

## October 2022

### Having a ball at Strictly Highways

Ian Bamforth and I represented MHA+ at the 'Strictly Highways' Conference in Blackpool this year as Local Council Roads Innovation Group (LCRIG) industry partners. It was a very busy three days from 4 to 6 October with over 300 attendees and a full programme of networking events as well as the conference itself in the impressive Victorian ballroom at the Winter Gardens.



Our virtual exhibition stand was available online and our physical stand near the entrance meant that we were able to welcome those attending but also participate fully in the programme each day. Hopefully, some of you saw our posts from the event on Linked In.

We caught up with old friends to MHA+, such as Sharon Edwards (NHT/Measure to improve); Mark Stevens (now at Haringey Council); Debbie Taylor-Bond (now at Kier); and Paul Boss (now at RSTA). Existing members said hello, such as Andy Tatt (Rutland County Council); Charlotte Palmer (Peterborough City Council); and Daniel Rawle (Leicestershire County Council). A special thank you to Mark MacDonald of Milton Keynes Council who gave me a hand with packing up the exhibition stand on the final day.

In addition to Ann Carruthers, Chair of our Executive Board, speaking about Net Zero from a local authority perspective, MHA+ presenters included:

- Kully Boden and Steve Danby of Derby City Council on growing your own skills and service pressures.
- David Griffiths of Lancashire County Council on skills, training, and collaboration.
- LCRIG 'Transport Technology Hero' Sunil Budhdeo of Coventry City Council on the Drone Port and future skills.
- Sean Rooney of Oxfordshire County Council on net zero.



As well as forging closer ties with LCRIG, new contacts made include the Department for Transport (DfT), Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), the Local Government Technical Advisers Group (LGTAG), the Institute of Highway Engineers (IHE), representatives of local authorities in the Northwest of the country, and several industry suppliers.

It was quite a commitment to earmark three days out of the working week, but our presence helped us to continue raising the profile of MHA+ and strengthen relationships with other organisations to better achieve our aims and increase our influence in the industry.

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## **New look to the MHA+ Learning Management System (LMS)**

We will be undertaking some work to migrate to a new look system in December 2022.

Now is a good time for any learners to complete their online/virtual learning that has been allocated and not completed – as part completed courses will not transfer over to the new system.



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## **A new MHA+ Term Community Service Improvement Group!**

The MHA+ new Term Community Service Improvement Group met for the first time in October. Jonathan Evans from Lincolnshire County Council was elected as the Chair of the group. One of the key focuses of the group will be to look at the efficiency and effectiveness of Term Service delivery be it internal, external or a mixed model. This will include finding and sharing examples of best practice, exploring issues such as collaborative working and performance management frameworks alongside many other areas of future activity. One of the first tasks will

be to secure an update from MHA+ member authorities covering where they are in terms of their delivery and arrangements therein. So, watch out for a brief survey the group will be sending out to members shortly.

If you want to find out more about the group, you can email [Ian Bamforth \(MHA+ support\)](#) or give him a ring on **07842 034616**.

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## **SIG Update Sept/Oct 2022**

In a busy two months, there have been 10 Service Improvement Group meetings since August 2022. We have had excellent levels of attendance and participation from group members across the MHA Plus region. Thanks to all those who have shared their information, knowledge, and experience.

**Highways Structures** - Group members discussed issues around funding for maintenance of bridges and ways in which they could influence members to see the importance of structures on key local routes. Presentation from A & I coatings on the use of fluoropolymer paint which is resilient to UV degradation.

**Traffic Signals** - Presentations from INRIX (cloud-based GPS data to understand signal performance across the network) and Traffic Group Signals (temporary/portable signals). Benchmarking work is underway to help members make the case for appropriate staffing levels and grading/salaries in a competitive market.

**Highways Asset Management** – DfT reps Mark McGarty and Georgina Reed attended to update group members on work they are doing to build a standard for national highway condition data collection as many authorities continue to move away from using Scanner. Road metrics also presented to the group about their road condition assessment product.

**Winter Services** – Group members shared information about their preparations for the upcoming winter season. A fascinating presentation about the long-term winter forecast was provided by DTN who provide weather intelligence services around the world.

**Transportation Data & Analysis** – Our first hybrid SIG meeting to take place with some group members attending in person at County Hall in Matlock. There was an informative presentation from Ralph Bates on TagMaster and another from David Hilton-Barber which showcased the Derbyshire Connected Future Strategy.

**Highways Records & Searches** – Another hybrid meeting took place with several group members attending in person at Warwickshire CC Budbrooke Depot and many more attending on MS Teams. Group chair Andrew Kelly has reached out to many authorities who were not previously represented on this SIG and established many new contacts who are keen to be involved.

**Casualty Reduction** – Presentation from group member Tim Shickle about Oxfordshire's '20mph Revolution' and how they have formed a multi-organisation

20mph Steering Group to deliver safer streets, increase active travel, reduce noise and improve air quality.

Details of all upcoming Service Improvement Group meetings are available on the MHA+ Calendar and further information on each service improvement group is available from [Alice Russell](#).

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## DM SIG members contribute to updated DfT Highways Adoption advice note

The DfT's *Advice Note - Highways Adoption* was first published in 2017 with the MSIG Development Management Task Group (now MHA+ DM Service Improvement Group) making a significant contribution.

The Advice Note:

- Sets out and explains how roads can get adopted using the different mechanisms within current legislation.
- Covers the APC process.
- Provides advice to buying properties on new or private streets.
- Sets out fees and charging structures so there is consistency in that regard.
- Includes the Model Planning Conditions endorsed by MLHLG intended to ensure roads are completed to appropriate levels before occupation and that there is clarity regarding the management and maintenance of new streets before any sales.



Advice Note  
**Highways Adoption**  
The Adoption of Roads into the Public Highway (1980 Highways Act)



The Advice Note was intended to harmonise systems and approaches across the Country to gain certainty and consistency as well as sharing common pitfalls so frequent and avoidable delays can be, well avoided.

In response to feedback on the 2017 Advice Note, the DfT invited reps from the MHA+ group, along with additional colleagues and reps from Network Rail and Utilities UK, to revisit the document and enhance it. The result is an update which was published in August 2022 which can be viewed via this [link](#).

Key updates and additions include (but not exclusively):

- Main text updated and enhanced to remove reported ambiguities and enhance the advice provided.

- Annex A – Model Planning Conditions amended in line with current guidance on the use of conditions.
- Annex B – Minor amendments to provide greater clarity.
- Annex C - Updated and expanded.
- New Annex D - Setting out what a technical submission to a local authority should contain and consist of to improve consistency and quality of submissions.
- New Annex E - Setting out how utility companies and associated services and their provision can affect highway adoptions and how collaborative working and early engagement can address many such issue.

This update is intended to become a greater resource and reference document for all parties to the development process and build on the benefits and success of the initial version. The MHA+ Development Management Service Improvement Group can be justly proud of its' contribution to this document; sharing best practice and enhancing processes for the wider benefit are both aims that are at the core of the group.

For further information please contact chair of the Development Management SIG, [Chris Bond](#).

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## The new MHA+ Carbon Steering Group Bulletin

MHA+ Carbon Steering Group are hosting a new 'Net Zero' bulletin which they aim to give quarterly updates regarding all things carbon.

The bulletin is designed to provide a regular focus and update for MHA+ Members about the wide and varied work going on in relation to the carbon reduction agenda in the Highways sector.

The MHA+ and its membership of 35 Local Authorities have a major impact in terms of their carbon footprint. This also provides for a strong opportunity to make a difference in terms of reducing our carbon footprint in the highways sector.

The first of these bulletins has been circulated earlier this month, you can find it on our website, under the [Carbon Steering Group Bulletins Page](#).

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## Check your spam folders!

We have noticed that some of our emails are getting blocked by certain firewalls, meaning that things such as our newsletter, events updates and the new Carbon Steering Group Bulletin have found themselves in people's spam folders. Please check your folder for any items you may have missed. If you can't find those listed above there, please contact MHA+ to be added to our mailing list.

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## MHA+ Annual Event 2023

It's time to start talking and thinking about the next MHA+ Annual Event.

This year, in 2022 the theme was Carbon Reduction and Value, and we held our event at Loughborough University's Holywell Park Conference Centre. We received great feedback about the location and set up for the day, making it a contender for our event in 2023.

We are taking suggestions and recommendations from our members; on venues you think next year's event could or should take place.

Please send your suggestions to [Jacqui Wooldridge](#) or [Abi Herbert](#) by 23 December.

The theme for the event will be 'Value and Skills', so please also get in touch if you would like to contribute as a speaker or exhibitor.

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## Net Zero Training - AECOM

Climate change is one of the most significant challenges the world is facing. In the UK the government has committed to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and many UK councils have declared a climate emergency. This increased focus has led to a stream of declarations to achieve net zero. But what does that mean to the built environment? Do we really know how to design and deliver net zero carbon infrastructure?

In 2021 AECOM trained many of their practitioners to become net zero carbon practitioners, ensuring everyone had the right level of awareness and competency around net zero and the climate emergency. They are now offering an updated version of this training free of charge to MHA+ members to enable you to upskill and support the wider industry. They have prepared nine short training modules covering:

- Introduction to net zero
- Steps to net zero and our services
- Planning for net zero
- Embodied carbon overview
- Low carbon servicing solutions
- Passivhaus
- Renewable energy systems
- Carbon offsetting and sequestration
- Low carbon funding and delivery

The course will start with a five-minute introduction, then each of the other modules will take approximately 15 minutes each.

To access the training, please follow the steps below.

### **Step 1**

You will need to register [using this link](#).

### **Step 2**

When completing your learning profile, please use the code 'NZaecom2022' as the training/registration code to ensure you get access to the modules. For your main AECOM point of contact, please add in 'Jason Clarke'.

### **Step 3**

You will then see the course under the enrolled courses section. If the training doesn't show immediately, please refresh the page.

From first registration you will have three weeks to complete the training. Once that time is over the registration will be locked. If you need further time to complete your training or are having technical issues, then please contact [AECOM](#) directly. If you have any general questions about the training please contact Jason Clarke, AECOM's MHA+ Framework Director.

For enquiries about this bulletin or to suggest any future articles please contact Jacqui Wooldridge/  
Karen Notman. If you have colleagues who may not have received this email please share it with them,  
so that they can contact us directly to confirm that they wish to receive our bulletin, alternatively if you  
wish to unsubscribe from this bulletin email [MidlandsHighwayAlliancePlus@leics.gov.uk](mailto:MidlandsHighwayAlliancePlus@leics.gov.uk)

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