

What's on

The calendar below shows key events over the next few months, from RTIG and our associates. For further details of RTIG events please contact secretariat@rtig.org.uk

Workshops

20 March On Vehicle Information to
Passengers. Leicester

Webinars

25 March Bus Data – BCoE Webinar
27 March Accessible Information
Regulations
10 April Enhanced Partnerships -
Reporting

For booking details and additional events see the website.

Working Groups

CCTV Technology & Best Practice
Procurement of Software as a Service

RTIG Board

20 March 2024, Virtual

PTIC

7 March 2024, Virtual

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News and events: update on RTIG work

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For all administrative matters and enquiries please contact:

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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.



Social Media

RTIG is on these social media channels:

Linkedin

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



X (twitter) as @RtigInform

<https://twitter.com/RtigInform>



Instagram:

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



Facebook:

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



Photo Library

To help liven up RTiG printed and digital outputs we are interested in receiving any images of public transport information real time or otherwise that you would be happy for us to use.

We will of course credit the appropriate source if published.

If you have any material, you would be able to let us have access to please contact Tim tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk

Working Groups

If anyone wants to become involved in any of the work packages in the business plan then please feel free to discuss or commit by getting in contact with Tim tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk .

Hearing Loops

During the pandemic, bus operators introduced Perspex screens between the driver and passenger to help provide protection from COVID-19. This barrier increased the challenge for passengers and drivers who have hearing problems.

The use of audio induction loops (hearing aid loops) and other solutions will help to alleviate some of the resultant problems.

The requirement will form part of the future vehicle requirements as seen in the new zero-emission buses scheme.

We will be producing an advice note for operators.

If you want to be involved in the group creating this then please let us know.



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

AGM

Annual General Meeting



Calling Notice for Annual General Meeting 2024

This notice is to inform you of RTiG's upcoming Annual General Meeting. The meeting will take place on 20 March 2024 from 13:00 – 14:00. The meeting will be hybrid with physical attendance possible in Leicester at The City Rooms, 16 Hotel St, Leicester LE1 5AW and online.

The AGM is open to all Subscribing Members and Affiliate Members of RTiG, including organisations who have subscribed or committed to subscribe for FY24-25. Member organisations may send up to two representatives (one in the case of Associate Members). In the event of overbooking I may have to ask Members to send only a single representative; this will of course not affect voting rights.

I attach herewith:

NEWS & EVENTS

- the agenda for the meeting;
- an attendance form;
- a schedule of candidate nominations received, and an authorised statement of appointments duly made by default;

In addition, I enclose copies of the following documents relevant to agenda items 2, 4 and 5:

- notes from last year's AGM;
- a note in support of each Resolution, AGM2401 - AGM2403;
- Introduction of the Category of Executive Member
- the Subscriber Terms and Benefits for FY24-25, RTIGC013-1.20;
- the current working draft Business Plan for FY24-25, RTIGC078;
- the Election Rules for the Chair and Directors, RTIGC038-2.0.

All papers can be found at the following page on the website:

<https://www.rtiq.org.uk/2024AGM>

Please therefore could you complete the attendance form online:

If you are attending in person:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/785927007837>

If you are attending virtually:

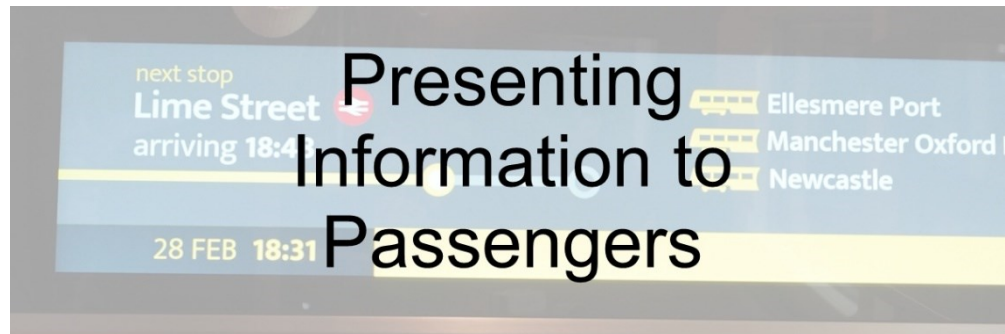
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/annual-general-meeting-2024-virtual-attendance-tickets-846949748497>

or print the one attached, to let me know if you will be attending physically or online and return it to me to arrive by 15 March 2024.

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Next Face to Face event

Presenting Information to Passengers



20 March 2024, Leicester

In an increasingly online world the attraction of physical displays continues unabated, and with the new Accessible Information Regulations there is an increased focus on information on vehicle.

Supporting the rapid roll out of displays on vehicle we have seen in the last couple of years the launch of many new displays by suppliers, this is an opportunity to hear about the latest innovations and trends and see some of them in real life.

Its easy to get engrossed in the physical displays and technologies, to avoid that we will also take some time to look at what information does the customer need.

During this event we will hold our AGM. If you are unable to physically attend the event but want to participate in the AGM we aim to stream this section (only the AGM, not the rest of the event).

Call for Speakers: We invite you to contact us if you would like to share your experience and knowledge.

Book Event:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/785927007837>

Upcoming Webinars

Bus Data Webinar

Bus Centre of Excellence

25 March 11:30

Join us for an informative and engaging webinar on Bus Data. Hosted by Tim Rivett, this virtual event will explore the transformative power of data in shaping the future of public transportation and enhancing the passenger experience.



In an era of rapid urbanisation and evolving mobility needs, data-driven insights are revolutionising the way cities manage their bus networks and deliver efficient, reliable services to millions of commuters. Through a series of expert-led presentations and interactive discussions, attendees will gain valuable insights into the latest trends, technologies, and best practices driving innovation in the realm of bus data management.

Topics to be covered include:

- Leveraging real-time data to optimise bus routes and schedules
- Enhancing passenger safety and accessibility through data-driven solutions
- Harnessing predictive analytics to anticipate and mitigate service disruptions
- Integrating multimodal data to create seamless transportation networks
- Case studies showcasing successful implementations of bus data initiatives in urban centres worldwide

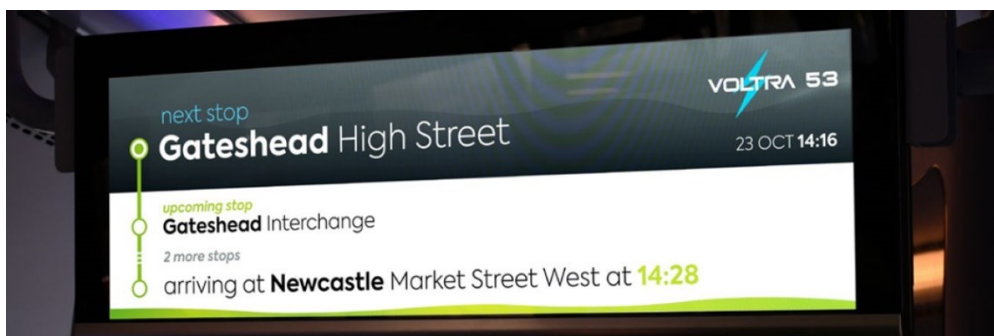
Whether you're a transportation planner, policy maker, transit agency representative, or industry professional, this webinar offers a unique opportunity to deepen your understanding of the pivotal role that data plays in shaping the future of urban mobility. Join us as we explore the possibilities and challenges of harnessing bus data to create smarter, more sustainable cities for all.

Signup details will be on the Bus Centre of Excellence website.

<https://www.buscetreofexcellence.org.uk/events>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bus-data-webinar-with-tim-rivett-tickets-853045450907>

Accessible Information Regulations



27 March 2024, 13:00 – 14:00

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

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

In this webinar we will explore:

- What do the regulations say?
- What can you do to comply?
- Where would you turn to for help and information?

We've brought together all DfT documents into one place

<https://rtig.org.uk/aig>.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/853634131667>

Enhanced Partnerships - Reporting**Enhanced
Partnerships
Reporting****10 April 2024, 13:00 -14:00**

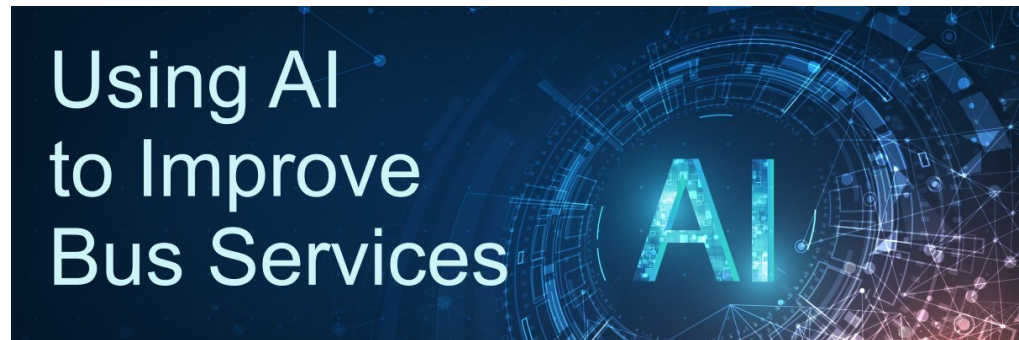
With many Enhanced Partnerships having been up and running for a while we take a look at what the Bus Back Better strategy and the EP guidance says and what partnerships are achieving.

In this series we will explore:

- Information to the Passenger
- Reporting
- Managing partnerships
- Planning networks

In this second session we explore the reporting requirements.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/853627852887>

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S****Past Events****Using AI to Improve Bus Services****13 February 2024, Leeds**

There is a lot of talk about artificial intelligence and how it can be used to make a difference in pretty much every industry. It is hard to work out what is hype and what is actually being achieved.

At this event you will find out about how AI and Machine Learning:

- works and what it is really about;
- is being used already; and
- it could be used to help public transport.

Hear and learn about the latest advancements in artificial intelligence and how they can be applied to enhance efficiency, reliability, and sustainability.

Explore real-world case studies showcasing successful implementations of AI in bus services, illustrating the positive impact on passenger experience and operational efficiency.

Hear from:

- Basemap
- Simplifai
- ITO
- KPMG
- Alchera
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
- Prospective

NEWS & EVENTS

Whether you're from a bus operator, transport or local authority or supplier, this event offers valuable takeaways that will enrich your knowledge and help you contribute effectively to the advancement of bus services.

Whether you're a seasoned expert or new to the field, there's something for everyone.

The slides and recordings of the talks are available on the RTiG website to members.



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

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

NaPTAN Product Update

The next workshops on NaPTAN are:

Accessibility - wrap up of the last 3 months

Tues 19 March – 2pm to 4pm

Thu 21 March - 10am to 12pm

Topic TBD

Tues 30 April – 2pm to 4pm

Thu 2nd May – 10am to 12pm

All events are managed through Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/departments-for-transport-naptan-team-39414925573>

BODS NeTex Fares Profile Consultation



The use of NeTex for fares & tickets is a relatively recent introduction to the industry. The UK NeTex profile is highly flexible and allows for a multitude of potential ways to express the data. In order to simplify this and bring greater consistency to published fares data, BODS are implementing a BODS NeTex profile for both simple and complex fares.

Some validation has already been implemented for simple fares and the BODS NeTex profile document codifies these rules and expands it to cover complex fares scenarios, such as capping and post-pay products. Subjects covered by the profile include:

- Level of network data required: operator, service, stop data
- Different product types: singles, returns, passes, carnets, etc
- How to define access rights in a fare product, passenger types, limitations

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- How fare products can be paid for, where they can be bought, etc
- How to define a daily / weekly caps, etc

A draft section of the profile has been produced for consultation to ensure that it provides the guidance necessary for system suppliers and operators to produce the data, and for data consumers to understand what they are consuming.

The draft profile can be obtained from:

https://www.pti.org.uk/bus_open_data_fares

https://www.pti.org.uk/system/files/files/BODS_NeTEx_Fares_profile_v0-4.pdf

The contents are in DRAFT and are subject to consultation so may change.

We welcome feedback from system suppliers, operators and data consumers. The consultation is open until 6th March 2024.

There were two webinars held in February, the slides and recordings are available from the PTIC website.

Please send all comments on the profile to steven.penn@kpmg.co.uk

Accessible Information Regulations

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

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

Providing audible and visible information on board transport services is not a new concept. The provision of announcements and visual displays has been a requirement for new railway rolling stock since 1998, and since the early 2000s several operators and authorities have begun

D f T N E W S

providing it on buses. For over fifteen years, most bus services in London have incorporated audible and visible information on the route and upcoming stops.

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

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

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

In the coming weeks RTiG will be launching a grant scheme to support the cost of fitting vehicles with audio visual equipment. This will be targeted at the smallest operators.

A guide to registering and operating local bus services in England and Wales

The guidance on registering and operating services has been updated:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/a-guide-to-registering-and-operating-local-bus-services-in-england-and-wales>

Free Membership of CIHT for Bus Centre of Excellence Members

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

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

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

BT shuts down its final 3G mobile site in the UK

Mobile operator EE, which is owned by BT Group, has confirmed that it has switched off its final 3G mobile site as it shifts its network over to newer technology.

The firm said it spent much of last year “phasing out” its customer’s reliance on 3G after completing a pilot switch-off in Warrington.

Since then, it has been methodically retiring the technology across more than 18,000 mobile sites, with time dedicated to pauses in the switch-off so it could monitor the impact on customers.

EE said the closure of its 3G network is an energy-saving measure that has already saved enough electricity to charge nearly one billion smartphones, and it will continue to monitor the performance of its 2G, 4G and 5G networks to ensure its customers continue to get a reliable connection.

Rival networks have also started retiring their 3G infrastructure. Vodafone started in June last year in a bid to reallocate some 3G spectrum to 4G and 5G, while Virgin Media O2 plans to retire its network by 2025.

According to [Uswitch.com](https://www.uswitch.com), EE covers roughly 99% of the UK population with its 4G network, although speeds can vary depending on location.

Meanwhile, Vodafone’s 4G service covers over 97%, Three 91% and O2 99% – although this figure is the combined total of both its 3G and 4G masts.

IN OTHER NEWS

For 5G, all the networks fared much worse, with Three achieving just 57.6% coverage, followed by Virgin Media O2 (54.5%), EE (52.3%) and lastly Vodafone on just 41.9%.

Despite being an older technology, 2G networks will not be retired in the near future as they can be a useful low-power fallback. They are also still used in some specific agricultural applications and for water meters and smart meters.

Even during the early roll-out of 5G networks in 2019, many rural areas were still lacking 4G coverage some seven years after it was first introduced.

Mobile operators have since signed a £1bn deal to expand rural mobile network coverage by sharing their infrastructure amongst themselves.

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'.



A VIX Technology display in Leicester

Transport for Greater Manchester Chooses Mix Telematics

Mix Telematics a leading global SaaS provider of connected fleet management solutions, is excited to announce that Transport for Greater Manchester (TFGM) has appointed MiX to enhance fleet safety, efficiency and sustainability.

Transport for Greater Manchester is a local government body responsible for co-ordinating transport services throughout Greater Manchester in North West England. The partnership will equip the full bus fleet of nearly 2,000 vehicles with MiX Telematics' SaaS solution, in-cab driver feedback and integration.

"We are delighted to have been selected to provide a solution that best fits Transport for Greater Manchester's needs and we are looking forward to many years of partnership," says Jonathan Bates, Executive Vice President at MiX Telematics.

Stephen Rhodes, Director of Bus at Transport for Greater Manchester said, "We're delighted to partner with MiX Telematics, this new solution best fits our needs ensuring bus passengers continue to have safe and enjoyable journeys. The information provided through the telematics solution will be used by operators and TFGM to jointly support the safety, monitoring and improvement of driving standards across the network. We're looking forward to many years of successful partnership."

<https://www.mixtelematics.com/us/resources/press-office/2024/transport-for-greater-manchester-chooses-mix-telematics/>

Novus-Publish for BSIP Commitments

The National Bus strategy sets out an ambitious vision to dramatically improve bus services in England outside London through greater local leadership, reversing the recent shift away from public transport and encouraging passengers back to bus. Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs) are how Local Transport Authorities, working closely with their local bus operators and local communities, address this.

More than £1 billion has been allocated to deliver local long-term vision for bus services. The BSIPs have been developed to address various aspects of bus service, including efficiency, reliability, accessibility, and accuracy of passenger information.

MEMBERS

How do you ensure your printed material meets the BSIP requirements for accurate information building trust with passengers?

Introducing Novus-Publish!

Novus-Publish makes it easier than ever to ensure all passengers have access to accurate timetable information, thanks to powerful production workflows that save time and ensure accuracy of information by identifying the required publicity updates when schedules change – and then batch print them at the touch of a button.

Our latest developments include multi-route diagrams showing where routes converge and diverge, making it clear for passengers to see which services will take them to their destination. With frequency messaging at stops, data is more consistent and accurate, reducing complaints if buses are delayed.

<https://trapezegroup.co.uk/article/novus-publish-bsip/>

Yunex Traffic and Aimsun to deliver digital twin solution for Tees Valley

Tees Valley Combined Authority has selected Yunex Traffic and Aimsun to provide a traffic digital twin with the aim of improving bus service reliability and wider traffic management across its transport network. In an industry first, the digital twin will use simulation and data analytics to predict future network conditions, allowing traffic management actions to be implemented either automatically or with the involvement of a traffic operator.

The digital twin's machine learning algorithms will enable the Tees Valley traffic management team to continually monitor and evaluate real-time traffic, bus, and signal data feeds across the entire transport network. The digital twin uses data from Yunex Traffic's existing Stratos and UTC-UX traffic management systems, with this real time data now integrated with the Aimsun Live predictive decision support system in a single, powerful digital twin platform.

Within just a few minutes of receiving the data, the digital twin will provide comprehensive predictions and assessments of near-real-time and upcoming traffic states, up to 60 minutes into the future. This predictive element allows for a far more proactive approach to traffic management, such that the system will not only get late buses back on time, but will also identify buses that look likely to fall behind schedule and help them get back on track before the delay even occurs.

NEWS

M E M B E R S N E W S

The connection with Stratos Strategy Manager will enable traffic operators to decide whether to proactively implement traffic management and bus reliability strategies, or to allow the system's automated processes to run.

<https://www.yunextraffic.com/yunex-traffic-and-aimsun-to-deliver-digital-twin-solution-for-tees-valley/>

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 176 – Tuesday 2nd April 2024.

Please send all contributions to secretariat@rtig.org.uk at any time up to Tuesday 26th March 2024.

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.