the data, and plans are available from dozens of requests to millions of requests at scale.

The new NextBuses - powered by TransportAPI service offers data in BS EN 15531 Service Interface for Real-Time Information (SIRI) Stop Monitoring (SM) form using a POST request and it returns XML data. However, for those users who wish to access the data with lower overheads using a GET request, the new RTI data is also available within the TransportAPI Bus information managed service, with the response

being in JSON form with hyperlinks to other TransportAPI resources on stops, routes, schedules and disruption.

<https://www.transportapi.com/blog/2026/05/nextbuses-by-tapi/>

Translink boosts accessibility with cutting-edge 'NaviLens' launch

Translink has introduced state-of-the-art navigation & service information technology at Belfast Grand Central Station to enhance accessibility for



visually impaired and blind people. It is the first integrated (bus & rail) station in the UK and Ireland and the second in the world, after Amsterdam, to offer the 'NaviLens' service.

NaviLens empowers people and users enjoy enhanced independence, improved wayfinding and passenger information through real-time audio guidance along with multi-lingual support options. It provides accessible information using specialised colourful codes that can be scanned with a smartphone via a free app. The codes deliver audio cues and detailed information that enhance independent navigation as well as access to passenger service information.

Mosaiq Milestone

Shapper Services has announced its Mosaiq Transit Intelligence Platform is now processing more than 1 billion real-world bus 'heartbeats' every month across networks in 31 countries.

A 'heartbeat' is a GPS signal transmitted regularly by a vehicle in service. Analysed at scale, these signals help operators and authorities identify recurring operational issues, distinguish anomalies from patterns, and improve network performance.

The milestone reflects growing demand from operators for better use of existing operational data, including AVL, GTFS-RT, SIRI, and RTP1 feeds.

<https://www.mosaiq.co/articles/10-billion-heartbeats>

Ticketer appointed RTI, AVL and ticketing supplier for Liverpool City Region Combined Authority bus franchising

Ticketer is excited to announce its appointment as the real-time information (RTI), automatic vehicle location (AVL) and ticketing technology supplier for Liverpool City Combined Region Authority's (LCRCA) upcoming bus franchising network.

Following a rigorous procurement and consultation process, Ticketer is delighted to be officially appointed as the region's RTI, AVL and ticketing supplier.

Supporting what will become only the second large-scale bus franchising network outside of London, Ticketer will provide their on-bus TK300 electronic ticket machine, as well as key solutions such as Driver Connect via Smart Applications Management's (SAM) managed services.

Franchising in the region will be introduced in phases, with the first services operating under the new model in St Helens and Wirral from Autumn 2026. Further areas of the city region will follow, with the full LCRCA bus network planned to operate wholly under franchising by the end of 2027.

<https://www.ticketer.com/press/lcrca-appoint-ticketer-as-franchising-supplier/>

Management Committee Members

The Management Board for the year 2026-2027 was appointed at the AGM on 24 March 2026. Membership is currently as follows:

Chair: Tony Brown

Members: Sonya Sparks (Essex), Graham Davies (WYCA), Russell Gard (React Accessibility), Jon Salmon (Snapper Services), Tony Brown (Atkins), George Connell (Stagecoach), Simon Gold (Reading Buses)

Contact us

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

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

Next issue

Issue 203 – Wednesday 1st July 2026

Please send all contributions to secretariat@rtig.org.uk at any time up to Monday 29 June 2026.

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