

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 Committee

28 November 2019, London

PTIC

8 October 2019, London

Conferences

Intelligent Transport
5/6 November 2019, London

Transport Technology Forum
20/21 November 2019, Bristol

Working Groups

Conf Calls - Integrating Disruption
Information

Conf Call - Procurement Advice

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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.



Working Groups

These working groups are now underway, its not too late to become involved – just get in contact:

Integrating Disruption Information

There are many different systems where disruption information is available which are not normally part of the customer information process. This group will investigate how to practicably integrate the disparate systems in use across public transport: to provide more and consistent disruption information and if appropriate, to produce an advice document

Procurement Advice

This group is working to produce a 'Dummies Guide' to real time system procurement. An initial draft is already available.

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We are still looking for volunteers to become involved in these groups which are about to be starting work:

Maintaining an efficient and effective RTI system

Whether you have you have just invested in your shiny new or upgraded system or if you've been running one for years, the challenge of how you maintain it is common to everyone.

We aim to provide an advisory guide on the best practice for keeping a real time system working efficiently and effectively.

Accuracy and quality of real time predictions

Following questions at the last two workshops there it is clear that there is not sufficient common understanding across the community on how to effectively measure the performance of predictions.

This group will produce a guide on how to measure the quality and accuracy of predictions.

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

Transport Technology Forum

The mission of the Transport Technology Forum is to:
“To bring together the prospective purchasers and operators of transport technology”

The purpose of the forum is;

to bring together

- national and local authorities, who are responsible for road network management
- their consultants, who act as service providers and advisors
- the designers and suppliers of traffic technology (large, small and start-up)
- universities running relevant practical and academic courses and
- the public policy makers and research funding providers

in order to

- foster an informed dialogue between the prospective purchasers and operators of transport technology with the designers and suppliers
- Be a unified voice for the ITS sector
- Think strategically about the development of the sector and its future direction

and to do this by

- providing a robust view of the value for money solutions available and in development
- sharing experience from pilot and pathfinder deployment of technologies
- identifying areas / issues for future research funding
- identifying issues requiring national government guidance and / or regulation.
- promoting successful strategies and approaches.
- ensuring members are aware of the national policy context (i.e. On CO2, Air Quality, Industrial Strategy, Future of Mobility).

RTiG has been invited to participate in the TTF to provide public transport technology advice and support. We will keep you updated on its activities and how you can get involved.

For more information visit the website:

<https://www.ttf.uk.net/>

The 2019 TTF conference is being held 20th and 21st November 2019 in Bristol



DfT digital mobility event

The Department for Transport in partnership with 100% Open delivered a digital event on Wednesday, 11 September 2019. The theme of the event was 'Digital Mobility – are we there yet?' 100% Open prides itself on connecting 'the suits with the sneakers' and helps bring together industry and technology to create innovative solutions for consumers. The event showcased the impact of cutting edge digital solutions to transport issues and emerging mobility technology and services.

Presentations included:

- The importance of extra ordinary mobility products for disabled and elderly in today's landscape – by David Rajan (Centaur Robotics).
- How opening bus data across bus industry will drive digital revolution in bus patronage and passenger service – by Meera Nayyar (DfT).

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- How to use digital tools and user research in promoting efficient passenger journey – by Amit Tzur (Deloitte).
- Improving the customer proposition with smarter data i.e. Transport for the North Fares data build tool – by Richard Mason (TfN).
- The importance of data for transport users – by Ian Wright (Transport Focus).
- How evolving consumer behaviours and the shift towards ‘on-demand’ has created a shared window for multi modal service – by Alex Shapeland-Howes (Tandem).
- How the knowledge of ‘digital’ is reshaping the entire ecosystem and creating solutions for the industry – by Warwick Goodall (PA Consulting).
- How the Local Authority Management Platform (LAMP) is helping to co-create, invest and shape the future of digital mobility – by Daniel Hobbs (Connected Places Catapult).
- How Open Data is improving bus punctuality for faster and insightful analysis – by Craig Nelson (Swiftly).

Please find the link to the slides presented at the event:

<https://www.slideshare.net/DavidSimoeseBrown1/100open-autumn-union-feat-department-for-transport-digital-mobility-are-we-nearly-there-172968400>

Bus Open Data Readiness Assessment

As part of the preparation for the launch of the Bus Open Data Digital Service, DfT has launched the readiness assessment survey for all bus operators and local authorities across England to complete. This will help inform our understanding of the digital capabilities across the sector ahead of the open data regulations coming into place early next year.

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The readiness assessment for bus operators was launched on 13 September 2019 and is due to close on 11 October 2019. If you are a bus operator and have yet to complete the survey, we would encourage you to do so. The link for the bus operator readiness assessment is provided here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PC7Y6/>

The readiness assessment for local authorities was launched on 30 September 2019 and is due to close on 08 November 2019. The link for the local authority readiness assessment is provided here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/187V6/>

SIRI Updates

Following the support from members in August and early September a CEN European wide review of over 60 change requests to the different SIRI versions.

A significant amount of work has come out of the review meetings but there is commitment to ensure rapid progress.

European Profile

At the start of the meeting the French Ministry of Transport who were kindly hosting the meeting proposed that the subgroup seek a work package to create a European profile for SIRI in a similar way that one has been created for the new NeTEX standard. This will be a significant work item as many countries already have their own profiles (the UK does not have a formal profile, but implementations have settled to a fairly common profile between different suppliers).

Following discussion, it was agreed to pursue if funding from the EU can be sourced. UK involvement in this work could be beneficial to UK based suppliers and Bus Operators because of the work being undertaken by the Department for Transport on bus open data. We will seek to

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identify from the DfT if there is Government support / interest for involvement in this work.

Major topics

Disruption messaging

DATEX II has changed several XML enumerations in its standard, the original enumerations were repeated in SIRI SX to enable easier integration. The changes to DATEX II have resulted in incompatibility between DATEXII and SIRI SX. An approach to looser integration was agreed to make future changes and divergence easier.

Problem – Impact – Advice

The UK Rail approach to disruption messaging of the Problem – Impact – Advice cannot be easily handled in SIRI SX. The issue was presented and discussed in the meeting. The original UK request was supported by the Netherlands who have a similar approach in their UK in their local BISON formats. The Netherlands created a change request which was agreed for further work to take place to identify how to handle the approach either through documented advice or technical changes if necessary.

Publishing of official XSD.

In common with other standards including related TC278 WG3 standards such as NeTeX and OJP it was agreed that an official GIT Hub should be setup to manage version control, the release and updating of the XSD. This will also remove some problems with different organisations publishing the XSD on their own Git Hubs.

If you have opinions on any of these or other views on SIRI which might be helpful, please let Tim know.

The End of 3G is in Sight

There have been recently a few articles in the press confirming that 3G networks have a limited life.

Vodafone for example is to switch off its 3G network in "next two to three years".

<https://www.mobiusnetworks.co.uk/blog/blog/the-sun-sets-on-3g>

<https://www.ispreview.co.uk/index.php/2019/06/vodafone-uk-to-switch-off-3g-mobile-network-within-2-3-years.html>

Some areas have already been reporting loss of 3G coverage in some isolated areas as masts start to be shared and their density reduced.

For many years many real time systems have been purchased with specifications requiring displays that are equipped with 3G modems.

Whilst the more recent procurements that have just specified 3G modems are likely to have been supplied with modems that will also support 4G networks there must be many installed modems that will not support 4G.

There is no indication that the 2G networks are going to be switched off anytime soon as they provide the networks with low cost coverage enabling calls to be made and allowing comms to fall back to basic GPRS / 2G for data. This may cause real time systems significant challenges with bandwidth and timeliness of updates etc.

We would recommend that anyone with equipment that relies on a mobile network to contact their suppliers and find out how they will be affected by the reduction in coverage of 3G and the ultimate switch off of the 3G networks.

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S****Keeping in touch with you**

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

There are two ways of becoming involved in this:

- ▶ Email pieces to us when you have them – press release format is fine, and pictures are welcome.
- ▶ Nominate a marketing contact who will be included in the editor's monthly process of 'chivvying'.



A 21st Century totem at the newly refurbished Walsall bus station.

Blackpool's Palladium Buses set Bars to New Heights with r2p



This year, Blackpool Transport invested further in state-of-the-art travelling by adding 15 Palladium Buses to their fleet.

Dating back to before the 1900's, Blackpool is home to the oldest electric street tramway system in the world. Today, Blackpool Transport has become a thriving and hugely successful local company, operating 140 buses (across 14 different routes) and 18 trams.

Due to the exponential advances in technology, it is imperative that Blackpool Transport reaches for success with a smooth transition from old to new. Buses, trains and trams are by no means new automotive projects; however, we are surrounded by infinite capabilities. Our future lies within intelligence to integrate industry-leading technology with reliable communications.

r2p UK currently supplies Blackpool Transport with Real Time Information for their 140 buses and 18 trams, including a SIRI SM feed and mobile-based iConnex access for each tram driver. iConnex provides reliable tracking information, which can

be monitored on a desktop site. The software is a system integrator, linking with the ticket machine and tracking providers. iConnex delivers a comprehensive solution for live monitoring, with a focus on vehicle running behaviour, reporting and much more. In the control room, iConnex allows operators to locate any bus or tram at any given time.

Ticketer Launches Exciting Multi-operator Passenger App 'KAZOOT'

Ticketer will be launching a new passenger app, Kazoot, at Coach & Bus UK in October. Kazoot is believed to be the UK's first national, multi-operator passenger app, built to address the needs of both the passenger and the operator. Passengers can plan, pay and travel using a single, free app offering a national view of bus and other modes of travel. Ticketer operators now have an additional channel to promote their services and interact with their passengers, all managed centrally from the Ticketer systems they use on a daily basis.

Ticketer developed Kazoot to give travellers everything they need to help them make the right travel choices for them. It puts operators' own Ticketer system data in the hands of the passenger, making it arguably the most reliable source of multi-operator bus information currently available.

Kazoot includes a range of features designed to make it easier for customers to get to their destinations, including detailed route information, live arrival times, the ability to find the nearest bus stop and even the ability to view buses moving all over the country in real-time.

John Clarfelt, Ticketer's Managing Director, comments: "We are very excited to be launching Kazoot with its simple premise: to remove barriers to public transport and help passengers access the best transport services to meet their

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needs through a single app. Instead of needing multiple apps running in order to access all the various options, users now just need to download Kazoot for everything they need.”

He continues: “Kazoot is the multi-operator app that gives operators all the benefits typically associated with a dedicated app. It is an exciting new tool that enables them to work together to collectively compete against other forms of transport by demonstrating that bus travel can be accessible, visible and convenient whilst retaining access to the ticket sales data they would expect through their own app.”

Kazoot will help passengers make the most of their valuable time by giving instant answers to all of the key questions often asked; such as ‘is the bus on time?’, ‘how long will my journey take?’, ‘how much will it cost?’ and ‘how do I pay?’.

John explains: “We have developed this app in typical Ticketer fashion, in-house and ‘our way’. We will treat its development in exactly the same way as any other Ticketer product, with continuous enhancements to exceed the expectations of passengers and our operators. All of our operators, large and small, with or without their own app, can join Kazoot to help promote bus travel to all.”

The plans for the app are extensive with development already underway for new and exciting features to make public transport and bus use as accessible as possible.

Beta testing of multi-operator bus ticket retail is about to commence which is expected to be another UK first for Ticketer. Kazoot passengers will be able to buy mobile tickets for any participating operator, giving them true travel freedom and removing yet another perceived barrier to public transport use.

How Swiftly is Harnessing Big Data to Improve City Transit

For city dwellers, heavy traffic and a lack of parking are just part of urban living. But as cities get “smarter,” both residents and commuters may reap benefits like less congestion and more readily identifiable parking spaces

Transit data in action

Swiftly is already delivering practical solutions to cities across the country. To date, more than 55 city transit networks — including the MBTA in Boston, MDOT MTA in Baltimore, VIA Metropolitan Transit in San Antonio, Capital Metro in Austin, and VTA in Silicon Valley — are using its technology to improve their transit operations.

In Boston, for example, the company has helped to decrease wait times at bus stops while delivering more accurate bus predictions to riders. In Santa Clara, it’s worked to improve speeds throughout the entire transit network. The company is also building a first-of-its-kind tool with the state of Hawaii to manage buses in real time.



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While increasing bus speeds seems like a simple goal, Swiftly’s capabilities will harness technology in new ways. For example, in Baltimore, Swiftly has enabled transit signal priority — automatically changing red lights to green when buses are late — which has helped decrease run times by 20 percent along some of the city’s busiest corridors.

Full press release:

<https://news.samsung.com/us/swiftly-harnessing-big-data-improve-city-transit/>

A D M I N

Management Committee Members

The Management Committee for the year 2019-209 was appointed at the AGM on 12 March 2019. Membership is currently as follows:

Chair:

Members: Andrew Wilson (Hants), Graham Davies (WYCA), Russell Gard (React Accessibility), Darren Maher (21st Century), Tony Brown (Atkins), Chas Allen (Stagecoach), Tony Pettitt (Reading Buses), Meera Nayyar (DFT)

Contact us

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

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

Next issue

Issue 123 – Friday 1st November 2019.

Please send all contributions to secretariat@rtig.org.uk at any time up to Wednesday 30th October 2019.

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