

A Christmas message from Ann Carruthers



I'm sure that last year we were expecting to be in a rather different place this Christmas, but as we all reassess our plans for the festive season in the light of the new omicron variant, it highlights how important flexibility and resilience have been for us as a highways sector to keep our services running and projects delivered whilst continuing to adapt our working practices as the situation has changed over the year.

Although some of us did manage to get back into the office for a time this year, many of us have continued to work at home and we have realised the importance of maintaining contact with each other; for our own wellbeing as well as for maintaining the collaborative teamworking that is essential to our particular roles.

MHA Plus has helped to facilitate those connections through newsletters, training opportunities and meetings, including some face to face, such as the annual event in October. This was held in person for the first time since 2018 to provide a networking opportunity for those attending. We will be looking for further opportunities to keep you connected as 2022 unfolds.

Wishing all our MHA Plus partners a warm and relaxing Christmas and a happy and healthy 2022.

I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

All the best.

Ann Carruthers

Chair of the MHA+ Executive Board
Director of Environment and Transport Leicestershire County Council

Medium Schemes Framework – a procurement update

As you will be aware the **contract notice for Medium Schemes Framework 4 (MSF4)** was published on the government's Find a Tender service on 16 April 2021. The notice attracted a lot of attention from the industry despite a significant number of other bidding opportunities. During the summer the MSF4 working group assessed the prequalification documents received. All shortlisted bidders were issued with an invitation to tender in October.

Once again, our procurement process is based around a number of projects, typical of those delivered through the Medium Schemes Framework over the last twelve years.

This time the model projects are located in Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Oxfordshire and Worcestershire. The projects range in size from improvements to a signal-controlled junction through to the construction of a new carriageway with associated rail bridge. The bidders need to show their commitment to delivering enhanced social value and continuous improvements over the life of the Framework.

The tender documents are to be returned before Christmas and the Tender assessment will begin in the New Year. Please contact the Framework Manager **John Hooper** or any member of the working group for more details on the Tender assessment and this major procurement exercise or to find out more about how the industry is gearing up to help local authorities meet the challenge of delivering infrastructure over the next decade.

MHA+ Annual Membership Fees 2021-22 now due

We would like to remind all members that the subscription for 2021-22 of £3,750 is now due.

You can learn more about the **MHA+ governance** and details of the business plan on the website.

Please raise your purchase order to Leicestershire County Council and email it to **Julia.Brown@leics.gov.uk**. Once your purchase order has been received an invoice will be raised and sent to you for payment.

A first for Nottingham's Society of Engineers

MHA+ Manager, Karen Notman, was happy to accept an invitation from the incoming President of the Nottingham Society of Engineers, Andy Warrington, to speak at their Annual Dinner held on Friday 26 November.

Their members were interested to hear how the Alliance continues to develop and move forward, built on the premise that we can achieve more by working together.

Karen was surprised to hear that she was first female engineer to speak formally to the members.



Annual event feedback

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's annual event for your feedback on the day. This information will be used to make sure the content for our 2022 event is as useful and informative as this year's.

It was gratifying that overall people found the programme content useful for their job roles and that they will be able to use the information in their work.

Special thanks once again to our speakers for their contributions on the days and for sharing their presentations with us. These and the **case studies from the event are available here.**

Excellent content
and extremely
topical.



Speakers were really inspiring
and professional, made me want
to go and save the world!

MHA+ Service Improvement Groups

The last two months have seen a busy calendar of Service Improvement Group meetings, with 13 having taken place since the beginning of September. Thanks to all those who have taken the time to attend or send contributions. It is encouraging to see new members joining the groups and realising the benefits that can be gained from sharing expertise and knowledge across the region.

Highway Structures – The group is carrying out an exercise to gather information on risk based approaches to structures inspections.

Street Lighting – Group members have been sharing guidance and best practice on the subject of attachments on lighting columns.

Winter Services – Meeting attended by David Batchelor and Carol Valentine from NWSRG

Casualty Reduction – Carrying out analysis of 2020/21 KSI stats across all MHA Plus authorities to identify trends among various categories of road users.

Transportation Data & Analysis – Presentations from AECOM (Pre-emptive Traffic Management System) and INRIX (Floating Vehicle Data)

Traffic Signals – Supply chain issues update from Siemens/Yunex, presentations from Talk Mobility and Alistair Gollop (IHE Passive Safety Guidance).

Highways Asset Management – Requested information from group members about their current climate/net zero strategies prior to next meeting in January 2022.

Efficiencies & Benefits Log

The Efficiencies and Benefits log was started in 2009 to capture feedback from Midlands Service Improvement Group Task Group members. Over the last 12 years, members have recorded 275 entries to the log, covering a wide variety of efficiencies, improvements and benefits linked to attendance and participation in the now MHA+ Service Improvement Groups. Further information is now available on the MHA Plus website link below:

<https://www.mhaplus.org.uk/work-streams/mhaplus-service-improvement-groups/>

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**.

Please contact **Alice Russell / Karen Notman** if you would like to access the MSIG website, use the online discussion boards or join any of the service improvement groups.

Horizon scanning and industry updates

A summary of recently published reports, guidance, research, and engagement opportunities are outlined below:

- As a result of extreme weather events, their effects and impacts on the UK highways network, the Department for Transport (DfT) commissioned research to identify any lessons that have been learned for ensuring the resilience of the highway network which can be viewed here
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033573/lessons-learned-highway-sector-extreme-weather.pdf
 - The **Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021** was on 27 October 2021 Treasury. Below is some useful analysis:
 - **CIHT analysis of Autumn Budget and Spending review 2021**
 - **Highways Magazine - Spending Review conceals local road funding cuts**
 - A key briefing provided by UKRLG Asset Management to help the Department for Transport make **the case for investing in highway maintenance** to HM Treasury is now available.
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MHA+ Skills and development

It is recommended that our members maximise their use of our two frameworks by completing the virtual learning available via the **MHA Learning Management System (LMS)**.

It is recommended that prior to using the Medium Schemes Framework, members complete:

- NEC 4 - Introduction to Engineering Construction Contract (ECC) – NEC accredited

It is recommended that prior to using our Professional Services Partnership contracts, members complete

- NEC 4 – Introduction to the Professional Services Contract (PSC) and the Professional Services Short Contract PSSC – neck accredited

N.B. Once you have reached the required 'pass' standard - the LMS enables you to print/download a NEC certificate - to evidence your continuing professional development.

New e-learning virtual content: ICE CDM 2015 – The full picture, principles and practice virtual learning course

This high-level course (for those responsible for health and safety on a construction project) has been developed as part of the ICE training portfolio and comprises of eight modules and one test. Each module will take you about 40 minutes to complete. A digital certificate is awarded on completion of the test. This certificate can be added to your CPD portfolio as a demonstration of CPD activity comprising of 6 hours of learning. It is envisaged that the target audience will be

operating at a senior level and the acquired learning subsequently modified to share with your project team.

(ICE is the leading provider of specialist training courses for civil engineering and construction professionals.)

Wellbeing and Resilience Masterclass

Matchtech will be hosting a wellbeing and resilience master class with Professor Paul McGee aka The SUMO Guy on Wednesday, 23 February 2022, 10:00am – 12:00noon which will open to all MHA+ PSP3 members and suppliers.

Paul McGee will provide insights, inspiration and practical tools that we can all use to manage our own wellbeing and resilience. He will draw from his own personal change journey that saw him lose his job due to ill health, to becoming an international speaker and Sunday Times best-selling author.

Paul will explore a number of strategies to help us deal with the day to day challenges we all face both in our personal and professional lives. Prepare to laugh as well as learn, to find out more about Paul visit www.thesumoguy.com

For more information about this event please contact Sam.White@matchtech.com

Supplier learning content - our framework suppliers offer a broad range of learning content that may be useful to building your knowledge base. This includes the following AutoCAD training:

Roads Bitesize Training Programme – **KeySIGN**

Roads Bitesize Training Programme – **KeySIGNALS**

Roads Bitesize Training Programme – **AutoTURN Pro**

Roads Bitesize Training Programme – **KeyLINES**

Make the most of the Learning Management System (LMS) - members can access a range of learning, training and development opportunities provided by the MHA skills community, sector partners and MHA+ members through the **Learning Management System (LMS)**.

Detailed information on all MHA+ events is available on the **MHA+ calendar**.

Information Sharing Platform (ISP) - the ISP hosts a range of helpful resources, shared reference documents, confidential documents, and notes of meetings for our members. Access is tailored to your individual requirements – so make sure you and your colleagues are registered. Details on how to become an ISP user and direct access to the ISP can be accessed from the **MHA+ website**.

What's new

The **MHA Plus Annual Report for 2020-21** is available to download from the website

Climate Change STEM Activity

During the two weeks of the COP26, **STEM Learning** used the Aecom Virtual Consultation platform for their Careers in Climate Change virtual fair.

It was a great opportunity for students to chat to inspiring STEM Ambassadors about career options and find out about the ways organisations are tackling the Climate Change crisis and how they can get involved.



For enquiries about this bulletin or to suggest any future articles please contact **Jacqui Wooldridge / Karen Notman**.

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