

Alliances and Sustainability – the MHA Plus week-long virtual event

When the new chair of the MHA+ Executive Board, Ann Carruthers, introduced the first presentation of the webinar on Monday 12th October we were all very nervous about how it would go. It was the first major event organised by the newly formed Midlands Highway Alliance Plus – formed from the Midlands Highway Alliance, the Midlands Service Improvement Group and the West Midlands Highway Alliance. Five days later, as the fifteenth presentation ended it was clear that, apart from a few ICT glitches (and what's a Teams event without those), it had been a great success. Speakers came from our suppliers, our member authorities and from national bodies to talk on various themes and to demonstrate their capabilities, and we are very grateful to all those who took part.

Each day had a theme, Innovation and connectivity, value and benchmarking, environment, Investment and delivery models, and Skills and safety.

A big thanks to Angus Bodie who manages the Roads Collaboration Programme in Scotland, who kicked off the event by describing the issues he is facing, and they sounded very familiar, developing skills for the future and retaining staff. Angus's presentation was followed by Daryl Fossett of Waterman who talked about how Smart Inspections are being done in Scotland, and then Phil Reid from Eurovia who opened our eyes to the benefits of Digital Information Management.

Andrew Yeomans, Filippo Albin and Luke Ward from Amey Consulting started day 2 reviewing Capital Expenditure in view of Covid 19. This was followed by Sharon Andrews outlining how the CQC process for benchmarking local highway authorities' performances was progressing. The day ended with a joint presentation on how the A46 Anstey scheme was delivered by Jamie Missenden of Galliford Try and Teresa Hylton of Waterman.

John Paterson and Damien Bateman from Atkins lead the way on day 3, talking about carbon calculators. Caroline Topliss and Eloise Orrey from AECOM spoke about Climate Change Adaptability before Emma Eves and Julia Baker from Balfour Beatty took us through Biodiversity Net Gain.

Neil Bennett explained the journey that Derbyshire CC travelled along to arrive at their Future Highways Model, Tom Gifford of Lincolnshire talked about the MSF4 procurement programme before Nick Twaite from Worcestershire talked about relationship management in their term contract.

The final day started with Paul Boss of RSTA describing how the competency in Highway Inspectors framework worked, before John Dunaway and Graham Day from Matchtech talked about recruitment in times of a pandemic. Kate Hamilton of Morgan Sindall was the final speaker and she talked about Social Value and developing skills for the future.

Thanks also to the hosts for each day, Peter Barclay, Clive Hall, David Walters and Ian Bamforth. Feedback on the presentations has been very positive and combined with the total attendance in the order of 240 people, more than double the attendance expected at our one day conferences, making it a successful event. All of the presentations were recorded and are now available on the [MHA Plus website](#).

MHA+ (formerly MSIG) Task Groups update

Since September 13 of our 15 Task Groups have held virtual meetings and we were very pleased to welcome new members from Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Walsall.

The task groups are open to all MHA Plus authority employees, including those who are employed via a long-term maintenance contract for a member authority. A full programme of dates for task group meetings in 2021 is available on the [MSIG website](#).

Please contact alice.russell@derbyshire.gov.uk if you would like to access the MSIG website, use the online discussion boards or join any of the task groups.

Skills Community

Face to face learning events – we remain committed to the benefits of collaborative learning – our postponed NEC events will be back available, probably, via MS Teams, as soon as is practicable – in the meantime virtual learning available via the [MHA Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#) includes:

- Introductions to ECC, TSC and PSC.
- We have supplemented the ‘virtual’ technical content on the LMS with a range of softer skills e-learning modules such as decision making; mental health awareness and introduction to listening.

Request for register of interest - we need members to advise us whether the following requested learning events, that support the Medium Schemes framework have enough notional participants:

Delegates will be provided with invaluable practical guidance on how to apply ECI Stages 1 & 2 NEC4: ECC Option C contract within the Midlands Highway Alliance Framework.

Virtual NEC 4: ECC Stage 1: Managing ECI, Communications, Incentives, Early Warnings and Early Programme

Virtual NEC 4: ECC Stage 2: Subcontracting, Compensation Events and Payment

Please advise of your interest by emailing mhaskills@leics.gov.uk

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 [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. 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? Recent additions to the website - you can access a range of technical content on our website – webinars are available via you tube - provided by our framework suppliers [here](#).

Horizon scanning and industry updates

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

The Department for Transport (DfT) has been working with the UK Roads Liaison Group and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) to develop [Guidance for Local](#)

Highway Authorities: a security-minded approach to (Counter Terrorist) Security. The DfT has also published its **annual summary of progress on their Inclusive Transport Strategy.**

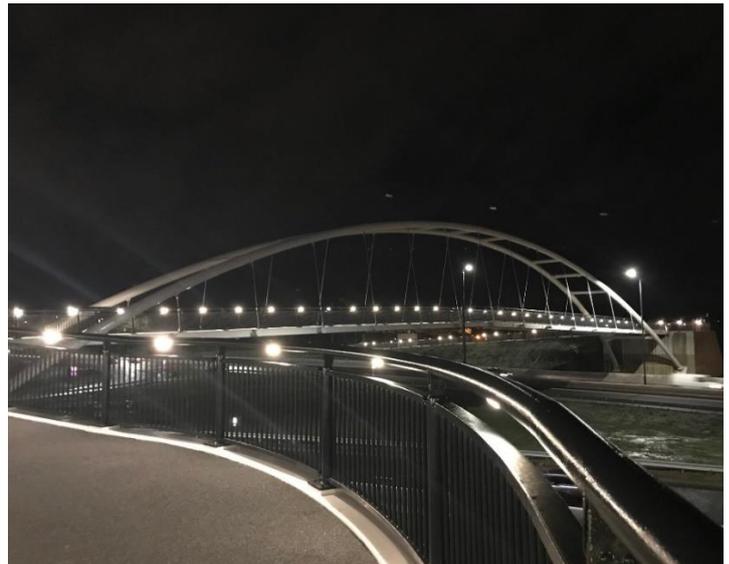
A new report from the RAC Foundation, **Driven by information: Securing the benefits from connected vehicles**, covers potential applications of connected vehicle data to improve services such as traffic management and highway maintenance.

The World Road Association (PIARC) is undertaking research into the **Role of Transport Agencies in Responding to and Shaping New Transport Technologies and Service Models**, and is looking for responses from highway authorities in the UK to an online global survey. The findings will be published in a future report for practitioners via the PIARC website.

Derby A52 Bridge opening

The Derby A52 footbridge was officially opened to the public on 29 October despite all the challenges 2020 has thrown at us in the form of lightning and extreme weather conditions and of course COVID-19.

On behalf of Derby City Council and Galliford Try collaboratively, we as a team would like to thank everyone involved in this challenging yet rewarding scheme, a huge achievement that without the efforts of each and every person involved would not have been realised. For more information on this scheme contact Jamie Missenden, Regional Manager – Midlands, GallifordTry, email Jamie.Missenden@Gallifordtry.co.uk



YORhub Conference 2020

YORhub are offering a programme of one-hour webinars presented by the YORhub team and expert guest speakers. For full event details and to register visit: www.yorhub.com/virtual-conference-2020.

For enquiries about this bulletin or to suggest any future articles please contact alice.russell@derbyshire.gov.uk.

If you have colleagues who may not have received this email, they can contact us directly to confirm that they wish to receive our bulletin, alternatively if you wish to unsubscribe from this bulletin email MidlandsHighwayAlliance@leics.gov.uk



Follow: [@MHAPlus](https://twitter.com/MHAPlus)



Follow: [Midlands Highway Alliance Plus](https://www.linkedin.com/company/midlands-highway-alliance-plus)