

Shortages and supply chain issues

The shortages of materials and skills currently making headlines across the industry and beyond, the global and national pressures at play and the impact of supply chain issues on local project delivery were all highlighted in a collaborative presentation by the MSF3 suppliers to the August MSF3 Framework Community Board. The shared insight underlined the severity of the scale and nature of the problems and the impact already being felt on scheme delivery.

With the need to consider the programme and budgetary implications of very long lead in times and price volatility against the challenging backdrop of government funding requirements, mitigating for this will need partners throughout scheme planning, design and construction to have an awareness of the issues and to build in the time for honest and collaborative discussions to design out and plan early for many of the foreseeable problems.

The meeting resolved to increase awareness of the issue across all MHA+ partners, including procurement, finance, and central government colleagues. I would therefore urge you, whatever your role, to take a look at the [presentation](#) and bear it in mind when making your future delivery plans.

Karen Notman, Midlands Highway Alliance Plus (MHA+) Manager

Save the date for our 2021 annual event!

Following the results of our members' survey, we are delighted to be able to invite you to reserve your place for this year's one-day annual event - **Sustainability and Carbon Reduction** – on Wednesday, 13 October 2021.

The event will provide MHA+ members, framework suppliers, industry experts and contractors with an opportunity to network as well as take part in an event that celebrates best practice and supports 'building back greener' post-COVID-19.

Our venue for this year's event is MTC in Coventry and we are working closely with them to make this event as safe as possible for attendees. So, please make sure you book your place before the 8 October.

We look forward to seeing you all in October.



Clive Hall is moving on

After 29 years of working for Herefordshire and many years of involvement in MSIG, WMHA, MHA+ and other professional groups across the sector, Clive Hall is now moving on. He is taking advantage of an opportunity that has arisen through a corporate restructure at Herefordshire to leave his role as Head of Highways and Community Services at the Council at the end of this month. His last working day was 16 September and he has stepped back from MHA+ involvement from that date.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Clive on behalf of the MHA+ for his many years of contribution to the MHA+, MHA, WMHA and MSIG. He has been a driving force in the sector, most recently in shaping the alliance as an active member of the MHA+ Executive and Programme Boards and in service improvement, as Chair of the Highways Asset Management Group.

I am sure that this is not the last we will see and hear of Clive. No doubt his path will cross with ours again at some point in the future.

PSP3 Framework Board/Framework Community Board update

Although the PSP3 Framework Managers managed to meet a couple of times over the summer, the planned PSP3 Framework Community Board in July unfortunately fell foul of the holiday season. I hope that you managed to get away, or at least enjoy some down time over the summer.

The next Framework Community Board meeting will be held in October. This will be the first ever meeting of the PSP3 Framework Community Board not chaired by Peter so we will be taking the opportunity to discuss the format for future meetings and who should chair them. I will be sending out a survey shortly to inform the meeting.

Framework performance discussions rely on performance satisfaction scores for the projects and secondment work undertaken under the framework so I would like to remind you to please make every effort to return these regularly and in a timely way.

One of the challenges ahead of us is to improve our links and relationships across the wider alliance. With that in mind, the PSP3 Framework Managers have asked for a representative of the Service Improvement Groups to attend one of their meetings to explain what they do in more detail - so if you would like to showcase the work you are doing in your service improvement group, then please contact Karen Notman.

Please be reminded that the PSP3 framework rates increased by 0.84% at the end of April (based on industry indexation figures) so this increase will be coming through on supplier invoices for any work done since then.

Update to Lot 2 Mini-competitions for IR35

The processes for Lot 2 mini competition will be updated shortly to ensure that we balance the ability to offer a broad range of temporary staff against the government's IR35 requirements. Clients will be asked to clarify the scope of the pool that temporary staff can be drawn from, to determine what is needed to ensure compliance with IR35 without any unnecessary paperwork. Your usual supplier contacts will be able to advise you in the meantime.

Introduction to Civils 3D webinars

Waterman Aspen have arranged for Phil Holmes, a Highway Engineer with over 15 years public and private sector experience, to deliver an **'Introduction to Civils 3D'** webinar via Microsoft Teams. Phil is proficient in Civils 3D and was the Highway Engineer responsible for the detailed design of the **ICE Robert Stephenson Awards 2020 Medium Sized Project of the Year – Northern Gateway (£6m)**.

The sessions are intended for anyone new to Civils 3D who wants to understand the basics and where to start with the software. It will cover the following:

- Creating a surface introduction
- Topographical survey information -in various forms
- Creating/building a topographical surface from survey data (points, lines, blocks, etc.)
- Receiving topographical survey data in TIN format (Triangular Irregular Networks)
- Displaying the surface and the various elements that can be displayed as part of this (contours, slope arrows, triangulation, etc.)

The session will use the software, demonstrating step by step guidance (not just running through PowerPoint slides). Each session will cater for groups of up to 10 people and last around 90 mins, allowing for interaction and Q&A. It is not essential for attendees to have access to Civils 3D software, but it is suggested that they bring a notepad (additional notes will be shared after the session). Proposed dates are likely to be towards the end of September/October. Provisional dates are currently as follows:

- 28 Sep @12:30
- 30 Sep @ 12:30
- 5 Oct @ 9:30
- 7 Oct @ 9:30
- 12 Oct @ 12:30
- 14 Oct @ 12:30
- 19 Oct @ 14:30
- 21 Oct @ 14:30
- 26 Oct @ 9:00
- 28 Oct @ 12:30

Please email vince.mandeir@watermanaspen.co.uk with your interest. He will need the number of attendees and their email addresses to send them calendar invitations.

Calling all term maintenance specialists - New Service Improvement Group for Term Community being established

The Programme Board agreed in July that the Term Community Board should be refreshed as a new Term Community Group under the service improvement workstream to focus on supporting members with developing best practice in term maintenance services, contracts and delivery models, whilst liaising closely with the Highways Asset Management Group.

New Terms of Reference have been drafted for both the Highway Asset Management and Term Community groups to reduce the potential for an overlap in interests. It is hoped that a Chair and Vice Chair for the new Term Community will be drawn from members with self-delivery and external delivery models.

Please contact **Alice Russell / Karen Notman** if you propose to represent your authority on the new group or to volunteer as Chair or Vice-Chair.

MHA+ Service Improvement Groups

As you would expect, the summer months were a quieter period for the Service Improvement Groups (the Civil Parking Enforcement group met last on the 14 July). As autumn begins, so too do the Service Improvement Groups with three meetings in September and six scheduled for October.

Details of all upcoming Service Improvement Group meetings are available on the **MHA+ Calendar** and further information on each service improvement group is available on the **MSIG website**.

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:

Review of the digital intelligent brokerage project pilot – published as part of a Ministerial announcement, this report covers the work of Atkins with DfT and Wiltshire Council to respond to the Transport Select Committee's 2019 challenge around innovation in local roads. The Digital Intelligent Brokerage model helps authorities identify and articulate underlying issues that contribute to a particular pain point (in this case, potholes), and then engage with SMEs and other innovators across multiple sectors and academia, resulting in potential applications for the client organisation.

New **Transport business case guidance** is available from DfT – the guidance is updated to reflect the 2020 Green Book Review, which highlighted the importance of all departments following the same high-level framework when developing business cases that are strategically relevant and informed by robust evidence.

The latest in the series of CIPFA HAMP Network took place on 13, 14 and 15 September, with a focus on making the case for investment – visit **www.cipfa.org/services/property/highways-asset-management-planning-network**

DfT has published a research paper covering options for **implementing a new data standard for road condition monitoring in England**, which is provisionally scheduled to be implemented by the end of 2022.

Look out for further details on an event being organised by **CECA** and the Builders Merchants Federation on Optimising infrastructure materials supply which will bring together CECA members and material suppliers to talk about developing closer relationships with product and material suppliers to help identify and manage potential supply risks.

MHA+ Skills and development

Autumn 2021 - face to face learning events:

NEC 4 – Using the X22 early contractor involvement (eci) clause: 30 September 2021

NSPCC National Training Centre, 3 Gilmour Close, Beaumont Leys, Leicestershire, LE4 1EZ

NEC 4 – Using the X22 early contractor involvement (eci) clause: 23 November 2021 10.00am to 1.00pm

Kents Hill Park, Swallow House, Timbold Drive, Milton Keynes, MK7 6BZ

We have developed this bespoke half-day event both to develop expertise in using X22 and support the delivery of MHA+ Medium Schemes Framework (MSF). Tim Knee- Robinson (NEC 4 drafter) will be the expert content provider, alongside MHA+ MSF framework manager, John Hooper. Click [here](#) for more information on (and how to book) this learning event

NEC: be an effective Project Sponsor (SC) – 11 November 2021

Best Western Yew Lodge Hotel, 33 Packington Hill, Kegworth, DE74 2DF

Another bespoke MHA+ learning event that has been evaluated and further developed with ICE, to support MHA+ members who are undertaking the project sponsor role. The updated content takes account of Project 13 Highways England Project Control Framework and NEC4. Click [here](#) for more information on (and how to book) this learning event

MHA+ event attendance - COVID-19 guidelines

We understand that you may have some concerns about attending face to face events; however, we have ensured that all venues meet our expectations to reduce risk. This includes securing larger venues that enable spaced seating, and doors and vents left open to maximise ventilation.

We continue to encourage:

- social distancing,
- washing your hands often,
- masks worn until you get to your seat,
- 'masks on the move'.

You are, of course, welcome to wear a mask throughout the event if you prefer.

New e-learning virtual content:

ICE CDM 2015 – The full picture, principles and practice virtual learning course

The high-level course -for those responsible for health and safety on a construction project has been developed as part of the ICE training portfolio (the leading provider of specialist training courses for civil engineering and construction professionals) and comprises of 8 modules and 1 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.

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 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**.

Further recognition for A46 Anstey Lane Project

The A46 Anstey Lane Project team won the **Construction News Award for Health Safety and Well Being Excellence** at the award ceremony on 15 September.

Eave and Galliford Try also received the Best Use of Technology Award for the ear defenders now used on all their sites. More details on all of the awards can be found [here](#).



Congratulations!

Congratulations also go to Balfour Beatty and Kier WSP who were Highly Commended in the **CE East Midlands Awards** Integration and Collaborative Working Category for their A43 Moulton Bypass project.



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

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